

**Town of Camden
Regular Town Council Meeting
Camden Municipal Building
May 2, 2016**

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 26, 2016, in the following manner:

- a. The electronic sign,
- b. The Official Bulletin Board,
- 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.

Absent: None

Staff Attending: Chief William Bryson, Town Manager Aaron Chaffinch, Town Solicitor Craig Eliassen, Account Specialist Amanda Marlow, and Chief Financial Officer Tom Josiah.

AMENDMENTS

Mayor King asked for a motion to change the public workshop scheduled on May 16, 2016 to May 23, 2016 at 6:30pm. Motion made by Vice-Mayor Green, seconded by Councilman Casquarelli. All in favor; none opposed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council will hold a public workshop on Monday, May 23, 2016 at 6:30pm regarding the proposed FY 2016/2017 Draft Budget.

Town Hall will be closed Monday, May 30th in observance of Memorial Day.

MINUTES

Motion made by Councilwoman Torres, seconded by Vice-Mayor Green, to approve the April 4, 2016 regular meeting minutes. All in favor; none opposed.

FINANCE REPORT

Mr. Josiah gave his quarterly report for January-March 2016. He explained that the public works expense line was over expended by \$30,000 dollars but the majority is being reimbursed by a Del-Dot grant.

Mr. Josiah stated there are no major issues in the other funds.

Councilman Dougherty asked why the rental income was down so much?

Mr. Josiah stated it is not, there are still four months to collect the revenue.

Councilman Green asked if there are any red flags to be concerned about?

Mr. Josiah said no, only the public works department but that is due to the Del-Dot grant. He also stated that the new public works employee drives up those numbers.

POLICE REPORT

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

Chief Bryson added that the new Tahoe is on the street and running great.

Councilwoman Torres asked how the Soliciting Ordinance is being communicated to the officers? She stated the officers said it had not been passed, but it was passed at a previous council meeting.

Chief Bryson explained that it was due to miscommunication but the ordinance has now been distributed to all officers and put on the website.

Councilwoman Torres asked about the house in Newell's Creek that the police were called to three times in one day.

Chief Bryson stated they received two calls in one day.

Councilwoman Torres asked what the police department can do about it?

Chief Bryson explained that they were working on the noise ordinance to help with these types of situations. However, when they arrived at the residence they were all in the house. He explained there is nothing that the police department can do unless someone would go to court and testify.

Mayor King asked how long the response time was of an officer arriving?

Chief Bryson stated the incident took place at 99 Jacks Way and the report was written within 30 minutes of the call. He stated he would put out an email to all the officers for no tolerance, to check the legal age of all people, and stated this is a nuisance property.

Mayor King asked if the homeowner has been contacted?

Chief Bryson stated the property address is in a Corporation name and they haven't received any cooperation from them.

Councilman Green stated at the next meeting let's start really cracking down on the noise ordinance.

Councilman Dougherty asked if the Town could get any of the several millions of dollars that became available in Wilmington?

Chief Bryson said he has had his eye on it and we can try if they become available.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Chaffinch said he spoke with the Town Manager from City of Lewes in regards to the Cyber Security Insurance and the Town Manager said they recently switched to DFIT and added cyber security to their policy. Mr. Chaffinch stated that Delaware Micro is looking into cyber security and trying to offer a cheaper rate.

Mr. Chaffinch explained the paving project on Walmart Drive was finished and Camden Commons is roughly 2/3rd completed. He said the Town was waiting on the Risers to begin the Center Street paving and we received them this morning and we are just waiting on a date from Delmarva Paving on when they can begin.

Mr. Chaffinch said we received \$18,279.46 in RETT money for March 2016.

Mr. Chaffinch reminded Council and residents that the trash contract for 2016/2017 is effective July 1.

Mr. Chaffinch stated on April 18th a work stoppage was presented to CWSWA in regards to the work being done at the water tower. The board had a meeting in March and the building permit fee was denied by the board. He explained that three representatives from Camden voted yes and the three representatives from Wyoming voted No.

Mayor King explained the CWSWA requested a meeting with the Town of Camden and the Town of Wyoming and he denied their request.

Mayor King asked if there were any complaints in regards to the storm drain on N. Main/Center Street?

Mr. Chaffinch stated he had not received any complaints but he had recently reached out to Del-Dot in regards to the storm drain issue.

Councilman Casquarelli asked what the \$8,000 was in the code enforcement revenue?

Amanda Marlow stated it mostly from grass cutting.

Mr. Chaffinch explained 44 letters were recently mail out certified with code violations.

Councilman Casquarelli asked what the Admin CC processing fees were in the expense report.

Amanda Marlow stated it was the fee the credit card companies charge for paying by credit card.

Councilman Casquarelli stated he thought the Town shouldn't have to pay those fees, the person paying should.

Mr. Chaffinch stated we believe people will not pay at all if we pass that fee on to them.

