

**Town of Camden
Regular Town Council Meeting
Camden Municipal Building
September 10, 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 August 31, 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 Torres led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor King led a moment of silence.

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

Council Absent: None

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

AMENDMENTS

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Property taxes are due by the close of business on September 28th, 2018.

Town Hall will be closed Monday, October 8 in observance of Columbus Day.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Torres, seconded by Councilman Findley, to approve the August 6, 2018 regular meeting minutes. All in favor; none opposed.

A motion was made by Councilman Findley, seconded by Vice-Mayor Torres, to approve the August 6, 2018 executive session minutes. All in favor; none opposed.

FINANCE REPORT

Mrs. Marlow reported that the current past due tax balance is \$24,470.36. She explained that 6 properties have been sent notice that if their property tax is not paid in full or a payment agreement is signed by September 28th, 2018 then the monition process will begin. She added that the past due tax balance in February 2013 was \$111,000 and in June 2013 it was \$81,000.

Mrs. Marlow explained that Horty and Horty will begin their onsite process in November and are scheduled to present their report to Mayor and Council in February.

Mayor King thanked the staff for their excellent efforts on collecting past due property taxes.

CAMDEN WYOMING FIRE DEPARTMENT

None.

CAMDEN WYOMING SEWER & WATER AUTHORITY

Dan Ridgely explained that the CWSWA held a public workshop for the budget draft reading and he felt it went well. He added that there will not be a rate increase this year.

Mayor King asked that Mr. Ridgely pass on his gratitude to Mr. Scott and the entire CWSWA for their superb service they provided Friday night to his home.

FRIENDS OF HISTORIC CAMDEN

None.

VFW

Vice-Commander Todd Fairhurst invited Mayor, Council, staff, and residents to the Patriot's Day ceremony that will be held at Town Hall, September 11, 2018 at 6pm. He added that there will be a community BBQ at the Camden VFW on October 14, 2018 from 12-7. He also stated that the post will be having trunk or treat on October 31 from 5-8pm.

Mayor King thanked Mr. Fairhurst for his attendance at tonight's meeting and for everything that he does for the community.

POLICE REPORT

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

Chief Bryson added that the two new recruits started the academy yesterday.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Chaffinch reported that the July RETT was \$26,527.12.

Mr. Chaffinch explained that the parking lot at Town Hall was due to be resurfaced this past weekend but due to the weather it has been postponed.

Mr. Chaffinch stated that the pond at Newells Creek was not being cut this year. He explained that our Code Enforcer contacted the HOA and it was cut this past Thursday.

MAYOR

Mayor King thanked Chief Bryson for his 18 years of service at the Town of Camden. He explained that Chief Bryson was the one to make his dream of wanting to be a police officer come true. He added that Chief Bryson has been a huge asset to the Town of Camden, always keeping exceptional staff and pristine equipment.

PRESENTATION

Republic Services

Mr. Chaffinch explained that Republic Service has had to reschedule until the October 1, 2018 Council Meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Chief of Police

Chief Bryson thanked Mayor and Council for allowing him to serve the Town of Camden as long as he has.

Vice-Mayor Torres explained that she greatly appreciates Chief Bryson for everything that he does. She added that Chief Bryson has always responded immediately to her, no matter the issue.

Councilman Schock thanked Chief Bryson for his dedicated service.

Councilman Dougherty explained that it has been a true pleasure working with Chief Bryson.

Councilman Findley stated that he has known Chief Bryson since 1988 and he has always had high integrity, worked to the best of his ability, and always has a high level of professionalism.

Mr. Chaffinch explained that he has known Chief Bryson since they were in the Delaware State Police and has enjoyed their continued friendship throughout the years.

Mr. Eliassen told Chief Bryson that he has earned his retirement and hopes that he enjoys every moment of it. He added that he has appreciated Chief's continued professionalism and friendship.

Chief Bryson explained that there is only one police officer with the Town of Camden that has the FBI academy training.

Mayor King stated that his recommendation is to have a starting salary of \$72,000 with a possible increase after a probationary period. He suggested having a probationary period of 6 months.

Vice-Mayor Torres asked if the budget would be ok if we did a salary increase in 6 months.

Mrs. Marlow explained that the budget would be over by 3 months because she already budgeted for the \$72,000.

Councilman Dougherty explained that the Chief's position will continue to not be apart of the police union.

Mayor King questioned if a contract needed to be done.

Mr. Eliassen suggested to not do a contract until the probationary period has ended.

