

Town of Camden
Regular Town Council Meeting
Camden Municipal Building
May 18, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Torres called the meeting to order at 7:02 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 11, 2020, 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 Schock led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Torres led a moment of silence.

Council Attending: Mayor Torres, Vice-Mayor Schock, Councilman Woodall, and Councilwoman Rhodes.

Council Absent: None.

Staff Attending: Town Clerk Sarah Cahall, Account Specialist Amanda Marlow, Town Solicitor Craig Eliassen, and Chief Marcus Whitney.

Roll Call:

Mayor Torres
Vice-Mayor Schock
Councilwoman Rhodes
Councilman Woodall

AMENDMENTS

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Schock, seconded by Councilwoman Rhodes, to approve the March 20, 2020 regular meeting minutes. All in favor; none opposed.

FINANCE REPORT

Mrs. Marlow explained Mr. Josiah will attend the June meeting to give his quarterly report for January, February and March of 2020. She added that on Tuesday May 26, 2020 at 6:30pm there will be a public workshop to explain the FY21 budget.

CAMDEN WYOMING FIRE DEPARTMENT

None.

CAMDEN WYOMING SEWER & WATER AUTHORITY

Dan Ridgely explained that the billing format has changed, and they are now doing monthly bills effective May 1st. He expressed the cost did not change; it's just broken down from the quarterly bill. He stated they have online bill pay and describe how to access the website and directions to pay the bill online. He added they have been working diligently during the COVID19 and everything is operating effectively.

FRIENDS OF HISTORIC CAMDEN

None.

VFW

None.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Whitney gave a February report that included but was not limited to traffic arrests and criminal activity. He incorporated the miscellaneous category of prevention of criminal activity due do the pandemic of COVID19 of 262 hours. He added that Marchs report is mainly based off the pandemic of COVID19. The officers were doing compliance checks on businesses, security and public health and safety.

Mayor Torres question the criminal activity at Dover Federal Credit Union.

Chief Whitney explained that it was during the construction phase of stealing equipment.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mayor Torres stated that her and councilman Woodall conducted interviews on May 18th for the Town Manager position. They are hoping to have the new Town Manager in by early June. she expressed that Mr. Chaffinch had dedicated 8 years of service.

Vice-Mayor Schock asked how back taxes were.

Mrs. Marlow stated we are doing well on taxes and there under \$20,000.00.

MAYOR

Mayor Torres said she was contacted by the Dyer family and they donated a bench down at the Town Square. She expressed how thankful she was of that for the town.

OATH of OFFICE

Mark Girty was elected to serve on the open council seat. Motion was made by Councilwoman Rhoades and seconded by Vice-Mayor Schock. All in favor; and none opposed.

NEW BUSINESS

FY 2021 Budget 1st Reading

Mrs. Marlow explained there will be a public workshop meeting next week and she will go into greater detail with the report. She did inform Mayor and Council that the biggest change from last year to this year was two new police officers, health insurance increased by 8.5%, and the security system increased to \$3,700.00 due to different system. The MS4 project is coming from RETT and the town must pay 50% and we are getting a grant for the other 50%. The Sally Port and two new police vehicles are in RETT too. Uniform, medical testing and wifi for devices in police vehicles increased the expense line. Residential property taxes increased due to Tidbury homes. She added as of now they are at \$191,068.00 deficit. She asked Mayor and Council to view the packets and bring all questions and concerns to the Public workshop meeting.

Councilman Woodall asked a few preliminary questions regarding our trash contract. Mrs. Marlow explained there is roughly 2 years left. She stated once that when the times comes the Town will have a bid meeting. She expressed their service is good and have a reasonable price compared to other trash services. Councilman Woodall question the revenue of building permits. Mrs. Marlow explained we do not base our budget off the permits because you cannot predict the building plans in the future. He said he's looking forward attending Public workshop next week.

Motion was made at 8:34 pm by Vice-Mayor Schock and seconded by Councilman Woodall to approve the FY2021 Budget 1st reading. All in favor and none opposed.

Appointment of Board of Adjustment members: Mayor Torres decided to remove her husband, Adrian Torres as a member which left two seats available. We received two letters of interest from Gale Christiansen and Robert Bongers.

Vice- Mayor Schock questioned Mayor Torres before motion was made if she knows the potential candidates, because he has a hard time voting on the potential candidate he does not know.

