

Town of Camden
Regular Town Council Meeting
Camden Municipal Building
June 3, 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 May 24, 2019, in the following manner:

- a. The electronic sign,
- b. The Delaware State Newspaper,
- c. The Dover Post Newspaper,
- d. The Official Bulletin Board, and
- e. 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 Councilwoman Rhodes.

Council Absent: None.

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

AMENDMENTS

A motion was made by Councilman Schock, seconded by Vice-Mayor Torres, to move *New Business item c: Tax discount, and New Business d: FY 2020 Budget – final reading* before *New Business A*. All in favor; none opposed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Town Hall will be closed July 4th in observance of Independence Day.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Torres, seconded by Councilman Dougherty, to approve the May 6, 2019 regular meeting minutes, with the error fixed in relation to a statement Vice-Mayor Torres did not say about the VFW at the May 2019 Council Meeting. All in favor; none opposed.

A motion was made by Councilman Schock, seconded by Vice-Mayor Torres, to approve the May 20, 2019 public workshop minutes. All in favor; none opposed.

FINANCE REPORT

Mrs. Marlow explained that she does not have comment at this time as the budget will be discussed in farther detail later in the meeting.

Councilman Dougherty questioned why there are delinquent taxes for DR Horton in Tidbury Crossing.

Mrs. Marlow explained that the delinquent balances for DR Horton are quarterly tax bills due to new assessments on new construction.

CAMDEN WYOMING FIRE DEPARTMENT

None.

CAMDEN WYOMING SEWER & WATER AUTHORITY

None.

FRIENDS OF HISTORIC CAMDEN

None.

VFW

None.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Whitney gave a report that included but was not limited to traffic arrests and criminal activity. He added that Patrolman Powell has been making a great community presence within town and with the CR School District.

Councilwoman Torres stated that she has seen positive comments about Patrolman Powell and has noticed more of a police presence in Newells Creek. She explained that she has also saw Corporal Buchwald frequently at Fifer Middle School, out of his car making positive interactions with the students and parents.

Chief Whitney explained that his goal for the police department is to make more of presence at the schools when the children are in session.

Councilman Dougherty questioned if there was another date scheduled to have coffee with a cop.

Chief Whitney explained that he would like to have a quarterly informal meeting with the public and the police department, but that there was not a date scheduled at this time for the next event.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Chaffinch reported that the April RETT was \$55,669.68. He explained that there is a meeting set up on Wednesday to discuss the MS4 project. He reminded Mayor and Council that the Town of Camden has received a \$50,000 match grant to assist with the MS4 project.

Mr. Chaffinch explained that the property that Councilwoman Rhodes discussed at the May Council Meeting has been cut and cleaned up, not by the Town of Camden. He added that 276 Cambridge property is in the process of going through settlement any day now. He stated that 12090 Willow Grove Rd has been cut by the Town of Camden, at the property owner's expense, two times this year, but is now being maintained by a relative of the property owner.

Mr. Chaffinch reported that he received a letter from Diane Amoroso, Harvest Years Activities Director/Trip Coordinator, that she would like to see the stone wall at the POW/MIA Memorial Parkway landscaped a bit better, and is asking for the assistance of the Town of Camden, legislators, and the Boy/Girls Scouts.

Vice-Mayor Torres questioned Mr. Chaffinch if he knew who repaired the sidewalk along Upper King Road.

Mr. Chaffinch explained that he also noticed that the sidewalk had appeared to be repaired, he doesn't know who repaired it, but it was not the Town of Camden.

Councilman Dougherty questioned when the Town Hall parking lot was to be resurfaced.

Mr. Chaffinch stated that he has been in contact with the contractor and that half of the project cost has been paid to the contractor already. He added that he just left the contractor a detailed message today and is waiting on a reply.

Councilman Dougherty stated that he has received several complaints about the horse farm along Willow Grove Road blowing their grass clippings in the road.

Councilman Dougherty questioned why the RETT was \$84,000 less this month then it was last month.

Mrs. Marlow explained that the two new police department Tahoes have been paid for out of RETT.