Mrs. Marlow suggested doing a 9-month probationary period to finish out this budget year.

Mayor King explained that in prior years only the Mayor was involved with the police chief contract. He suggested that the entire Council and Mayor be involved with the contract.

Chief Bryson explained that he does not get paid overtime or comp time now and has the same health benefits as the union. He added that he originally got comp time but that was taken out of his contract.

Mr. Eliassen suggested a comp time of 1.5 hour given per hour worked.

A motion was made by Councilman Dougherty, seconded by Councilman Schock, to appoint Marcus Whitney to police chief, with a salary of \$72,000, a probation period of 9 months, no paid overtime, comp time earned at 1.5 hours per 1 hour worked, medical to be the same as the police union, and to have contract discussion with full council in 6 months. Roll call;

Mayor King – yes

Vice-Mayor – yes

Councilman Dougherty – yes

Councilman Schock – yes

Councilman Findley – yes

Motion carried.

Antenna tower at Town Hall

Chief Bryson explained that there are remote cameras through out the Town of Camden that have been purchased through grants. He stated that with more development it is going to be hard to get the recordings back to the station where they are recorded. He added that an antenna next to Town Hall, by the generator, at 100ft would give enough height even with more development. He stated that he has received grant funding that pay for the tower in full. He explained that in the future it would be a good idea to put a camera on a tower on or around the Lowes property and then one on the north side of town.

Chief Bryson explained that RETT can be used to pay for a light on top of the tower. He detailed that in the future the Town may be able to contract with cell phone companies to rent them space on the antennas to help pay for maintenance.

Chief Bryson recommended putting a new fence around the generator and the new antenna. He provided Mayor and Council with the fence that he recommended.

A motion was made by Councilman Schock, seconded by Councilman Dougherty, to purchase the light for the top of the 100ft antenna and a fence to go around the antenna, for a total of \$3,837 to come from RETT. All in favor; motion carries.

Mayor King thanked Chief Bryson for his continued excellent grant writing abilities and continuing to save the town money.

Project Purple Resolution

Mayor King explained that he teamed up with City of Dover Councilman Anderson and Levy Court Commissioner Hosfelt for Project Purple. He explained that opioids are becoming a major epidemic around the world.

Mr. Chaffinch read aloud the title of Resolution 2018-R-03, Town of Camden declaration documenting its participation in “Project Purple” and further declaring September 9th through September 22nd, 2018, drug addiction awareness weeks.

A motion was made by Councilman Schock, seconded by Vice-Mayor Torres, to approve Resolution 2018-R-03. Roll call;

Mayor King – yes

Vice-Mayor – yes

Councilman Dougherty – yes

Councilman Schock – yes

Councilman Findley – yes

Motion carried.

Storm drain replacement at Thomas Harmon Drive

Mr. Chaffinch explained that there is approximately 200 feet of storm water piping that needs to be replaced from Thomas Harmon Dr to the pond behind Newells Creek. Mr. Chaffinch that three bids have been received; Mitten Construction \$65,116, Onsite Construction \$41,865, and Aztech \$46,995. Mr. Chaffinch recommended going with Onsite Construction. He added that he will contact Senator Bushweller and Representative Yearick for CTF to help pay for the re-piping.

A motion was made by Councilman Dougherty, seconded by Councilman Findley, to award the project to Onsite Construction for \$41,865. Roll call;

Mayor King – yes

Vice-Mayor – yes

Councilman Dougherty – yes

Councilman Schock – yes

Councilman Findley – yes

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Pat Kelly – 62 Nanticoke Dr, explained that he was reading the Town of Camden website and questioned the status of the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Chaffinch explained that we are working with IPA to complete our Comprehensive Plan 10-year update. He added that we are diligently working on the plan and that we are expecting the plan to be complete in the spring of 2019.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Vice-Mayor Torres wished Chief Bryson good luck in his retirement.

Councilman Shock questioned if the new alignment of Thomas Harmon was working.

Chief Bryson explained that he does feel that the new alignment has helped but has not eliminated accidents in that area.

Councilman Dougherty thanked Chief Bryson for his service to the Town of Camden. He also thanked the town staff for their collection of property taxes.

Mayor King stated that he is sad to see Chief Bryson retire. He added that Chief Bryson has been a great asset to the Town of Camden and that he appreciates everything that he has done.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

None.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made at 8:31pm by Councilman Schock, seconded by Councilman Findley, to adjourn the council meeting. All in favor; none opposed.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jamie Fenske, Town Clerk*