

**Town of Camden  
Regular Town Council Meeting  
Camden Municipal Building  
December 2, 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 November 20, 2019, in the following manner:

- a. The electronic sign,
- b. The Official Bulletin Board, and
- 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.

Vice-Mayor Torres 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 Clerk Jamie Fenske, Account Specialist Amanda Marlow, Chief Financial Officer Tom Josiah, Town Solicitor Craig Eliassen, and Chief Marcus Whitney.

**AMENDMENTS**

None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Caroling in Camden will be Friday, December 6th from 6:30-8pm at Town Hall.

Town Hall will be closed December 25<sup>th</sup> through January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020.

**MINUTES**

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Torres, seconded by Councilman Dougherty, to approve the November 4, 2019 regular meeting minutes. Mayor King abstained because he was not present at the November Council Meeting. 4 in favor, 1 abstain, none opposed; motion carries.

**FINANCE REPORT**

Mrs. Marlow explained that the delinquent property taxes are \$71,000 and were \$64,000 last year at this time. She reminded Mayor and Council that more property taxes were billed this year. She asked Mayor and Council to give the account holders until January to bring their accounts current before posting them in the newspaper.

Mrs. Marlow stated that Horthy & Horthy were present on-site November 18-20<sup>th</sup>. They will be present at the February Council Meeting to give their annual report. Mr. Josiah will also be present at the February Council Meeting.

Mrs. Marlow explained that the Town still currently has possession of the public works 2005 Chevrolet pick up. She added that someone has expressed interest to purchase the vehicle. She detailed that the paint is chipping, it is in need of new tires, and there is rusting spots. She questioned Mayor and Council as to what they would like to do with the pickup.

Vice-Mayor Torres explained that when she was on the CWSWA Board and they had equipment that they were done with they would put it out for bid and the highest bidder was awarded the equipment.

Councilman Dougherty agreed to putting the truck for bid with the highest bidder winner receiving the truck.

Chief Whitney explained that he has seen the vehicle and that it is not in good shape. He also stated that the miles that are on the vehicle are tough city miles.

Mr. Eliassen stated that posting a notice in the paper that is very specific, for one to two weeks would be sufficient notice. Then the staff could open the bids and award it to the highest bidder.

Councilman Dougherty stated that he would recommend putting it in the paper for one week.

Mayor King agreed that he thought posting it for one week, with details, and a subject to reserve, would be sufficient.

Councilman Dougherty stated that he would not be present at the February Council Meeting. He asked Mrs. Marlow to please make a copy of the audit report for him.

**CAMDEN WYOMING FIRE DEPARTMENT**

None.

**CAMDEN WYOMING SEWER & WATER AUTHORITY**

None.

**FRIENDS OF HISTORIC CAMDEN**

Mrs. Burke explained that she did not have much to report at this time. She did state that she felt that the corner of Camden Wyoming Avenue and Main Street looks much better.

## **VFW**

Vice-Commander Todd Fairhurst explained that they will be present at Caroling in Camden to service hot chocolate. He detailed that they will be serving a Code Purple dinner at Wyoming Methodist Church on December 9<sup>th</sup> and volunteers are welcome to meet at the Post at 3 o'clock to help prepare the meal. He detailed that the VFW Post will be hosting dinners on December 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor King thanked Vice-Commander Fairhurst and the Camden VFW Post for their support.

## **POLICE REPORT**

Chief Whitney gave a report that included but was not limited to traffic arrests and criminal activity. He explained that each month the calls are continuing to increase and that with new construction happening in town there is projected to be even more of an increase in the near future.

Vice-Mayor Torres explained that herself, Councilwoman Rhodes, and Councilman Dougherty attended a State Police traffic meeting where she learned that the State Police are also having a man power shortage. She explained that the police that are on duty are spread amongst the entire county. She added that she was surprised at how much of Dupont Highway is not in Camden's police district.

Chief Whitney detailed that he, Chief Bryson, and Mayor King have worked on getting more of Dupont Hwy in Camden's police district for several years and have been unsuccessful. He added that with the annexation south of Auto Zone, Camden Police will be able to take on another small portion of the highway.

## **TOWN MANAGER REPORT**

Mayor King reported that the October RETT was \$19,480.23. He added that Mr. Chaffinch has received approval from Senator Paradee and Representative Yearick for \$23,308.50 each of CTF to repair and replace the storm drain at Muriel Court. Mayor King thanked Senator Paradee and Representative Yearick for their contributions and continued support of the Town of Camden.

Mayor King added that the clock at the corner of Camden Wyoming Avenue and Main Street was installed on Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup> and the Town will be celebrating the clock unveiling on December 9<sup>th</sup> at noon.

