

**Town of Camden
Regular Town Council Meeting
Camden Municipal Building
March 10, 2014**

CALL TO ORDER

Acting Mayor King called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and noticed that this regular Council Meeting was being held in compliance with the Delaware Open Public Meeting Act by posting the agenda on February 24, 2014, in the following manner:

- a. The electronic sign,
- b. The Official Bulletin Boards, and
- c. The official Town of Camden Web Site.

Acting Mayor King led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Acting Mayor King led a moment of silence.

Council Attending: Acting Mayor King, Councilman Green, Councilman Dougherty, Councilman Casquarelli, and Councilwoman-Elect Torres.

Council Absent: None

Staff Attending: Chief William Bryson, Town Manager Aaron Chaffinch, Town Clerk Jamie Fenske, Account Specialist Amanda Marlow, Town Solicitor Craig Eliassen, and Finance Officer John Kelly.

AMENDMENTS

Motion made by Councilman Dougherty, seconded by Councilman Green, to move New Business item f. Long Term Savings to item d. and move item d. Tax discount and item e. Tax rate down one. All in favor; none opposed.

OATH OF OFFICE

Mayor Justin King

The Honorable Henry D. Ridgely officiated the Oath of Office/Swearing in of Mayor Justin King for a term of two (2) years.

The Honorable Henry D. Ridgely officiated the Oath of Office/Swearing in of Councilman John W. Green Jr. for a term of three (3) years.

Senator Brian Bushweller officiated the Oath of Office/Swearing in of Councilwoman-Elect Tracy Torres for a term of three (3) years.

Mayor King thanked the Honorable Judge Ridgely and Senator Bushweller for their assistance tonight and for attending the meeting.

MAYOR PRESENTATION

Mayor King welcome Blake King, a fifth generation King of the Town of Camden.

Mayor King presented a Key to the Town to Mr. Blake King.

REORGANIZATION FOR THE YEAR 2014

Selection of Vice-Mayor

Councilman Dougherty nominated Councilman Green for the position of Vice-Mayor, seconded by Councilman Casquarelli. All in favor; none opposed.

Appointment of Town Clerk

Motion made by Vice-Mayor Green, seconded by Councilman Dougherty, to appoint Jamie Fenske as Town Clerk. All in favor; none opposed.

Appointment of Town Solicitor

Motion made by Vice-Mayor Green, seconded by Councilwoman Torres, to appoint Craig Eliassen as Town Solicitor. All in favor; none opposed.

Selection of official newspaper for notices of publication

Motion made by Councilman Dougherty, seconded by Vice-Mayor Green, to select the Delaware State News as the official newspaper for notices of publication. All in favor; none opposed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

MINUTES

Motion made by Councilman Casquarelli, seconded by Councilman Dougherty, to approve the February 3, 2014 regular meeting minutes. All in favor; none opposed. Councilwoman Torres abstained.

Motion made by Councilman Casquarelli, seconded by Vice-Mayor Green, to approve the February 3, 2014 executive session minutes. All in favor; none opposed. Councilwoman Torres abstained.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

PRESENTATION

Heels and Wheels – Walk and bike summit

Kate Layton from Dover/MPO, announced that the Heels and Wheels Bike and Walk Summit will be held at University of Delaware Clayton Hall on March 21st at 9am.

FINANCE REPORT

Councilman Green questioned when the audit would be taking place.

John Kelly stated that he is working on adjustments to get ready for the audit.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Bryson's report included but was not limited to traffic arrests and criminal activity.

Chief Bryson informed the audience there was an individual asking for money outside of local businesses.

Chief Bryson asked the public to not give this individual money and to call the police if they come in to contact with him.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Chaffinch congratulated Mayor King, Vice-Mayor Green, and Councilwoman Torres on their recent election.

Councilman Dougherty questioned if the street resurfacing project was still projected to start on March 17th.

Mr. Chaffinch stated that March 17th is the anticipated start date.

Councilman Casquarelli questioned what is being done about condemned properties inside of town limits.

Mr. Chaffinch stated one property was condemned and then the previous town manager uncondemned it. .

Mr. Eliassen explained that the Town would have to start the process over to condemn the property.

