

**Town of Camden
Regular Town Council Meeting
Camden Municipal Building
May 7, 2018**

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 30, 2018, in the following manner:

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

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

Mayor King led a moment of silence.

Council Attending: Mayor King, Vice-Mayor Torres, Councilman Schock, Councilman Dougherty, and Councilman Findley.

Absent: None

Staff Attending: Chief William Bryson, Town Clerk Jamie Fenske, Town Solicitor Craig Eliassen, Account Specialist Amanda Marlow, and Chief Financial Officer Tom Josiah.

AMENDMENTS

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Schock, seconded by Councilwoman Torres to move new business item e, *Draft Budget – first reading*, to after minutes. All in favor; none opposed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor and Council will hold a Public Workshop Monday, May 21, 2018 at 6:30pm regarding the Proposed FY 2018/2019 Draft Budget.

Town Hall will be closed Monday, May 28th in observance to Memorial Day.

REORGANIZATION FOR THE YEAR 2018

Selection of Vice-Mayor

A motion was made by Councilman Dougherty, seconded by Councilman Findley, to appoint Councilwoman Torres as Vice-Mayor for the year 2018. All in favor; none opposed.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Torres, seconded by Councilman Schock, to approve the April 2, 2018 regular meeting minutes. All in favor; none opposed.

FINANCE REPORT

Chief Financial Officer, Tom Josiah, gave his quarterly report. He explained that the general fund is on track compared to the budget. He added that the permits and license revenue is exceeding the budgeted amount due to more permit revenue than what was anticipated.

Mayor King stated that he is appreciative of the growth that is coming to Camden.

Mr. Josiah added that Mrs. Marlow has reached out to the builder for Tidbury Crossing to help get a more accurate number for permits for the new budget year.

Account Specialist Amanda Marlow explained that she has added a new pick up truck for the public works department. She added that the Public Works Director has been requesting a new vehicle for several years but just last week the air conditioner went up in the truck. She questioned Mayor and Council if they would like the Public Works Director to get the air conditioned repaired. She stated that the Public Works Director has obtained three quotes for a new pickup. Kent County Motors quoted \$43,000, Chevrolet of Dover quoted \$47,000, and Hertrich of Seaford quoted \$34,000. She explained that Hertrich is much less because they hold the state contract.

Councilman Dougherty stated that he would like to see the vehicle first before he makes a motion to approve purchasing a new vehicle. He also questioned why a crew cab is necessary.

Mayor King questioned what year the current pick up is.

Mrs. Marlow replied that it is a 2005.

Chief Bryson explained that the crew is needed to help secure the tools.

Mayor King stated that he would like to get the air conditioned fixed now and then like to look at the truck himself. This way if we do decide to get a new vehicle, we may get better value for the used pick up. He asked to have this item brought back to the June 4th Council Meeting.

Mayor King thanked Mr. Josiah for his quarterly report.

CAMDEN WYOMING FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mayor King thanked the Camden Wyoming Fire Department and all the volunteers that they do for the Town of Camden.

CAMDEN WYOMING SEWER & WATER AUTHORITY

None.

FRIENDS OF HISTORIC CAMDEN

Mrs. Burke stated that they are in the process of looking for some new board members to help represent the Friends of Historic Camden. She added that they are holding a meeting on May 15th at 7pm at the Friends Meeting House on Camden Wyoming Avenue.

Mrs. Burke reported that the cellar looks very nice at the Brecknock Manor House. She added that the Friends of Historic Camden's next goal is to get the house raised so that it can be leveled. She added that the group would love to get more involved in the community again and start opening houses up to the public, but they need more help before that can happen again. Mrs. Burke explained that all help is welcomed.

Mayor King thanked Mrs. Burke for coming to the meeting and for her report.

VFW

Christina Chidester, Commander for the Camden VFW Post, stated that on May 12th at Redner's on Route 8 in Dover, from 10am until 4pm, the VFW will be hosting their drive for buddy poppies. She invited everyone to the post on Friday and Saturday nights for a meal and good company. Mrs. Chidester also invited everyone to the Memorial Day celebrations. She explained that the first ceremony will take place here at Town Hall at 10am and then will continue at the Camden VFW Post at 11:30am.

Mrs. Chidester announced that she has been elected as the Commander for the Camden VFW Post and that she would love to get more involved in the community and help bring everyone together. She added that she and the post would love to assist the police department, fire department, and town as much as possible.

Mayor King thanked Mrs. Chidester for her report and congratulated her on her new position.

Councilman Dougherty questioned what time the dinners start on Fridays and Saturdays.

Mrs. Chidester responded that the doors open at 5pm.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Bryson gave a report that included but was not limited to traffic arrests and criminal activity.

Chief Bryson reported that there was an officer just released from the hospital from an off duty related injury. He added that the officer will be out of work for an undetermined amount of time since his primary hand was injured.

Chief Bryson added that Patrolman Reynolds has verbally notified him that he has received a conditional offer of hire from Rehoboth Beach.

