

**Town of Camden  
Regular Town Council Meeting  
Camden Municipal Building  
May 4, 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 April 27, 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, Account Specialist Amanda Marlow, and Financial Officer Tom Josiah.

**AMENDMENTS**

None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Council will hold a Public Workshop Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm regarding the Proposed FY 2015/2016 Draft Budget.

Town Hall will be closed Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup> in observance of Memorial Day.

Mayor King thanked the Fire Department for the invite to the Awards Banquet.

**MINUTES**

Motion made by Councilwoman Torres, seconded by Vice-Mayor Green, to approve the April 6, 2015 regular meeting minutes. All in favor; none opposed.

**FINANCE REPORT**

Chief Financial Officer Tom Josiah thanked Mayor and Council for the opportunity to work with the Town. He explained that some of the actual revenues are higher than the budgeted because of one time instances.

Mayor King thanked Mr. Josiah for being very thorough and taking the time to explain in detail to keep Mayor and Council informed.

Councilman Dougherty stated that the audit is at 444% of what was budget but this is due to doing three years audit in one year.

Councilman Dougherty thanked Mr. Josiah for being able to account for all of the Town's funds.

#### **POLICE REPORT**

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

Mayor King thanked Chief Bryson and the entire police department for doing a great job and being so thorough.

Chief Bryson stated that so far seven resumes have been received for the police officer position. The academy starts in September 2015.

Mayor King thanked Chief Bryson for his report.

#### **TOWN MANAGER REPORT**

Mr. Chaffinch reported that the new part time employee started April 13<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Chaffinch explained that we are into grass cutting season.

Councilwoman Torres questioned how much time the Code Enforcer spends on grass cutting.

Mr. Chaffinch stated that he spends at least 30 out of 40 hours a week on grass.

Councilman Casquarelli questioned how Tamarac was handling the town no longer cutting the grass in the open space.

Mr. Chaffinch explained that he had one complaint and he explained to her that it went through a public hearing and that Mayor and Council decided to longer cut any open space in the Town of Camden any longer.

Mr. Eliassen stated that he also spoke to the resident and told her the same thing.

#### **CAMDEN WYOMING FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Mr. Chris Dufresne of the CWFD thanked Mayor and Council for the donation that they gave to the Fire Department. He reported 260 medical calls and 47 fire calls.

Mr. Dufresne added that the new truck is in service and its first call was a working fire.

Mr. Dufresne stated that bingo is every Tuesday, doors open at 5:30.

Mayor King thanked Mr. Dufresne for his report.

#### **CAMDEN WYOMING SEWER & WATER AUTHORITY**

Mr. Peter Couming stated that paperwork was submitted to the Town of Camden for a building permit for the new water tower. The CWSWA is asking the town for relief on the cost of the permit.

Councilman Dougherty explained that the Town has to pay a full water bill to the CWSWA and does not receive any relief from the CWSWA.

Vice-Mayor Green added that he feels there needs to be farther review on the permit relief request.

Vice-Mayor Green reported that there was a fire on Camden Wyoming Avenue and the day after there was brown water. He questioned if there was something that could be done to be proactive to avoid the brown water.

Mr. Couming explained that there is 27 miles of piping around town and when something happens to disrupt the normal service brown water results sometimes.

Councilwoman Torres explained that Dover does a lot of flushing to help with the brown water.

Councilman Dougherty explained that he never experienced brown water until he moved to Camden.

Mayor King thanked Mr. Couming for his report.

#### **FRIENDS OF HISTORIC CAMDEN**

Mrs. Burke announced that Camden Day will be May 16<sup>th</sup> 10 am to 4pm.

Mayor King thanked Mrs. Burke for attending.

#### **VFW**

Commander Marc Garduno explained that he has been elected for another year as Commander.

Mr. Garduno stated that May 16<sup>th</sup> is Armed Forces Day.

Mr. Garduno added that the Memorial Day celebration will begin at the Veterans Monument at Camden Town Hall at 10am and then a Memorial Day Observance will begin at 11:30am at the Post Hall.

Vice-Mayor Green congratulated Mr. Garduno on his reelection as Commander.

Councilwoman Torres also congratulated Mr. Garduno on his reelection.

## **MAYOR**

Mayor King thanked Council and staff for all of their hard work.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **COLA**

Councilman Dougherty explained that the Philadelphia Index shows a 1.4% cost of living increase. Philadelphia is the closest index to Delaware. 2% was given to the police department last year in recognition of the adjustment they were not given before.