Mayor Torres stated she knows of them and they submitted their credentials. She stated Mrs. Christiansen has a background on severing for other boards.

Councilman Woodall asked what the normal procedure would have taken place if we weren't in a compromising situation of the pandemic.

Mayor Torres stated that they would normally be present and giving the opportunity to present themselves. Also adding that our boards have not been at their full compacity to hold their regular meetings.

Motion was made by Vice-Mayor Schock and seconded by Mark Girty to appoint Gale Christiansen as a Board of Adjustment member. All in favor; none opposed.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Rhoades and seconded by Councilman Woodall to appoint Robert Bongers as a Board of Adjustment member. All in Favor; and none opposed.

Appointment of Planning Commission: Mark Girty was removed from Planning Commission as well as Camden Wyoming Water and Sewer Authority. Mayor Torres explained we received a letter from Adam Colaprete a few weeks ago and Last minute she received a letter from Dan Ridgley. Mayor Torres asked how Council would like to handle the selection.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Rhoades and seconded by Councilman Girty to appoint Adam Colaprete as the chairman for Planning Commission. All in favor; none opposed.

Appointment of Board Member for Camden-Wyoming Sewer & Water Authority. Letter of interested was received from Maryann Faust.

Motion was made by Vice-Mayor Schock and seconded by Councilwoman Rhoades to appoint Maryann Faust as Board member for Camden Wyoming Sewer & Water Authority. All in favor; none opposed.

Honeywell HVAC Control System Upgrade

Mrs. Marlow stated according to the proposal the Honeywell server will no longer support the existing networking controller as of May 2021. The new network controller will need to be mapped over the fire wall setting for remote support. The estimated proposal is \$7,990.00, which would come out of RETT. Chief Whitney added that the networking controller is like the new door system that was installed at Town Hall.

Motion was made by Councilman Woodall and seconded by Vice-Mayor Schock all in favor; none opposed. approved for the Honeywell HVAC Control System upgrade for the proposal of \$7,990.00.

Police Officer Buy Out

Chief Whitney congratulated new elected Councilman Girty, Planning Commission, Board of Adjustment, and CWSWA member on their new roles. He stated there was a recent resignation of an officer and would like to fill that position. The potential officer that is pre-certified, they are going into their second year as well and by Delaware law they require a buyout. He requested \$20,000.00 from RETT for the buyout. The officer will require a 12-week mandated training program with another officer. He went into detail about if we hire a new officer with no experience unfortunately, it would not be beneficial to the Town or Police Department at this time especially during the pandemic.

Vice-Mayor Schock questioned when the officer would be able to start.

Chief Whitney said they can start their two weeks' notice with the other agency as early as tomorrow with there is a positive vote.

Councilman Woodall if there would be any additional expenses with the buyout.

Chief Whitney stated that there is already a vehicle, the uniformed would have to get fitted. With the buy-out he is requesting the vest fitting in that as well.

Councilwoman Rhodes asked how much it costs to send someone to the academy.

Craig Eliassen said it would cost roughly around \$20,000.00 to send to academy.

Craig Eliassen ask if there the academy was running now.

Chief stated with the pandemic there is not.

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Schock and seconded by Councilman Girty to approve the \$20,000.00 from RETT for the buyout. All in favor; and none opposed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Resident John- questioned his water and sewer bill has not change

Councilman Woodall- stated sounds like he is using a constant amount of water. He explained to him how to view his bill. He also suggested he could reach out to CWSWA for further assistance or attended their board meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. He informed him to check the website to see if there's any updates or changes in regard to attending those meetings.

Pat Kelly – 62 Nanticoke Dr, expressed how deserving Mrs. Marlow is for the position of the Town Manager. He stated she is professional, and this is a case where the “backman” of the job is for a woman. He would like Mayor and Council to please give that a consideration.

Mrs. Marlow thanked Mr. Kelly for his acknowledgment towards her.

Anita Buckle-25 S. Main St question the trash schedule being suspended during the pandemic.

Mayor Torres- stated she can go to her Mayors Facebook page for updates or call in to the Town.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Torres congratulated all newly elected officials that were appointed this evening.

Councilman Woodall stated he was happy to see everyone's smiling faces.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made at 9:07pm by Councilman Girty, seconded Councilwoman Rhodes, to adjourn the council meeting and enter executive session. All in favor; none opposed.

*Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Cahall, Town Clerk*