

**Town of Camden  
Regular Town Council Meeting  
Camden Municipal Building  
February 4, 2019**

**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 28, 2019, in the following manner:

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

Blake King 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, Councilwoman Rhodes.

Council Absent: None.

Staff Attending: Town Manager Aaron Chaffinch, Town Clerk Jamie Fenske, Account Specialist Amanda Marlow, Town Solicitor Craig Eliassen, Chief Financial Officer Tom Josiah, and Police Chief Marcus Whitney.

**AMENDMENTS**

None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Town Hall will be closed February 18, 2019 in observance of President's Day.

Municipal election is scheduled for Saturday, February 23, 2019 from 12-8 p.m. at the Camden Municipal Building. Available seat is currently held by Councilman Dougherty will be open for a 3-year term. Candidates that have filed for the open council member position are Larry Dougherty and Sonia Songui.

**OATH OF OFFICE**

Mayor King explained that Dr. Findley has decided to resign from his council seat position. He thanked Dr. Findley for the time that he served and wished him well. He added that Mrs. Rhodes has been a long-time resident of the Town of Camden and has been a Commissioner on the Town of Camden Planning Commission for several years. He added that he highly recommends Mrs. Rhodes to the Camden Council to fulfill Dr. Findley's council seat that is due to expire March 2021.

A motion was made by Councilman Schock, seconded by Councilman Dougherty, to appoint Mrs. Rhodes to Council, to fulfill Dr. Findley's council seat that is due to expire March 2021. All in favor; none opposed.

Mayor King swore in Vicki Rhodes as Councilwoman for a term to expire March 2021.

## MINUTES

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Torres, seconded by Councilman Schock, to approve the January 7, 2019 regular meeting minutes. All in favor; none opposed.

A motion was made by Councilman Schock, seconded by Vice-Mayor Torres, to approve the January 7, 2019 executive session minutes. All in favor; none opposed.

## NEW BUSINESS

### *Business license adjustments*

Mrs. Marlow explained that after review of accounts by the auditors there was a suggestion to write off accounts that have account balances that will not be collected. Mrs. Marlow explained that most of these balances result from customers not contacting the Town of Camden to let the staff know that they would not like to renew their license for the following year and the system automatically generating new invoices each year with late fees.

Mr. Dougherty questioned if any of these accounts were active businesses in the Town of Camden. Mrs. Marlow confirmed that they are currently not active businesses in the Town of Camden.

A motion was made by Councilman Schock, seconded by Councilman Dougherty, to approve writing off a total balance of \$8495.00 of business license accounts that are no longer active accounts in the Town of Camden. All in favor; none opposed.

### *Audit Report*

Paige Rubino, Horty & Horty, thanked Mrs. Marlow, Mr. Josiah, Mayor King, Councilman Dougherty, and Mr. Chaffinch for meeting with herself, and Mike Easton from Horty & Horty prior to tonight's council meeting. She commended the Town of Camden staff, Mayor, and Council for being within \$270 of the budget proposed and the actual.

Mr. Josiah made a recommendation to approve the audit as prepared by Horty & Horty.

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Torres, seconded by Councilman Schock, to approve the audit report presented by Horty & Horty. All in favor; none opposed.

## FINANCE REPORT

Mr. Josiah explained that revenues are down 8% and this is due to building permits being less this year in Tidbury Crossing. He added that expenses are up 6%. He added that he is keeping an eye on the changes within in the police department and cautioned Mayor and Council that this will be a tight upcoming budget year. He explained that he and Mrs. Marlow will begin working on the new budget in April.

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

Mr. Josiah warned Mayor, Council, and staff that it is very important to stick to the plan.

## CAMDEN WYOMING FIRE DEPARTMENT

Vice-President Dear gave his report. He added that the fire department is looking forward to resealing floors in the bays with funding help from the legislators.

Mayor King asked Mr. Dear to keep the Town informed on their fund drives and we will try to help advertise and bring awareness.

## CAMDEN WYOMING SEWER & WATER AUTHORITY

None.

## FRIENDS OF HISTORIC CAMDEN

None.