CAMDEN WYOMING FIRE DEPARTMENT

None

CAMDEN WYOMING SEWER & WATER AUTHORITY

Mr. Dan Ridgely stated the March board meeting was usual business and they are making progress on the Comp Plan. He explained in the FY17 budget they are budgeting for manhole restoration. He asked Council if there was any update on Wawa potentially coming to Camden because they were working on their long term budget.

Mr. Chaffinch stated there is no update.

Mayor King stated he thinks the Towns relationship is better with Del-Dot now, which was holding the Wawa project up.

Mr. Ridgely asked if the Town would please let them know when we receive an update.

Mr. Ridgely stated there is a meeting next week to discuss the next steps with the water tower due to the vote at the last meeting. He explained once their lawyer is done with the research, they will be contacting our Town Solicitor. Mr. Ridgely said there is still work to be done with painting and the pump house and once this is complete it will lessen the brown water.

Mr. Ridgely said no progress has been made in regards to the letter that was sent to Bushweller that Councilwoman Torres asked about at the last council meeting. He asked Councilwoman Torres if she could send a follow up email.

Councilman Green thanked Mr. Ridgely for the brown water update.

FRIENDS OF HISTORIC CAMDEN

Donna Chapel asked Council to refer to the letter given to them in regards to their open house and that they are accepting donations.

Ms. Chapel explained that Levy Court was restoring Brecknock Manor House and Kent County Parks and Recreation was given a packet and letter discussing the work that needs to be done to the Manor House.

VFW

Commander Garduno stated April was election month. He said the Post was voted 2015/2016 Communities Post of the Year.

Commander Garduno said May was a busy month and the following events are taken place:

May 14th-Patient Carnival in Elsmere

May 21st-Placing flags at Odd Fellow Cemetery at 10am.

May 30th-Town Hall wreath lying at 10am, Annual Memorable Day service at the VFW at 11:30am.

Mayor King stated the VFW could use Town Hall for the memorable.

MAYOR

Mayor King thanked everyone including the staff, police, and Council for all their hard work.

Mayor King stated he denied the letter from CWSWA in regards to the meeting because Town of Wyoming should not be involved.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Caesar Rodney Proclamation

Motion made by Councilwoman Torres, seconded by Vice-Mayor Green, to approve the proclamation to proclaim May 2016 as Caesar Rodney School District Recognition Month. All in favor; none opposed.

Amendment to the Agenda

Vice Mayor Green asked if we should move the first reading of the draft budget up first because the deficiency is the amount of the tax discount given?

Motion made by Vice-Mayor Green, seconded by Councilman Casquarelli, to move New Business, letter C, before New Business, letter B, on the Agenda. All in favor; none opposed.

Draft Budget-first reading

Mr. Josiah stated the budget is not balanced and there is a deficit of \$21,469 dollars. He explained that we have gone line by line and the budget is tight. Mr. Josiah said if you compare the 2016 budget to the 2017 budget there is no wiggle room.

Mayor King asked Mr. Josiah to discuss his idea in regards to the Public Works position.

Mr. Josiah explained the deficit was mostly the new public works employee salary and the reason the new public works employee was hired was to free Harold Scott from grass cutting and focus on code enforcement.

Mayor King asked how much code enforcement revenue has been brought in? He said Mr. Scott has sent out code enforcement letters and in his opinion we should put a dollar amount in the budget under code enforcement and hold Mr. Scott to that number of how much code enforcement needs to be brought in.

Vice Mayor Green asked if he could segment out his hours because we hired someone to free up his time to focus on code enforcement.

Vice-Mayor Green stated we have to have a balanced budget.

Mr. Josiah explained that vendor costs go up and revenues do not and in 2-3 years the Town will have a tough decision to make.

Councilwoman Torres asked if the Newell's Creek assessments went down last year or this year?

Amanda Marlow stated last year.

Councilwoman Torres asked if the fee's for code enforcement needs to be reviewed and increased?

Mr. Chaffinch stated the current fee is \$150 per hour.

Mr. Chaffinch asked if the money we receive from our Senators affect the budget?

Mr. Josiah said no.

Mayor King asked council to review the budget and discuss it when we meet on the 23rd for the public workshop.

Councilman Casquarelli asked if 1 S. Main Street was in monitions?

Craig Eliassen explained that it was sold to a bank before monition sale and we should receive our money soon. He said if we do not receive our money we can go after the new owner once the Sheriff's office records the deed because maybe those funds are sitting in escrow.

Mr. Josiah stated the Town does have the option to dip into the reserve account if needed for the budget.

Councilman Casquarelli asked for an update in regards to 118 N Main Street.

Craig Eliassen stated he had no idea and it was owned by New York Mellon Bank.

Mr. Chaffinch stated he received a name from the Sheriff's office and it is banked owned and they have no interested in selling it.

