

**Town of Camden
Regular Town Council Meeting
Camden Municipal Building
April 4, 2022**

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 March 29, 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 King led a moment of silence.

Council Attending: Mayor King, Vice-Mayor Schock, and Councilman Woodall.

Council Absent: Councilwoman Rhodes.

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

AMENDMENTS

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Town Hall will be closed on April 15th, 2022 in observance of Good Friday.

Easter Egg Hunt will be held at Southside Baptist Church on April 16th, 2022 at 1:00 pm.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Woodall, seconded by Vice-Mayor Schock, to approve the March 7, 2022 regular meeting minutes. All in favor; none opposed.

A motion was made by Councilman Woodall, seconded by Vice-Mayor Schock, to approve the March 7, 2022 executive session minutes. All in favor; none opposed.

FINANCE REPORT

Mrs. Yerkes said back due taxes are \$25,760.58. She stated we received \$21,859.20 in RETT.

CAMDEN WYOMING FIRE DEPARTMENT

Jeff Brown gave a report that included but was not limited to fire calls. He also stated that they are asking for assistance with purchasing two new ambulances.

Mayor King thanked the fire department for everything they do and he's willing to help support their department in any way possible.

CAMDEN WYOMING SEWER & WATER AUTHORITY

Dan Ridgely said their meetings have been changed to quarterly. He added repairs have been done on Center St.

Councilman Woodall said some water lines on Main St are developing potholes.

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 added that they hired two new officers. He informed Mayor and Council that he canceled Sobieski for fire inspections and contracted with Wayman for fire inspections because Sobieski's service agreement increased from \$676.00 to \$855.00, and Wayman's yearly service is \$675.00.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Stewart updated Mayor and Council on the Net Zero house law that was passed a few years ago in Delaware. He stated that by 2025 all new residential construction must be Net-Zero compatible for every municipality. He explained Net Zero is a certain type of build for energy efficiency.

Councilman Woodall questioned who passed the law.

Mr. Stewart stated it is a Delaware legislation. He said he was able to provide him with the bill.

Mayor King asked Ms. Cahall if vehicle logs were provided to her per Councilwoman Rhodes request.

Ms. Cahall stated she did not receive any vehicle logs for the report.

MAYOR

Mayor King thanked Town Staff and Town Council for their support. He added that he has had a successful track record for the past 11 years and he is being proactive in wanting the Town to grow in a positive direction.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Vehicle and Pedestrian Gate Operation/Fence/Access Control on Town Hall property

Chief Whitney said the fence will go on the sides and back of Town Hall for the privacy of police vehicles. The fence will have electric gates and privacy slates. He added that Advantech would be able to tie into our current security system. He asked for \$120,000.00 to spend \$8,000 from RETT and \$119,300.00 from capital improvements.

Mayor King asked if the exterior top of the fence will have barb or razor wire.

Chief Whitney said yes, it's a part of the security process and he would like to put razor wire on the inside of the fence line.

Mayor King asked if you would visually see the razor wire because he is concerned if someone tried scaling the fence.

Craig Eliassen said there should be signage.

Mayor King asked what the coloring of the fencing would be.

Chief Whitney stated he would like to tie in with the same colors as Town Hall.

Vice-Mayor Schock asked if we will have a third gate.

Chief Whitney said Del-Dot is putting an emergency vehicle access gate.

Councilman Woodall asked if he could request more money from RETT instead of CTF.

Mrs. Yerkes stated there is a 3-year period to utilize the Bond and Capital Improvement funds.

Mayor King questioned the CTF.

Mrs. Yerkes said she spoke with Mr. Stewart about the status of CTF when she was hired. He advised her he was in the process of applying for the CTF and she was later informed that he was

applying for an extension. Mrs. Yerkes informed Mayor and council that to her knowledge CTF has not been applied for the past two years.

Mayor King said that historically CTF was always applied for in the past. He asked if CTF would cover the proposed fence and gate operations project.

Mrs. Yerkes stated most likely up to \$30,000.00 per year could have been covered by CTF.

Mayor King expressed how he was displeased to hear about this.

A motion was made by Councilman Woodall, seconded by Vice-Mayor Schock, to approve the Vehicle and Pedestrian Gate Operation/Fence/Access Control on Town Hall property for \$111,300.00 from Capitol Improvement and \$8,000.00 from RETT. Councilwoman Rhodes absent. All in favor; none opposed.

Roll Call:

Mayor King-yes

Vice-Mayor Schock-yes

Councilman Woodall-yes

Motion Carries

Police Department Uniforms

Chief Whitney explained that he would like to revamp the police department uniform's appearance to match the new graphic design on the police vehicles. He requested \$17,500.00 from ARPA funds.