Chief Bryson explained that he has received 28 resumes and will be conducting testing on May 19th.

Chief Bryson stated that he has spoken to DelDot to come up with a plan for the new markings on Thomas Harmon. He suggested using epoxy paint because it will last longer.

Councilman Dougherty explained that he feels the parking lot at Town Hall needs to be sealed and restriped as well.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mayor King reported that the March RETT was \$26,376.80. He added that the ADA ramps on Walmart Drive have been completed. He explained that Ralph Cahall is planning on starting the repaving the end of May, weather permitting. He also stated Mr. Scott is working on getting a storm drain repaired on Thomas Harmon Dr.

MAYOR

Mayor King thanked council for all their hard work. He also congratulated Vice-Mayor Torres on her no position as vice-mayor. He thanked Councilman Schock for his term as vice-mayor.

Mayor King thanked Mrs. Marlow and Mr. Josiah on their excellent work on the budget.

NEW BUSINESS

Draft budget – first reading

Mr. Josiah explained that this year's budget is a reduction from the FY 2018 budget. He stated that with reconfiguration of the police department, the budget is balanced. He advised Mayor, Council, and staff to stick to the same plan as we used in FY 2018 and be very cautious of spending.

Councilman Dougherty questioned why the SVC grant went up this year.

Chief Bryson explained the more fine go up the more this grant goes up.

Vice-Mayor Torres questioned if there is a complete inventory of all the equipment and vehicles that the town owns.

Mrs. Marlow explained that there is a complete inventory of all the equipment, but the vehicles are specifically broken down and the mowers are put together.

A motion was made by Councilman Dougherty, seconded by Councilman Schock, to approve the first reading of the FY 2019 draft budget. All in favor; motion carries.

Reappointment of Planning Commissioners

A motion was made by Councilman Dougherty, seconded by Vice-Mayor Torres, to reappoint Mark Girty to the Planning Commission for a term to end December 31, 2019. Roll call:

Mayor King – yes
Vice-Mayor Torres – yes
Councilman Schock – yes
Councilman Dougherty – yes
Councilman Findley – yes

A motion was made by Councilman Schock, seconded by Councilman Findley, to reappoint Tom Wanstall to the Planning Commission for a term to end December 31, 2019. Roll call:

Mayor King – yes
Vice-Mayor Torres – yes
Councilman Schock – yes
Councilman Dougherty – yes
Councilman Findley – yes

A motion was made by Councilman Dougherty, seconded by Councilman Findley, to reappoint Michael Johnson to the Planning Commission for a term to end December 31, 2019. Roll call:

Mayor King – yes
Vice-Mayor Torres – yes
Councilman Schock – yes
Councilman Dougherty – yes
Councilman Findley – yes

Reappointment of Board of Adjustment Member

A motion was made by Councilman Findley, seconded by Councilman Dougherty, to reappoint Michael Prystajko to the Board of Adjustment for a term to end December 31, 2019. Roll call:

Mayor King – yes
Vice-Mayor Torres – yes
Councilman Schock – yes
Councilman Dougherty – yes
Councilman Findley – yes

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Torres, seconded by Councilman Schock, to reappoint Judi Schock to the Board of Adjustment for a term to end December 31, 2019. Roll call:

Mayor King – yes
Vice-Mayor Torres – yes
Councilman Schock – yes
Councilman Dougherty – yes
Councilman Findley – yes

COLA

Mrs. Marlow explained that the Philadelphia Cost of Living Index is at 2.4% for this year. She stated that it has already been worked into the FY 19 draft budget. She added that this would only go to full time employees. Her recommendation was to have Mayor and Council review the budget and to vote on the COLA of 2.4% at the June Council Meeting.

Tax Discount

Mrs. Marlow stated that 1263 accounts took advantage of the early bird discount in 2016 and 1208 took advantage of the discount in 2017. Her recommendation was to review the budget and vote on it at the June Council Meeting.

Mayor King questioned if the discount was worked into the draft budget.

Mrs. Marlow replied that the discount is worked into the FY 19 draft budget that has been presented.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Burke expressed that she feels Main Street is in bad shape. She added that there is a bad pot hole right in front of her house that causes her house to shake when a truck hits the hole.

Mayor King stated that he hopes that the bypass will help relieve Main Street from a lot of the truck traffic. He explained that he has reached out to the Deldot to have a public workshop about the proposed bypass.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Vice-Mayor Torres thanked council for appointing her as vice-mayor.

Councilman Schock congratulated Vice-Mayor Torres on her new appointment.

Councilman Dougherty thanked the audience for their attendance.

Councilman Findley thanked the great group that was present tonight.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

A motion was made at 8:19pm by Councilman Schock, seconded by Councilman Findley, to enter executive session. All in favor; none opposed.

A motion was made at 8:45pm by Councilman Dougherty, seconded by Councilman Schock, to adjourn executive session. All in favor; none opposed.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made at 8:45pm by Councilman Schock, seconded by Councilman Findley, to adjourn the council meeting. All in favor; none opposed.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jamie Fenske, Town Clerk*