Motion made by Councilman Dougherty, seconded by Vice-Mayor Green, to approve the first reading of the 2016/2017 draft budget. All in favor; none opposed.

Tax Discount

Mayor King asked that the tax discount agenda item be moved to old business for June's council meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ollie Maddrey from 111 Jacks Way voiced his concern in regards to 99 Jacks Way. He explained that people came in his back yard and broke down his garage door to hide from the police. He said the police were called because there was a teenager lying in his yard and her vehicle was parking in the middle of the street running. Mr. Maddrey stated we need to do something about 99 Jacks Way because these are young kids. He said he can put something in writing, take pictures, whatever he needs to do, but if something is not done, crime is going to happen.

Chief Bryson asked if the teenagers are on foot or driving? He said the person that called in the complaint did not leave any information and did not want to be contacted.

Mr. Maddrey stated both foot and driving and there were roughly 25 kids and the police were speaking to 5 or so. He said the kids are out of control and one of them even admitted they were in the house shooting their gun.

Mayor King thanked Mr. Maddrey for coming to the council meeting and this is what we need in order have the situation taken care of.

Phyllis Kidd-Maddrey from 111 Jacks Way stated she had called in the complaint but did not want to be contacted because she wanted sleep. She asked if she should call 911 or the non-emergency number.

Chief Bryson stated the non-emergency number is fine.

Ms. Kidd-Maddrey said there was a female four houses down at 4am with loud music and her headlights on looking for her lost keys.

Mayor King asked if an officer spoke with her?

Ms. Kidd-Maddrey stated yes, and her vehicle was parked in the middle of the road and no sobriety test was done.

Mayor King stated if the officer smells alcohol then a sobriety test is done.

Mr. Rajkumar from 125 Jacks Way stated these kids are parking farther into the neighborhood and walking up to the house. He said they are throwing trash on the streets, beer bottles and alcohol.

John Fifer-12102 Willow Grove Road gave kudos to Chief and his police officers for the work they do. He stated they do a wonderful job of watching over his home when he is out of town.

Mr. Fifer thanked Mr. Chaffinch and Council for taking care of the problems with the neighbors next door. He explained he does not want to see the Town go downhill.

Mr. Fifer thanked the representatives from the CWSWA for staying and that several months ago two members made a plea to Council in regards to the discount for the building permit fee but left before public comment. Mr. Fifer explained that when sewer and water lines were put in on Route 10 in the late 90's his father in law was living in a house in the area and they had no money. Mr. Fifer stated that CWSWA came through and came across as a threat that water and sewer would be put in and his father in law would have to pay a high fee for it. He explained that their family picked up the amount for his father in law and no discount was given to him. Mr. Fifer stated that he thinks CWSWA is ridiculous to not think they have to pay and ask for a discount.

Mr. Ridgely stated he appreciated Mr. Fifer's lesson he gave and it inspires him to look at what we have available and how we can help low income people.

Mayor King explained to Mr. Fifer that Mr. Ridgely did vote in favor of paying the building permit fee.

Mayor King thanked everyone for staying for public comment.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Torres thanked the residents from Newell's Creek for coming to the meeting. She stated she had a meeting with the Town on April 15th to help with landlord/tenant issues.

Councilwoman Torres stated the CWSWA is voting for the permit fee now but a vote never took place to build the water tower, or purchase the property, and there was no public hearing. She explained that people are complaining that the water tower is an eye sore and she doesn't understand why a vote is taking place to pay the permit fees.

Mr. Chaffinch explained that the vote took place because the three members from Camden wanted it that way.

Councilwoman Torres stated CWSWA votes when it is convenient for them. She explained we need to hold board members accountable and that everything is voted on.

Mr. Ridgely explained that it was proposed by a Wyoming member and put on the next month's agenda. He explained that their Lawyer believes judgement will be in CWSWA favor. Mr. Ridgely stated that it is well noted that they have to pay the fee in order to move forward but he does see where they are coming from because if this was in Wyoming, and they charged a permit fee for the first time, he would object too.

Councilman Dougherty stated he wished he could re-send the annexation of the water tower into the Town and that he cannot believe the funds were borrowed.

Councilman Casquarelli thanked the residents from Newell's Creek for attending.

Mayor King thanked everyone for attending the meeting and he encouraged people to attend.

Motion made at 9:12pm by Vice-Mayor Green, seconded by Councilman Casquarelli, to adjourn regular session and go into executive session to consider a strategy with respect to pending and/or potential litigation and/or with respect to personnel issues. All in favor; none opposed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

To consider a strategy with respect to pending and/or potential litigation and/or with respect to personnel issues.

Motion made at 10:05pm by Councilwoman Torres, seconded by Councilman Dougherty, to come out of executive session and go back into regular session. All in favor; none opposed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made at 10:05 by Councilwoman Torres, seconded by Councilman Dougherty, to adjourn the council meeting. All in favor; none opposed.

*Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Marlow, Account Specialist*