

**Town of Camden
Regular Town Council Meeting
Camden Municipal Building
February 2, 2015**

CALL TO ORDER

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 January 26, 2015, in the following manner:

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

Vice-Mayor Green led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor King led a moment of silence.

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

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

AMENDMENTS

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Town Hall will be closed February 16th, 2015 in observance of President's Day.

Mayor King explained that there will not be a Town of Camden Municipal election on February 28th, 2015 since only one candidate filed intent for the one open council seat.

MINUTES

Motion made by Councilwoman Torres, seconded by Councilman Dougherty, to approve the January 5, 2015 regular meeting minutes. All in favor; none opposed.

Motion made by Councilwoman Torres, seconded by Councilman Casquarelli, to approve the January 5, 2015 executive session minutes. All in favor; none opposed.

FINANCE REPORT

Account Specialist Amanda Marlow, stated the Municipal Street Aid Funds were received today. The amount received will cover all of the street light expenses from July through December.

Mrs. Marlow explained that she met with Mayor King and Vice-Mayor Green about the financial cost of a new officer. As directed she will do a mock budget for years out.

Councilman Dougherty questioned if \$200,000 could be transferred from the general fund money market to the savings money market.

Mrs. Marlow she could if that is what Mayor and Council wanted her to do.

Mayor King thanked Mrs. Marlow for doing an outstanding job.

POLICE REPORT

Mayor King thanked Chief Bryson for always going above and beyond.

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

Chief Bryson played two videos to show the public how fast a routine traffic stop or police call could get out of control.

Mayor King added that safety for the officers is just one reason that he is pushing for another officer position.

Mayor King explained that he is very impressed with that new Tahoe.

Chief Bryson stated that he felt the Tahoe will be great for field officer training because it has so much room.

Councilwoman Torres read a letter that she had written to Chief Bryson. She explained that she felt Chief Bryson and his department is doing the best possible job they could with what they have. She added that she continues to support the regrowth of the police department.

Vice-Mayor Green stated that he feels that Chief Bryson is doing a great job running the police department.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Chaffinch announced that the monition sale for two Town of Camden properties has been postponed and may not happen until April. He added that it is now only one property that will be going to monitions since the other was paid in full.

Mr. Chaffinch explained that an email was sent out from the Director of the Delaware League of Local Governments informing municipalities of the Governors recommended budget that would include a decrease in municipal street aid funding from 5 million to 3 million dollars.

Mr. Chaffinch reported that money is still coming in for business and rental license, which are due January 30th, 2015.

Mayor King added that he felt the increased collection on property taxes and business licenses is in result of the late notices being mailed out. He applauded the staff's efforts in collected delinquent amounts due to the town.

Councilman Dougherty questioned delinquent tax due for 11 N Launden.

Mr. Eliassen explained that account is unable to go to monitions since the homeowner does not own the property.

CAMDEN WYOMING FIRE DEPARTMENT

None.

CAMDEN WYOMING SEWER & WATER AUTHORITY

Mr. Peter Couming announced that the CWSWA has recently annexed a property into town limits and they sold another property.

Mr. Couming added that the CWSWA holds an education outreach program that has had 5 seminars so far.

Mr. Couming reported that the safety and quality of the water has passed.

Mr. Couming indicated that he did not feel comfortable having Mr. Ridgely appointed to the CWSWA due to Mr. Ridgely's employment with a firm that the CWSWA is currently negotiating with.

Mayor King thanked Mr. Couming for his report. He also expressed his gratitude that the CWSWA is not currently proposing a rate change.

Mayor King explained that it is hard to find to find good people that want to represent the Town.

Vice-Mayor Green replied that he respects Mr. Couming's thoughts. He added that Mr. Ridgely will recuse himself if he feels it is necessary.

Vice-Mayor Green stated that he urged the council to move forward with Mr. Ridgely's appointment to the CWSWA board of directors.

Councilman Casquarelli thanked Mr. Couming for his report.

Councilwoman Torres explained that no voting should be taking place that will become controversial with the SWA and the firm Mr. Ridgely is employed by, but if there is she feels confident that he will recuse himself.

Mr. Chaffinch question Mr. Couming if he has spoken to the CWSWA attorney about this matter.

Mr. Couming explained that he has not been able to contact the attorney for the CWSWA.

FRIENDS OF HISTORIC CAMDEN

Mrs. Burke stated that the next regular meeting will be February 17th, 2015, 7pm, at Barclay Farms clubhouse.

Mrs. Green announced that Camden Day will be May 16th, 2015.

MAYOR

Mayor King thanked Mrs. Marlow and Vice-Mayor Green for their time on reviewing the finances for hiring another police officer.

Mayor King explained that he wants to be sure that there will not be any layoffs if a new officer is hired.

NEW BUSINESS

Service agreement with Tom Josiah

Vice-Mayor Green explained that the Council was displeased with the advice that they were asking for from the CFO. The town is behind on audits and needed someone there that would help speed along bringing the town up to date. Mr. Josiah has had previous working experience with Account Specialist Amanda Marlow. He has worked with other municipalities so he is familiar with how our finances and budgets work.

Vice-Mayor Green added that he was very pleased that Mr. Josiah stated that through training with the staff he will hopefully be able to come in less which will save the town money in the long run. Mr. Josiah will be coming to quarterly Council Meetings and Mrs. Marlow will be attending the other meetings to give the finance report.

Mayor King detailed that Mr. Josiah is very knowledgeable; he will save us money, and will help the town become self-sufficient by training our employees.

Mayor King recommended that the town move forward in signing the agreement to bring Mr. Josiah aboard.

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Green, seconded by Councilman Dougherty, to authorize a service agreement. All in favor; none opposed.

Board member for CWSWA

Mayor King explained that he personally called on Mr. Daniel Ridgely to represent the town on the CWSWA board of directors. He felt as though Mr. Ridgely is a great candidate for the job and thanked him for his willingness to step up and represent the town.

Mr. Ridgely stated that he has already spoken with his principals at the firm about his pending appointment. He added that he would feel comfortable recusing himself if there was a topic that dealt with his firm and the CWSWA.

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Green, seconded by Councilwoman Torres, to appoint Mr. Daniel Ridgely to the CWSWA board of directors. Roll Call;

Mayor King – yes

Vice- Mayor Green – yes

Councilman Casquarelli – yes

Councilman Dougherty – abstain

Councilwoman Torres – yes

Motion carries.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Linda Moore – 168 Thomas Harmon Dr. stated that she is happy with the change of the CFO.

Mr. Marc Newman with the VFW stated that the veteran monument is coming along very well. March 28th will be the 80th anniversary

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Vice-Mayor Green questioned Chief Bryson if a three year mock budget would satisfactory in making a decision to hire a new officer or not.

Chief Bryson stated that three years would be realistic.

Mayor King asked Chief Bryson for an update on the new cameras.

Chief Bryson explained that the process is moving forward, the next step is to install the pole.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:16p.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