Mayor King is in favor of revamping the uniforms. He stated this would be a great morale booster for the officers and gives their department their own identity and the notoriety the officers deserve.

Councilman Woodall said appearance and comradery are something that will deter negative behaviors.

Craig Eliassen asked if ARPA attorneys commented on getting another quote.

Mrs. Yerkes said no.

Craig Eliassen asked to reach out to the ARPA attorney to see if they need another quote or two to comply with the Towns Charter.

Mayor King asked Mr. Eliassen if he could make a temporary motion to approve the pending outcome of ARPA.

Craig Eliassen said yes.

A temporary motion was made by Vice-Mayor Schock, seconded by Councilman Woodall to temporarily approve \$17,500.00 for Police Department uniforms deferring to ARPA counsel if a second or third bid is not required. Councilwoman Rhodes absent. All in favor; none opposed.

Street sweeper & Gator purchase

Mr. Scott explained that the current street sweeper is 20 years old and it's not compatible to keep up with the growth of the Town and he's been having service issues with it. He received three quotes and with the Town growing, he suggested that Swartz has a model that can service the Town's needs at \$283,841.00.

Councilman Woodall asked if there were any used ones available.

Mr. Scott explained that when they are getting rid of them there not in good condition.

Councilman Woodall asked if the price range of the street sweeper is at the low end or high end.

Mr. Stewart from Stewart-Amos Sweepers said that the price is a fair deal for the Swartz model.

Councilman Woodall asked how often the streets would be cleaned.

Mr. Scott stated at least every other week and that also depends on manpower.

Mayor King asked if the street sweepers can maneuver in smaller areas.

Mr. Scott said yes.

Mayor King asked what the plan is for the existing street sweeper.

Mr. Scott suggested selling it on the government website or taking bids.

Mayor King questioned the life expectancy of the street sweeper.

Mr. Scott said if its maintenance is performed properly, it could last a lengthy time.

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Schock, seconded by Councilman Woodall, to approve the street sweeper purchase in the amount of \$283,7841.00 from ARPA funds. Councilwoman Rhodes absent. All in favor; none opposed.

Roll call:

Mayor King-yes

Vice-Mayor Schock-yes

Councilman Woodall-yes

Motion carries

Purchase of Gator

Mr. Scott asked to purchase a John Deere gator with a snowplow to help with the removal of snow as well as spraying weeds. He had two quotes, one from John Deere in the amount of \$29,500.00 and the other one from Kubota in the amount of \$28,485.50. Mr. Scott said he would like to go with the John Deere because the turnaround time for availability is sooner, heavy-duty, and heated. The Kubota drawback is the shipping will go up, the cost of the machine would increase, and the availability wouldn't be until towards the end of the year.

Mayor King asked Mr. Eliassen per the Towns Charter for clarity since the John Deere was a higher amount.

Craig Eliassen asked for justification.

Mayor King asked if the price of the Kubota would change.

Mr. Scott said yes.

Vice-Mayor Schock said that once the cost of fees and shipping is included the Kubota could be more than the John Deere.

Mr. Scott agreed and said that shipping is going to increase as well as the machine.

Mr. Scott said the John Deere would be available in July and there will be no price increase.

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Schock, seconded by Councilman Woodall to approve the purchase of the John Deere Gator for \$29,500.00 from ARPA funds as present with availability and no price increase to secure the equipment. Councilwoman Rhodes absent. All in favor; none opposed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Schneider Rislin- 118 N. Main St.- Explained that he recently purchased 118 N. Main. While in the process of purchasing the property he was never disclosed there would be \$58,000.00 in impact fees to connect. Mr. Rislin stated that he is doing his hardest to fix the property.

Mayor King asked upon purchasing the property was any information disclosed to him about impact fees or questioned why there wasn't water and sewer.

Mr. Rislin stated at no point the impact fees were a conversation. He said he knows everything that needs to happen to get things moving forward and was weighing his options on the use of the property.

Mr. Eliassen gave a brief description of the land use process.

Dan Ridgely- 215 E Camden-Wyoming Ave- Suggested a Planning & Zoning workshop.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Vice-Mayor Schock thanked Chief Whitney, Sarah, and Yvette.

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 8:30 pm by Vice-Mayor Schock, seconded by Councilman Woodall, to adjourn the council meeting and enter executive session. Councilwoman Rhodes absent. All in favor; none opposed.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made at 8:30 pm by Vice-Mayor Schock, seconded by Councilman Woodall, to adjourn the council meeting. Councilwoman Rhodes absent. All in favor; none opposed.

*Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Cahall, Town Clerk*