Mr. Chaffinch reported that there will be a public workshop on the Camden Bypass put on by Century Engineering and DelDot on June 12th from 3-6pm at Simpson Elementary.

MAYOR

None.

PUBLIC HEARING

FY 2020 Budget

A motion was made at 7:23pm by Vice-Mayor Torres, seconded by Councilman Schock, to enter public hearing. All in favor; none opposed.

Mr. Josiah reported that there have been changes made to the taxes, business licenses, building permits, and site review fees. He explained that at this time the budget is balanced. He reminded Mayor and Council that this budget is at the margins and that the major expense is personnel. He stated that the tax revenue is maxed out. He explained that this is the perfect time to look at the next two years and to plan appropriately being very cautious.

Mayor King questioned why the comcast franchise fee was lowered this year.

Mrs. Marlow explained that this is based on the actuals from this year.

Mayor King questioned why the code enforcement violation tax went from \$6,000 to \$2,000.

Mrs. Marlow explained that it was raised at last years budget but that amount of money has not been collected and they based this year's budget on actuals from the FY 2019 budget.

Mayor King stated that he does not agree with dropping the police fines to \$25,000, he believes that they should remain at \$30,000.

Mr. Josiah detailed that the current police revenues are at \$23,700 for the current fiscal year and that he and Mrs. Marlow want to present a realistic budget.

Vice-Mayor Torres stated that residents are seeing the purchase of new vehicles but then are hearing that we may have to increase the property taxes and they are not pleased. She agreed that she feels the code enforcement violation taxes should be increased and that more code enforcement needs to take place.

Mr. Josiah detailed that we can push for the additional revenues, but he wants to keep the budget realistic.

Councilman Schock, Councilwoman Rhodes, and Councilman Dougherty agreed that they feel the code enforcement needs to be increased.

Councilman Dougherty explained that he feels there will be a surplus at the end of FY 19 and FY 20. He asked to have public safety to be changed to police public safety for better clarification. He congratulated Mr. Josiah and Mrs. Marlow on the great job on this budget.

Mr. Josiah reminded Mayor and Council that personnel are the largest expenses.

Mayor King thanked Mr. Josiah and Mrs. Marlow on their great job on the budget. He added that there has been an increase of about \$60,000 in police benefits from FY 19 to FY20.

Mayor King questioned why the fuel went down for FY 20.

Mrs. Marlow explained that it was increased last year, and FY 20 is based on actuals for FY 19. She added that health care increased by approximately 8.8%.

Pat Kelly explained that he feels Mrs. Marlow and Mr. Josiah did a great job on the presented budget.

Mike O'Brien questioned what the timeline is for the Camden Bypass.

Mr. Chaffinch stated that the third lane on Route 13 is to be done first and then the Camden Bypass.

Mayor King questioned when Mayor and Council will review making an extra mortgage payment.

Mrs. Marlow explained that this is usually done after the fiscal year is closed out to make sure that there is a surplus.

Mayor King stated that he would like to continue doing an extra mortgage payment when it is financially possible to help pay down the interest faster which will result in a savings to the Town of Camden.

A motion was made at 7:57pm by Councilman Schock, seconded by Councilman Dougherty, to exit public hearing. All in favor; none opposed.

OLD BUSINESS

Shore United - ICS

Mayor King explained that there was a presentation at the May Council Meeting about this program. He added that it was tabled at the May Council Meeting to allow Mr. Eliassen time to review the contract. He stated that if Council votes to accept the program there will be an additional interest revenue of approximately \$10,000.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Rhodes, seconded by Councilman Dougherty, to go with the ICS program with Shore United Bank. Roll call;

Mayor King – yes

Vice-Mayor Torres- yes

Councilman Schock – yes

Councilman Dougherty – yes

Councilwoman Rhodes – yes

Motion carries.

Mayor King thanked Mrs. Marlow for her original suggestion to switch to Shore United Bank. He stated that the interest revenue has increased from \$3,000 to \$61,000 because of the switch to Shore United Bank.

Police Department vehicle decals

Mayor King asked to have this item tabled.

Sally Port

Chief Whitney explained that Yencer Builders are still working on making a few corrections on their proposal. He added that only Yencer Builders has submitted anything to date. He asked to have this item tabled.

