

Town of Camden
Regular Town Council Meeting
Camden Municipal Building
February 7, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Torres 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 February 1, 2022, 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, Councilwoman Rhodes, and Councilman Woodall.

Council Absent: Councilman Girty

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

AMENDMENTS

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Town Hall will be closed February 21, 2022 in observance of President's Day.

The 2022 Municipal Election has been canceled for Saturday, February 26, 2022. Justin T. King will be sworn in as the new Mayor on March 7, 2022.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Woodall, seconded by Vice-Mayor Schock, to approve the December 6, 2021 regular meeting minutes. All in favor; none opposed.

FINANCE REPORT

Mrs. Yerkes stated the Town received \$73,026.50 from RETT in November and \$42,834.83 for the month of December. She and Chief Whitney had a conference call with the ARPA attorney regarding using funds for increasing broadband services and security to IG. They are looking into updating the cybersecurity in the building. They explained that if the broadband provider is lacking access or does not meet or exceed 100Mbps download and upload speeds then this is an acceptable use of the funds.

Mrs. Yerkes said that she also discussed with the Treasury's final interim rule about the loss of revenue. The Town can use the whole allocation as a loss of revenue and these funds can be used for projects that fall under the provisions of government services.

PLANNING & ZONING REPORTS

Ms. Cahall said there were two items on the January's Planning Commission meeting and both items were approved. The next meeting is February 16, 2022.

CAMDEN WYOMING FIRE DEPARTMENT

Jeff Brown gave a report that included but was not limited to fire calls.

CAMDEN WYOMING SEWER & WATER AUTHORITY

Maryann Faust said there was nothing new to report. She said Tom Ness is the Chairman and Maryann Faust is Vice-chair.

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 stated they have had 160 hours of paid overtime due to there being a staff shortage and COVID-19.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Stewart said the Camden light project with Help Initiative is going well and they currently installed 154 lights between Newell's Creek, Camden Commons and Tidbury Crossing. He also said they are looking into doing a winterization program. He added that Envirotech completed the projects in Tamarac and the storm water management systems between Lowes and Aldi. Mr.

Stewart said he has been in contact with Lyndon Yearick to update the charter to allow the creation of a recreational tax. He said this will allow the Town to enforce the tax if an HOA defaults.

MAYOR

Mayor Torres announced there is a vacant council seat and a letter of interest can be submitted to Sarah Cahall or Jason Stewart. She thanked everyone for their support in the 11 years she has served between being a board member with CWSWA and Town of Camden Council.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

ARPA Premium Pay vote to pay out funds to a former employee

Mrs. Yerkes stated a previous part time employee reached out concerning the premium pay that the current employees received in December 2021. She talked with ARPA attorney and was informed the past employee would be eligible however it was at the Town's discretion to award the premium pay.

A motion was made by Councilman Woodall, seconded by Councilwoman Rhodes, to deny the request from a former employee to pay out \$3,407.26 from the ARPA premium pay. All in favor; none opposed

Police emergency services side by side

Chief Whitney requested a side by side in the amount of \$24,148.34 from ARPA. He explained this would be utilized for emergency service, medical services, and other beneficial service.

Vice-Mayor Schock asked if there was a bed in the back.

Chief Whitney said there is a bed with a front and rear wrench to pull a stretcher.

Councilman Woodall asked if it was electric or gas and if it will have emergency lights.

Chief Whitney said it will be gas and will have emergency lights. He explained he didn't get the Polaris light package because it was over \$8,000.00 and he has the lighting equipment available in the supply room.

Councilman Woodall asked if was easier to purchase the lighting package from Polaris.

Chief Whitney stated that he could allocate those funds more responsibly.

Councilman Woodall asked if it was capable to transport a prisoner.

Chief Whitney said yes.

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Schock and seconded by Councilwoman Rhodes, to approve \$24,148.34 for the Police emergency service side by side. All in favor; none opposed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gail Siebert- Expressed to Mayor and Council that she was a dedicated former employee and believed she was deserving of the premium pay.

Dan Ridgely: 215 Camden Wyoming Ave- Is concerned with the builders buying up land in Town. He would like to build smarter and figure out ways to keep Camden's character alive. He proposed to Town Council to have a workshop on the planning and zoning laws to take advantage of maintaining the quality of Camden.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Rhodes thanked the Town staff for doing a good job during the snow days.

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 7:45pm by Vice-Mayor Schock, seconded Councilman Woodall, to adjourn the council meeting. All in favor; none opposed.

*Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Cahall, Town Clerk*