

Town of Camden
Regular Town Council Meeting
Camden Municipal Building
September 9, 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 August 30, 2019, in the following manner:

- a. The electronic sign,
- b. The Official Bulletin Board,
- c. The official Town of Camden Web Site,
- d. The Dover Post, and
- e. The Delaware State News.

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, and Councilman Schock.

Council Absent: Councilwoman Rhodes.

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

AMENDMENTS

A motion was made by Councilman Schock, seconded by Councilman Dougherty to move old business item *A Sally Port* to after reports. All in favor; none opposed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Property taxes are due by the close of business on September 30th, 2019.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Torres, seconded by Councilman Schock, to approve the August 5, 2019 regular meeting minutes. All in favor; none opposed.

FINANCE REPORT

Mrs. Marlow explained that due to scheduling conflict Mr. Josiah was unable to attend tonight's meeting but would be available to attend the October and November Council Meetings if Mayor and Council pleases.

Mayor and Council agreed that it would only be necessary to have Mr. Josiah attend the November Council Meeting.

Mrs. Marlow explained that 63% of taxes have been collected as of today and that most of the taxes still due are commercial accounts. She added that she and Mr. Josiah have begun working on the inhouse audit.

Councilman Dougherty questioned why there are so many accounts showing on the bank report.

Mrs. Marlow replied that each account now has a sweep account.

CAMDEN WYOMING FIRE DEPARTMENT

None.

CAMDEN WYOMING SEWER & WATER AUTHORITY

None.

FRIENDS OF HISTORIC CAMDEN

None.

VFW

Vice-Commander Todd Fairhurst explained that they would be hosting an event on September 11th at 6pm would like to have the Chief of Police in attendance. He added that they will be hosting dinners on September 13, 20, and 27.

Councilman Dougherty questioned when the best time is to drop off donations at the VFW.

Vice-Commander Fairhurst replied the best time would be Friday afternoons because someone is usually at the Post.

Mayor King thanked Mr. Fairhurst for his report.

POLICE REPORT

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

He explained that through surplus they have obtained a forklift and are working on getting it up and running.

Mayor King questioned why so many hours were used for miscellaneous.

Chief Whitney explained that there have been people protesting the second amendment right at Walmart and to make everyone feel safe he has asked the officers to make a presence.

Vice-Mayor Torres questioned Chief Whitney if he spoke to anyone at DelDOT to help with the school traffic near the high school.

Chief Whitney explained that he spoke to a representative at DelDOT and they stated that the current traffic pattern is the best.

Vice-Mayor Torres questioned when the last time a traffic study was done in that area. She stated that a State Trooper has been pulling people over when they are not abiding by the traffic laws and she hopes that will help.

Chief Whitney stated that he, Lt. Petyo, and the on-shift officer are at schools in the morning to help make a more visual presence to the community. He added that the police can override the traffic lights at Old Camden and Old North but this is only possible when he has enough staffing.

Vice-Mayor Torres explained that she would like to speak to someone at DelDOT to see if something else could be done to help with the school traffic.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Chaffinch reported that the July RETT was \$29,462.42. He explained that the two new copiers have been delivered and set up. He added that a five-year lease has been signed for the two new copiers.

Mr. Chaffinch explained that the clock that Mayor and Council approved last month should be finished production around October 16th. He added that he and Ms. Fenske have been in contact with Mrs. Teller's son. He reminded Mayor and Council that the Teller family has committed to donating \$20,000 towards the project downtown.

MAYOR

Mayor King thanked Council, staff, and the police department for their continued hard work.

OLD BUSINESS

Sally Port

Kevin Yencer explained that he would be using 4", 3,500lb concrete with ½" rebar, and roof trusses 24" with 5/8" osb. He detailed that Mayor and Council could use their own engineer or he could get the engineer that he generally uses. He added that there is still uncertainty if the footers are there or not but if they are not it could be an additional charge of \$4,800.

Councilman Dougherty explained that he would rather the trusses be 16” on the center.

Mr. Yencer explained that he would recommend following the engineer’s recommendation on the trusses. He added that a 10% contingency is not out of line and would allow for necessary additions and changes during construction.

Mayor King stated that he would be in favor of following the engineer’s recommendation on the trusses.

A motion was made by Councilman Schock, seconded by Vice-Mayor Torres, to approve \$191,348 to come from RETT to construct a sally port, with the architectural designs and footings to be included. Roll call;

Mayor King – yes

Vice-Mayor Torres – yes

Councilman Schock– yes

Councilman Dougherty – yes

Councilwoman Rhodes absent. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING

Resolution 2019-R-01

Ms. Fenske explained Frederica Roberts petitioned the Town of Camden Mayor and Council to annex a land parcel located at 2035 S Dupont Hwy, S Dupont Hwy, 216 Asbury Avenue, and 7 Howell St into the incorporated limits of the Town of Camden. She added that Mayor and Council accepted the petition on June 3, 2019.

No public comment.

NEW BUSINESS

Police Department new hire – SRO

Chief Whitney explained that Kim Corbeil approached him for a school resource officer. He added that he is not requesting a new officer at this time.

Mayor King explained that the Town of Camden had a school resource officer before and that the Town had to let him go and he does not want to be in the predicament again where anyone needs to be laid off. He added that he does not support at this time hiring someone for an SRO position and that he would like to sit down and talk directly with the Caesar Rodney Superintendent before any farther discussions are had about an SRO.

Chief Whitney explained that Caesar Rodney did have a constable program before and that it has feel through.

Vice-Mayor Torres explained that she spoke to a school board member and they stated that an SRO has not been approved but 3 constables have been put into the budget since they are more cost effective. She explained that the school does not that they can commit long term to an SRO.

Mr. Eliassen questioned if Chief Whitney was planning on using an existing officer as the SRO.

Chief Whitney explained that it would be hard to do with the existing number of officers and that he would need to hire an additional officer if this was approved.

Mayor King expressed that he would like to have a discussion with Superintendent Fitzgerald about this topic before anything else is done.

Resolution 2019-R-01

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Torres, seconded by Councilman Schock, to approve Resolution #2019-R-01 A Resolution Acknowledging the Request of Frederica Roberts to Annex the Properties Located at 2035 S Dupont Hwy, S Dupont Hwy, 216 Asbury Avenue, and 7 Howell St into the Incorporated Camden Town Limits.. All in favor; none opposed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Pat Kelly – 62 Nanticoke Dr, stated that he appreciates seeing the police in his development.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

None.

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 8:01pm by Vice-Mayor Torres, seconded Councilman Dougherty, to adjourn the council meeting. All in favor; none opposed.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jamie Fenske, Town Clerk*