Councilman Casquarelli questioned what is happening with the properties that have delinquent property taxes.

Mr. Eliassen specified that recently, \$23,000 was collected for one property in past due property taxes.

Councilman Casquarelli stated that LED street lighting could possibly save 50% on lighting bills.

CAMDEN WYOMING FIRE DEPARTMENT

None.

CAMDEN WYOMING SEWER & WATER AUTHORITY

None.

FRIENDS OF HISTORIC CAMDEN

Mrs. Burke announced that Old Camden Days will be May 17th at Brecknock Park.

Mayor King thanked Mrs. Burke.

MAYOR

Mayor King thanked Judge Ridgely and Senator Bushweller for swearing in the new Council members.

Mayor King recognized Representative Blakey for all of his support.

Mayor King thanked election board members; Jean Bauer, Darlene Bennett, and Becky Fahey.

Mayor King showed his gratitude to Colonel Chaffinch, Jamie, and Amanda for working the election.

Mayor King announced that he is honored to serve as Mayor.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointment of new Planning Commissioner

Mr. Chaffinch stated that he had a meeting with Mayor King in which Mayor King suggested appointing Vicki Rhodes to the Planning Commission.

Mr. Chaffinch made his recommendation to Mayor and Council to appoint Mrs. Rhodes to the Planning Commission.

Motion made by Vice-Mayor Green, seconded by Councilman Casquarelli, to appoint Vicki Rhodes to the Planning Commission. All in favor; none opposed.

Purchase for police department – weapon clearing station

Chief Bryson explained that there was recently an accident at the Police Department.

Chief Bryson presented Mayor and Council with a quote for a mountable clearing station for \$299.95.

Delinquent taxes

Councilman Dougherty explained the Town has recently collected approximately \$23,000 in past due property taxes.

Councilman Dougherty also stated that documentation should start being kept on all properties that have past due property taxes.

Long term savings

Councilman Dougherty stated that he would like to see \$360,000 moved to the savings account, which would give the town six months of expenses in reserve.

Motion made by Councilman Dougherty, seconded by Vice-Mayor Green, to transfer \$360,000 from the general fund money market to the savings money market. All in favor; none opposed.

Roll call:

Councilman Casquarelli, yes

Vice-Mayor Green, yes

Councilman Dougherty, yes

Councilwoman Torres, yes

Mayor King, yes

Tax Discount

Mayor King stated that the town used to have a discount for early payment for property taxes, which he would like to see reinstated.

Councilman Dougherty added that this discount would be reviewed and voted on annually.

Mayor King explained that he would like to further review this topic before moving forward.

Tax Rate

Councilman Dougherty stated that he would like to see a property tax rate decreased that would remain in effect long-term.

Mayor King agreed that he does not want to lower the tax rate and then have to raise it later.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bob Shuba stated that Winterbury Woods is a development that is coming three miles outside of Camden town limits. CWSWA is planning on serving this development with sewer and water.

Vice-Mayor Green explained that neither Camden or Wyoming control the CWSWA.

Councilwoman Torres added that the CWSWA board has to vote on this project because it is outside of Camden and Wyoming town limits.

Holly Case stated that running water and sewer three miles outside of town is going to come back on the Camden residents.

Vice-Mayor Green explained that this issue is controlled by the CWSWA board.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Torres stated that she, Amanda, and Mark from the VFW are looking into an Easter Egg hunt and are seeking donations.

Councilwoman Torres added that she would like to see a facebook page for the Town of Camden to post events and it could be used by the police department.

***Town of Camden
March 10, 2014***

Regular Meeting Minutes

Councilwoman Torres stated that she would like a committee formed to review the town ordinances.

Vice-Mayor Green congratulated Mayor King and Councilwoman Torres on their recent election.

Councilman Casquarelli thanked Harvest Years for hosting a meet and greet for the candidates.

Mayor King thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Mayor King explained that public comment is very important.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:05 p.m. a motion was made by Vice-Mayor Green, seconded by Councilman Casquarelli, to adjourn the regular meeting. All in favor; none opposed.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jamie Fenske, Town Clerk*