Councilman Dougherty stated that he felt if the police department gets a COLA increase than so should the civilian employees.

Vice-Mayor Green detailed that the COLA increase would need to be factored into the FY 2016 budget.

Mrs. Marlow explained that the 1.4% is already factored into the FY 2016 budget.

Vice-Mayor Green announced that he would not support more than 1.4% COLA increase. He also is in favor of giving the increase to all employees.

Councilwoman Torres stated that she is in favor of the increase, no more than 1.4%.

Mayor King explained that this is something that needs to be reviewed every year. He also feels that all full time employees should get the COLA increase. The Philadelphia Index should be used to come up with the COLA increase.

Councilman Dougherty reported that this is not something that is guaranteed every year.

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Green, seconded by Councilman Dougherty, to approve a 1.4% COLA increase, effective July 1, 2015, to all full time employees, per the Philadelphia Index. All in favor, none opposed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

*Ordinance to Provide for a School Capital Reserve Fund – Amendment*

Mr. Chaffinch explained that there is a small change in the wording to make it clearer.

Mrs. Marlow stated that the amendment will follow the Kent County “or” instead of “and”.

Vice-Mayor Green detailed that the funds that are being taken for the Capital Reserve Fund needs to be turned over to the Caesar Rodney School district.

Councilman Dougherty explained that any funds that are not turned over for Capital improvements after 5 years get reverted back to the Town.

Mrs. Marlow explained that the auditors brought to our attention that we need to issue the funds.

*Tax Discount*

Mayor King explained that the tax discount that was given last year was a success. This year he recommends to only giving the discount if tax balance is paid in full in July, with an assessment that is greater than \$5,250.

A motion was made by Councilman Casquarelli, seconded by Vice-Mayor Green, to approve the early bird discount for property taxes in the tax year 2015/2016. A discount will be given of \$20.00 if received in office by July 31<sup>st</sup> 2015 4 o'clock pm. Postmark is not accepted. Discount only applies to property tax accounts that have an assessed value of \$5,250 or greater. Discount only applies if the total balance due is paid in full. If the discount amount is not deducted from payment, a credit will remain on the account until the following tax year. All in favor, none opposed.

*Purchase of police radios*

Chief Bryson explained that approximately one year ago 5 portable and 1 mobile were purchased. There are still 5 portable radios that need to be replaced. If we turn them in by December 31, 2015 there is a \$1,200 rebate per radio. The cost for the 5 new radios will be \$14,036.25.

A motion was made by Councilman Dougherty, seconded by Councilman Casquarelli, to approve Chief Bryson to purchase 5 radios from RETT in the total of \$14,036.25. All in favor, none opposed.

*Purchase of police vehicle*

Chief Bryson explained that the 2016 Tahoes are on a hold right now. IG Burton has a 2015 in stock with our specs for \$33,878. For the purchase of the vehicle to totally outfit it, it would cost approximately \$50,000.

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Green, seconded by Councilman Casquarelli, to approve Chief Bryson to purchase a 2015 Tahoe from RETT for \$33,878. All in favor, none opposed.

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Green, seconded by Councilwoman Torres, to approve Chief Bryson \$16,122 from RETT to fully equip the new Tahoe being purchased. All in favor, none opposed.

*Draft budget – first reading*

Mayor and Council were presented the FY 2016 budget in detail including but not limited to:

- RETT – in FY 2015 there was a large one time revenue that will not be included in the FY 2016 budget.
- Revenues – all one time large amounts were not applied to the FY 2016 budget.

Councilman Dougherty stated that it is close to FY 2015 budget.

Mayor King thanked Mrs. Marlow and Mr. Josiah for the hard work that they put into the FY 2016 budget.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Linda Moore- 168 Thomas Harmon Dr, explained that she feels that the CWSWA should have to pay for their permit for the water tower.

Mary Kay Edgers- Harvest Years, thanked Mayor and Council for assisting them with getting a new bus for the Harvest Years.

#### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilwoman Torres explained that she is hoping that she can make it to the June Council Meeting.

Vice-Mayor Green stated that he is excited about the budget this year. He also reminded everyone that Camden Days is May 16<sup>th</sup> at Brecknock Park.

Councilman Casquarelli

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:31p.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*