

**Town of Camden
Regular Town Council Meeting
Camden Municipal Building
November 7, 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 November 1, 2022, in the following manner:

- a. The electronic sign,
- b. The Official Bulletin Board, and
- c. The official Town of Camden Web Site,

Mayor King led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor King led a moment of silence.

Council Attending: Mayor King, Vice-Mayor Schock, Councilwoman Rhodes, Councilman Woodall, and Councilman Dougherty

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

AMENDMENTS

Quote for repairs in the rear parking lot at Town Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Town Hall will be closed on November 11th in observance of Veteran's Day.
Town Hall will be closed on November 24th & 25th in observance of Thanksgiving.
The 2nd Annual Camden & Wyoming Christmas Parade will be held on December 10th at 6:00 pm.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Woodall, seconded by Vice-Mayor Schock, to approve the October 3, 2022 regular meeting minutes. All in favor; none opposed.

FINANCE REPORT

Mrs. Yerkes said they received \$35,840.47 from RETT for the month of September. She said there is \$56,590.68 in delinquent taxes and \$1,891,176.46 has been collected in taxes.

ZONING REPORTS

Dan Ridgley said Jennifer Reitz has provided a draft of the Zoning Ordinance and will be presenting it to the Planning Commission on November 16th.

Mayor King thanked Mr. Ridgley for volunteering his time.

CAMDEN WYOMING FIRE DEPARTMENT

None.

CAMDEN WYOMING SEWER & WATER AUTHORITY

Dan Ridgley stated their budget has been approved and there will be no rate increase. He added that they are no longer in debt, and they are going through an audit. Mr. Ridgley said they are currently working on a well in Sunset Village and replacing lines on Pine St. in Wyoming. He added that their engineer is applying for a grant for lead pipe abatement.

FRIENDS OF HISTORIC CAMDEN

Dan Ridgely said they are looking for new members. He added that they received funds from the County and the State to go towards the Goggin house and there has been discussion on turning the Goggin house into a museum. He mentioned that they are adding a bench to honor the late Mr. and Mrs. Chapel.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Whitney gave a report that included but was not limited to traffic arrests and criminal activity. He added they had 60.5 hours of overtime and 2.5 hours of court time.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Scott Jr. said he's working on a couple of projects with drainage in Tamarac and other locations.

MAYOR

Mayor King thanked the Police Department, Town staff, and Council for their hard work.

OLD BUSINESS

Townsend property

Mayor King said he received the appraisal, and the property appraised at \$1.1 million dollars. He recommended not voting on the purchase during this meeting and requested an executive session about the terms of the purchase. He added that the Town is growing, the public works department needs more space, and the funding will be used from ARPA.

NEW BUSINESS

Request of annexation for 7-00-103.07-01.14.00-000, vacant lot adjacent to 4608 S. Dupont Hwy, Rampros Holding LLC

Jim Provin and Dan Rameriz are the property owners of the location. They are seeking the request because it's currently zoned residential with Kent County. If they annex into the Town of Camden, the property is zoned C-2. He said he would like to put a building there for business in the future. He added that once the shed is removed, he would put a gravel parking lot with 10 spaces to accommodate the chiropractor's staff.

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Schock, and seconded by Councilman Dougherty, to approve the request for annexation for 7-00-103.07-01.14.00-000, the vacant lot adjacent to 4608 S. Dupont Hwy, Rampros Holding LLC. All in favor; none opposed.

Storm Drainpipe replacement in Tamarac

Harold Scott Jr. stated the quote came in at \$135,000.00 for the project. He would order and purchase the drainpipe at a lesser cost than paying the contractor to install the drainpipe.

EV charging station

Mr. Scott said there is a rebate with DNREC for EV charging stations and they cover 90% of the \$7,000.00 cost. He suggested placing the station downtown near the clock where the Town has 6 parking spaces.

Vice-Mayor Schock asked what type of payment it would be.

Mr. Scott Jr. said it can be set up at no cost or we could add a cost. He also added that we can set up a time schedule for the charger.

Councilman Dougherty asked about the difference between series 7 and series 8.

Mr. Scott Jr. said series 7 is more for a fleet.

Mayor King suggested revisiting the charging stations pending the purchase of the Townsend property.

Councilman Dougherty suggested joining into a partnership with another business to place the charging station.

Quote for repairs in the rear parking lot at Town Hall.

Mr. Scott Jr. said he received a quote in the amount of \$15,000.00 from Skyline Construction to repair the blacktop in the rear parking lot, add concrete, and fix the curbing and the sidewalk near the sally port.

Councilman Woodall questioned the overage item on the detailed expenditure report.

Mrs. Yerkes said it was for the overage of repairs to the building.

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Schock, and seconded by Councilwoman Rhodes, to approve \$15,000.00 from RETT for repairs in the rear parking lot at Town Hall. 3 in favor; one opposed. Motion carries.

Police Department buyout

Chief Whitney requested to retain the Police Department vacation buyout of up to 100 hours per officer. This would be reviewed by him and will be on a case by case per officer. He would like this to be payable to the officers during the first pay period in December.

Councilman Dougherty asked if the buyout was straight time.

Chief Whitney said yes, and it will not be at the overtime rate.

Mayor King asked what the Town CFO's recommendation was.

Mrs. Yerkes said it was done last year and he was aware of it.

Chief Whitney said it was done last year and would like to retain the Police Department buyout.

A motion was made by Councilman Dougherty, and seconded by Councilwoman Rhodes, to approve the Police Department buyout capped at 100 hours and the cases will be reviewed by the Chief of Police. All in favor; none opposed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Carol Milton- 305 Meeting House Ln.- She expressed concern with the overgrowth of shrubs around her backyard and couldn't get out of her back gate if there was an emergency. She also mentioned the lack of yard maintenance from her surrounding neighbors.

Mayor King suggested having the Town remove the overgrowth and fining the neighbor.

Susan Savage- 302 Meeting House Ln.- Said she was told that gate access was required if you were to push your fence back. She stated now there is fire safety. She complained about 306 Meeting House Ln. fence going to the property line.

Mr. Scott Jr. added that per Town Ordinances a fence can go to the property line and no gate is required. He also advised her that in regard to her neighbor's tree that she was concerned about at the previous meeting, the State Forestry needs a letter from the Town and the property owner of the Tree stating that the State Forestry is non-labile. The tree will be assessed at that time to determine if it is dead.

Walt Simpson- Questioned the status of 218 Camden Wyoming Ave. He expressed his concern about heavy police activity that has been going on for several months.

Chief Whitney explained why the eviction process was overturned 3 times by a judge. He said they finally received a summary of possession to evict the tenants. He added that he is under the assumption that the property owner has an agreement with the contractor and realtor to demolish the house and rebuild another home.

Bonnie Pennington- Apologized for her involvement at 218 Camden Wyoming Ave. and would like to see the house demolished.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Rhodes thanked the Police Department and the Town staff for everything they do.

Vice-Mayor Schock thanked the Police Department and the Town staff for everything they do.

Councilman Dougherty thanked Chief Whitney for the efforts with 218 Camden-Wyoming Ave. and would like to see it torn down.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

A motion was approved by Vice-Mayor Schock, and seconded by Councilman Dougherty, to enter into executive session. All in favor; none opposed.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made at 8:26 p.m. by Vice-Mayor Schock, seconded by Councilman Dougherty, to adjourn the council meeting. All in favor; none opposed.

*Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Cahall, Town Clerk*