## VFW

Vice-Commander Todd Fairhurst stated that the next Code Purple date that the VFW would be serving at the Wyoming Methodist Church would take place on March 25, 2019. He stated that if anyone is interested to volunteer, they are more then welcome and that serving will begin at 5pm. He invited everyone to attend the 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration on March 16<sup>th</sup>. He explained that they will be presenting their scholarship winners and other distinguished members with awards that night and dinner will cost only \$5.

## POLICE REPORT

Chief Whitney gave a report that included but was not limited to traffic arrests and criminal activity. He added that the recruit is due to graduate from the academy on February 14<sup>th</sup> and then will partake in 14 weeks of field training.

**TOWN MANAGER REPORT**

Mr. Chaffinch reported that the December RETT was \$4,766.85. He congratulated Mrs. Rhodes on her appointment to Council. He added that there has been a repair at Blair Court to help with water drainage issues. He informed Mayor and Council that the part time administrative town employee has given her notice that she will be leaving her employment with the Town of Camden and that her last day will be February 8<sup>th</sup>.

**MAYOR**

Mayor King thanked Mrs. Marlow and Mr. Josiah for sticking to the budget. He also thanked the police department and town staff for their continued hard-work. He congratulated and welcome Councilwoman Rhodes.

**NEW BUSINESS**

*Appointment of Election Officer*

A motion was made by Councilman Dougherty, seconded by Councilwoman Rhodes, to appoint Jamie Fenske as the Election officer. All in favor; none opposed.

*Appointment of Election Board Members*

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Torres, seconded by Councilwoman Rhodes, to appoint Judi Schock as the Election Board Member. 4 in favor, Councilman Schock abstained; motion carried.

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Torres, seconded by Councilman Schock, to appoint Elaine Crowell as the Election Board Member. All in favor; none opposed.

A motion was made by Councilman Schock, seconded by Vice-Mayor Torres, to appoint Pat Kelly as the Election Board Member. All in favor; none opposed.

*Appointment of Planning Commission Member*

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Torres, seconded by Councilwoman Rhodes, to appoint Judi Schock to the Planning Commission. 4 in favor, Councilman Schock abstained; motion carried.

*Appointment of Board of Adjustment Member*

A motion was made by Councilman Schock, seconded by Councilman Dougherty, to appoint Jeff Burton to the Board of Adjustment. All in favor; none opposed.

*Purchase of new police vehicle*

Chief Whitney explained it has been the plan to purchase two new police vehicles per budget year and so far, one has already been purchased. He added that he would like to turn the Expedition over to the Town and use the van and one Explorer as trade ins. He explained that IG Burton has a left over on their lot that may save some money on the purchase.

Councilman Dougherty questioned when the first Tahoe was purchased.

Chief Whitney stated that the first Tahoe is in and is just waiting to be equipped.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Rhodes, seconded by Councilman Schock, to approve Chief Whitney \$50,000 to purchase a new Tahoe. All in favor; none opposed.

*Administrative Town Hall position*

A motion was made by Councilman Dougherty, seconded by Councilman Schock, to approve filling the open administrative town hall position. All in favor; none opposed.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Pat Kelly – 62 Nanticoke Dr, stated that he has reviewed the Comprehensive Plan. He welcomed Councilwoman Rhodes.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Vice-Mayor Torres congratulated and welcomed Councilwoman Rhodes.

Councilwoman Rhodes thanked everyone and stated that she excited to work with this administration.

Councilman Dougherty thanked the public for attending tonight and welcomed Councilwoman Rhodes.

Councilman Schock congratulated Councilwoman Rhodes.

Mayor King thanked everyone for their attendance 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 8:09pm by Councilman Dougherty, seconded by Vice-Mayor Torres, to adjourn the council meeting and enter executive session. All in favor; none opposed.

A motion was made at 10:20pm by Councilman Dougherty, seconded by Vice-Mayor Torres, to adjourn executive session. All in favor; none opposed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made at 10:20pm by Councilman Schock, seconded Councilwoman Rhodes, to adjourn the council meeting. All in favor; none opposed.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Jamie Fenske, Town Clerk*