## **MAYOR**

Mayor King reminded everyone of Caroling in Camden on December 6<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8pm, here at Town Hall. He welcomed all to join us for hot chocolate, cookies, caroling, and Santa.

Mayor King thanked Ms. Fenske and Mrs. Marlow for helping raise \$1,270 to purchase 130 turkeys to help benefit the Dover Boys and Girls Club and our community. He also thanked Dover Mayor Christiansen for helping collect turkeys also.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

*Resolution 2019-R-02 A Resolution to Annex Properties Located at 2035 S Dupont Hwy, S Dupont Hwy, 16 Asbury Ave, and 7 Howell St; 7-00-08520-01-3000-000, 3100, 3200, and 3300*

Mayor King explained that this resolution is to officially annex the properties located north of Pizzadili and south of Auto Zone.

A motion was made by Councilman Schock, seconded Councilwoman Rhodes, to approve Resolution 2019-R-02 A Resolution to Annex Properties Located at 2035 S Dupont Hwy, S Dupont Hwy, 16 Asbury Ave, and 7 Howell St; 7-00-08520-01-3000-000, 3100, 3200, and 3300. All in favor; none opposed.

### *Repair of forklift*

Chief Whitney stated that a forklift was obtained through LESO program free of charge. He added that when equipment is received through this program it is free of charge but there may be times that repairs are necessary. He explained that the forklift can have many uses for the Town of Camden and is worth approximately \$72,500 in its current condition. He added that when they received the forklift, they knew that there was an issue with the hydraulic system, but it was otherwise in good condition. He explained that he has taken it to Albans and they have provided a quote of \$12,153 to repair the hydraulics, pistons, and arms.

Chief Whitney explained that through the LESO program, the Police Department must own the equipment for one year and then they may get rid of it if they chose. He added that even though the department may get rid of the equipment after one year, the program is not intended to be source of revenue.

A motion was made by Councilman Schock, seconded by Councilman Dougherty, to approve \$12,153 from RETT for the forklift repair. Roll call;

Vice – Mayor Torres – yes

Councilman Schock – yes

Councilman Dougherty – yes

Councilwoman Rhodes – yes

Motion carries.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Donna Chappell – 262 Cambridge Rd, explained that she has heard stories of there being church camps around the area that is being annexed. She added that these properties have a lot of history and she will be sad to see the buildings demolished. She also thanked Mayor and Council for getting the clock and beautifying downtown.

Maxine Wayson – 300 William St, also thanked Mayor and Council for installing the clock and beautifying downtown. She added that there are mattresses outside at the property across the street from the clock and at 11 Main Street that she feels need to be removed.

Pat Kelly – 62 Nanticoke Dr, stated that he found online that Camden is ranked number three in Kent County as the best place to live.

Richard Chappell – 262 Cambridge Rd, explained that bulk trash was missed this week.

Mr. Chappell stated that there used to be a vacuum truck that would go around town and pick up leaves. He once heard that the truck broke and then he never saw it again.

Mayor King explained that the Town of Camden has a street sweeper but not a vacuum truck.

Vice-Mayor Torres stated that she believes the CWSWA has a vacuum truck, but she is not sure if they are the ones that used to go around and pick up leaves.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Vice-Mayor Torres stated that Newells Creek was also missed for bulk trash.

Ms. Fenske replied that the bulk trash was missed in all the neighborhoods, but they would be around tomorrow to pick it up.

Councilwoman Rhodes explained that prior to the Council Meeting she received a call that the sidewalk in Tidbury Crossing still has not been repaired and it was supposed to be done by the November 18<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Fenske stated that Mr. Scott spoke to the builders about the streets flooding that Councilwoman Rhodes brought up last month and that was taken care of. She added that she will have Mr. Scott speak to the builder about getting the sidewalk repaired.

Mayor King explained that Ms. Fenske has take a position with Kent County Planning Office and her last day will be Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. He added that he is grateful for Ms. Fenske for all that she has done for him and the Town of Camden in her tenure. He stated that she will be greatly missed by all.

Councilman Dougherty, Councilwoman Rhodes, Councilman Schock, and Vice-Mayor Torres all thanked Ms. Fenske for all that she has done for the Town of Camden.

Mayor King welcomed Sarah Cahall to the Town of Camden, and he explained that she has accepted the position as Town Clerk.

**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 8:07pm by Councilman Dougherty, seconded Councilman Schock, to adjourn the council meeting and go into executive session. All in favor; none opposed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Jamie Fenske, Town Clerk*