

**Town of Camden
Regular Town Council Meeting
Camden Municipal Building
July 11, 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 July 5, 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, Councilwoman Rhodes, and Councilman Dougherty.

Council Absent: Councilman Woodall,

Staff Attending: Town Clerk Sarah Cahall, Account Specialist Yvette Yerkes, Public Works Supervisor Harold Scott Jr., Town Solicitor Craig Eliassen, and Chief Marcus Whitney.

AMENDMENTS

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Property taxes are due by the close of business on September 30th, 2022.

Councilwoman Rhodes asked if taxes have been mailed out.

Mrs. Yerkes stated that they will be mailed out within the next couple of days.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Dougherty, seconded by Vice-Mayor Schock, to approve the June 6, 2022 regular meeting minutes. All in favor; none opposed.

FINANCE REPORT

Mrs. Yerkes said that the Town received \$25,386.05 in RETT. The delinquent taxes are down to \$13,782.77.

CAMDEN WYOMING FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mayor King gave their report that included but was not limited to fire calls. He added that he will be attending their meeting next Monday and will be presenting them a check for \$100,000.00. He thanked Council for their support in the donation to the Fire Department.

CAMDEN WYOMING SEWER & WATER AUTHORITY

Dan Ridgley said their financial status is in good standing and the water tower is paid off.

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 he is working diligently on keeping paid overtime minimal with being short staff. He added that he has two candidates going into the academy on October 9th.

Vice-Mayor Schock asked if we are preventing ways so there isn't an incident like the fire at Target.

Chief Whitney said they have had conversations and he is asking officers that aren't on an active complaint to be visible on scene at locations.

Councilwoman Rhodes asked if Walmart or Lowes was interested in paying for an officer.

Mayor King asked for the status of the fence.

Chief Whitney said the fence is done except for the privacy slates. He added that Advantech finished adding the access controls and personal gates.

MAYOR

Mayor King thanked the Police Department, Town Staff, and Council for their continued support and good work.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Storm drainpipe replacement in Newell's Creek- Annie Ct.

Mr. Scott stated that this project had been put off for two years and feels that it is a safety issue. The pipe has already been ordered. He asked for \$35,000.00 for labor and installation of the pipe.

Councilman Dougherty asked if we are replacing the pipe with concrete.

Mr. Scott said it's a heavy plastic material.

Mayor King asked when the project would begin.

Mr. Scott said R&C Contracting could start on Monday.

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Schock and seconded by Councilwoman Rhodes to approve \$35,000.00 from ARPA funds to replace the Storm drainpipe on Annie Ct. Councilman Woodall absent. All in favor, none opposed.

Public Works- Purchase of new truck and dump truck

Mr. Scott said he would like to replace the 2003 dump truck with a new dump truck that is 4-wheel drive and comes with a snowplow for \$68,908.00. Mr. Scott said he would like to replace the 2005 truck with a new 3500 that is 4-wheel drive and comes with a plow for \$53,494.00.

Mayor King asked if he was going to sell the used trucks.

Mr. Scott said he would put them up for bid.

A motion was made by Councilman Dougherty and seconded by Councilwoman Rhodes to approve \$122,402.00 from ARAP funds to purchase a new truck and dump truck. Councilman Woodall absent. All in favor; none opposed. Roll call:

Mayor King-yes

Vice-Mayor Schock-yes

Councilwoman Rhodes-yes

Councilman Dougherty-yes

Motion Carries

Purchase and install security window- 2nd-floor

Chief Whitney stated that for security purposes he received a quote from Mr. Go Glass in the amount of \$10,514.00 to purchase and install a security window on the second floor.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Schock, and seconded by Councilwoman Rhodes, to approve \$10,514.00 from ARPA funds to purchase and install a security window on the second floor. Councilman Woodall absent. All in favor; none opposed.

Police Department- Purchase of new vehicles

Chief Whitney stated that he was able to order three new Tahoe's at \$60,000.00 each, covering the purchase of equipment and installation.

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Schock and seconded by Councilman Dougherty to approve \$180,000.00 from ARPA funds to purchase three new Tahoe's. Councilman Woodall absent. All in favor; none opposed. Roll call:

Mayor King-yes

Vice Mayor Schock-yes

Councilwoman Rhodes-yes

Councilman Dougherty-yes

Motion Carries

Police Department- Purchase of JPX pepper guns

Chief Whitney would like to discontinue using tasers and switch to JPX pepper guns. He added the cost of the JPX pepper guns are \$9,200.00.

Councilwoman Rhodes asked how many were needed.

Chief Whitney stated 12 and that's including an extra one. He added they don't have a recurring fee or back-end software that needs to be maintained. He stated if an additional cost is needed after the purchase, it would be for replacing a cartridge that was used.

Councilman Dougherty asked if the current tasers are being used would there be any liability if the yearly fee isn't maintained, or if the equipment wasn't upgraded.

Chief Whitney said no as long as the officers maintained their certification.

Mayor King asked if the pepper guns make noise.

Chief Whitney said it makes less of a noise than a taser.

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Schock, seconded by Councilwoman Rhodes, to approve \$9,200.00 from ARPA to purchase JPX pepper guns. Councilman Woodall absent. All in favor; none opposed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gilbert Howdershelt- 218 Camden Wyoming Ave- Stated that he is aware the house is condemned and asked for an additional 30 days and come back to the next Council meeting with thorough plans on renovating the house as quickly as possible.

Mayor King and Council agreed for him to come to the next Council meeting and he must provide them with strategic plans for renovating the house in a timely matter.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Rhodes thanked the staff.

Councilman Dougherty would like to discuss purchasing property for the Public Works location.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

A motion was made by Councilwoman Rhodes, and seconded by Vice-Mayor Schock, to adjourn the regular meeting session and enter executive session without returning. Councilman Woodall absent. All in favor; none opposed.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made at Councilwoman Rhodes, seconded by Vice-Mayor Schock, to adjourn the council meeting. All in favor; none opposed.

*Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Cahall, Town Clerk*