

**Town of Camden
Regular Town Council Meeting
Camden Municipal Building
January 4, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Torres called the meeting to order at 7:01 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 December 28, 2020, in the following manner:

- a. The electronic sign,
- b. The Official Bulletin Board,
- c. 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: Councilman Girty

Staff Attending: Town Clerk Sarah Cahall, Town Manager Jason Stewart, Account Specialist Yvette Yerkes, Public Worker Director Harold Scott Town Solicitor Craig Eliassen, and Police Chief Marcus Whitney.

AMENDMENTS

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Torres explained Town Hall will be closed in observation of Martin Luther King Day on January 18, 2021.

Mayor Torres stated that the Town of Camden Elections will be held on February 27, 2021 from 12pm-8pm at Town Hall. The available seats are open for one (1) council seats with a three (3) years term. Qualified parties must submit letter of intent to Sarah Cahall no later than January 31, 2020.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Schock , seconded by Councilman Woodall, to approve the December 7, 2020 regular meeting minutes. All in favor; none opposed.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Rhodes, seconded by Vice-Mayor Schock, to approve the December 7, 2020 executive session minutes. All in favor; non opposed.

FINANCE REPORT

Mrs. Yerkes stated the RETT check was \$154,526.28. The Town taxes collected are \$705,912.43 with the delinquent amount of \$154,526.28.

CAMDEN WYOMING FIRE DEPARTMENT

None.

CAMDEN WYOMING SEWER & WATER AUTHORITY

Dan Ridgely stated there was no rate increase. They are currently working on the new pump station.

FRIENDS OF HISTORIC CAMDEN

Mrs. Christianson gave a brief update that they have been reforming their group. She added that Kent County levy Court gave money toward the breakneck house to turn that into a museum. The park nationalist would like to start doing programs within the next few months.

VFW

None.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Whitney gave a report that included but was not limited to traffic arrests and criminal activity. He received a letter from the Delaware Police Accreditation confirming that the Camden Police Department meant requirements set for by the U.S. Department of Justice for federal grants.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Stewart thanked the Town of Wyoming and Town staff for their support with the Holiday light contest and he was pleased with the 34 participants and over 650 votes. Town of Wyoming was the overall winner. He is looking forward to it again next year. He added that Juneteenth will not be added to the 2021 Holiday Calendar.

MAYOR

Mayor Torres thanked Town staff and residents for their donations and support with the adopt a family for this past season. She thanked residents for supporting the Police Department with their donations.

She informed Council that she allowed a 3rd party inspection from First State Inspection Agency at the contractor's expense while Town hall was on quarantine. She asked council if they would like to move forward with having a 3rd party inspection for emergency backup.

Mr. Scott explained to Council that when a building permit is purchased his inspections are included with that. He explained if we went with a 3rd party agency the Town would have to be for the expense of the inspection. He suggested that we should contact Kent County for emergency backup.

Vice-Mayor Schock suggested to have someone within the Town organization certified for the building inspections. He asked if there was online courses or hands on training that Mr. Scott can assist them with. That way the Town wouldn't have to come up with additional fees and the inspection will be in house. Vice-Mayor Schock asked how many hours to complete the certification of the building inspections. Mr. Scott said he would have to check with ICC.

Vice-Mayor Schock said he's willing to help with the Town and he would be willing to get certified.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Ridgley suggested that the Town should look into updating their building code 2006. He added that most judication are currently using 2015 addition.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

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 7:42pm by Vice-Mayor Schock, seconded by Councilwoman Rhodes, to adjourn the council meeting. All in favor; none opposed

*Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Cahall, Town Clerk*