COLA

Mayor King explained that the 2% is already built into the proposed budget that has been presented.

Councilwoman Rhodes questioned if the 2% COLA was the same for both civilian and non-civilian employees.

Vice-Mayor Torres questioned if it was true that the police department did not receive raises or COLA for 4 years.

Chief Whitney stated that they did not receive anything for 8 years.

Mayor King explained that to his knowledge no employees were getting any raises during that period.

Mrs. Marlow added that during that time period, town employees were also receiving salary cuts.

Councilman Dougherty stated that the police contract states that Mayor and Council will review COLA every year, but it is not guaranteed that a COLA will be given.

Mr. Josiah explained that COLA is a separate item, so that it may be voted to accept as is, change the percentage, or decline it for that year.

Councilman Dougherty stated that he would like to give all the employees COLA if the town can afford it. He added that there may come a time when the town can not afford it.

Vice-Mayor Torres added that growth is coming and that more police officers is inevitable. She explained that she does not agree with giving a 2% COLA at this time.

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Torres, seconded by Councilwoman Rhodes, to approve a 1% COLA, with a total budget salary expense of \$1,177,910.64. Roll call;

Mayor King – yes

Vice-Mayor Torres- yes

Councilman Schock – yes

Councilman Dougherty – yes

Councilwoman Rhodes – yes
Motion carries.

NEW BUSINESS

Tax discount

Mayor King explained that each year Mayor and Council vote on a tax discount that would be given to property owners if they pay before the end July. He added that the discount encourages property owners to pay early and helps the town obtain the funds sooner which results in the town not needing lines of credit and having to pay interest.

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Torres, seconded by Councilman Schock, to approve the early bird discount for property taxes in the tax year 2019/2020. A discount will be given of \$20.00 if received in office by July 31st, 2019 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. Roll call;

Mayor King – yes
Vice-Mayor Torres- yes
Councilman Schock – yes
Councilman Dougherty – yes
Councilwoman Rhodes – yes
Motion carries.

FY 2020 Budget – final reading

Mayor King stated that he appreciates the work that Mr. Josiah has provided.

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Torres, seconded by Councilman Schock, to approve the FY 2020 budget as presented and changing code enforcement revenue to \$4,000, police department fines to \$30,000, and building permit revenue to \$25,170.29. Roll call;

Mayor King – yes
Vice-Mayor Torres- yes
Councilman Schock – yes
Councilman Dougherty – yes
Councilwoman Rhodes – yes
Motion carries.

Annexation petitions - 7-00-085.20-01-30.00-000, 7-00-085.20-01-31.00-000, 7-00-085.20-01-32.00-000, and 7-00-085.20-01-33.00-000

Ms. Fenske explained that this is only Mayor and Council accepting the petition for the annexation. There will still have to be notices sent and posted around town before it is voted on to annex the property.

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Torres, seconded by Councilman Schock, to approve the annexation petition for 7-00-085.20-01-30.00-000, 7-00-085.20-01-31.00-000, 7-00-085.20-01-32.00-000, and 7-00-085.20-01-33.00-000. All in favor; none opposed.

Board of Adjustment Appointment

Mayor King explained that is his recommendation to appoint Mr. Pat Kelly to the Board of Adjustment. He added that he appreciates all that Mr. Kelly does for the Town of Camden and thanked him for his will to volunteer.

A motion was made by Councilman Dougherty, seconded by Councilman Schock, to appoint Pat Kelly to the Board of Adjustment with a term to expire December 31, 2021. All in favor; none opposed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Pat Kelly – 62 Nanticoke Dr, explained that he does not see the police presence as much in his development anymore. He did acknowledge that there have been higher stats since the new officer has been released from training.

Councilman Schock explained that he sees police in the development daily.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor King thanked Mrs. Marlow and Mr. Josiah on another successful budget. He thanked council for being so aggressive.

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 8:41pm by Vice-Mayor Torres, seconded Councilwoman Rhodes, to adjourn the council meeting and enter executive session. All in favor; none opposed.

ADJOURNMENT

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

*Respectfully submitted,
Jamie Fenske, Town Clerk*