

Town of Camden  
Regular Town Council Meeting  
Camden Municipal Building  
December 4, 2023

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Dougherty 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 27, 2023, in the following manner:

- a. The official bulletin board,
- b. The official Town of Camden, and
- c. The official Town of Camden website

Vice-Mayor Rhodes led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Dougherty led a moment of silence.

Council Attending: Mayor Dougherty, Vice-Mayor Rhodes, and Councilman Ridgely.

Council Absent: Councilman Woodall and Councilwoman Sturgeon.

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

**AMENDMENTS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Town Hall will be closed on December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023, and January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.  
Camden-Wyoming Christmas Parade will be held on December 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.  
Elections will be held on February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Available seats- One Council seat (3-year term) and Mayor seat (2-year term).

**MINUTES**

A motion was made by Councilman Ridgely, seconded by Vice-Mayor Rhodes, to approve the November 6, 2023 regular meeting minutes.

**FINANCE REPORT**

Ms. Lewis stated the delinquent taxes are \$47,423.00. There was \$20,757.33 in RETT that was received for November. She added the tax revenue as of November 30<sup>th</sup> is \$2,068,512.33.

**CAMDEN WYOMING FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Philip Lewis gave a report that included but was not limited to Fire calls.

**CAMDEN WYOMING SEWER & WATER AUTHORITY**

John Badger stated that the finance audit will be accepted in January. He added that the Camden Bypass should be starting in the spring of 2024. He said that Savannah Farms submitted preliminary plans for the project's sanitary sewer and water distribution centers.

**FRIENDS OF HISTORIC CAMDEN**

Gale Christensen said they will present the flag presentation in January.

**POLICE REPORT**

Chief Whitney gave a report that included but was not limited to traffic arrests and criminal activity. He added that there were 20 hours of overtime.

**TOWN MANAGER REPORT**

Mr. Scott Jr. said the public works department placed the Christmas wreath on Camden-Wyoming Ave. He added that the budget lines for building maintenance and public works maintenance are at a zero balance. He added that the line item for that budget was \$5,000.00. Chief Whitney added that there was an emergency repair for a server room for a new mini split that runs their data support. Mr. Scott said that the cost was \$3,540.00.

Mayor Dougherty asked what the other expenses were.

Mr. Scott stated a circulator pump, toilet repairs, Advantech, and 2 exterior doors. He added that the push bar to the entry door will need to be replaced.

Mayor Dougherty suggested adding \$5,000.00 to the building maintenance line item and HVAC maintenance and authorizing the spending of that budget.

Mr. Scott clarified that going forward to have two separate line items for the Town Hall and the Public Works building.

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Rhodes, and seconded by Councilman Ridgely, to approve \$5,000.00 from the general funds account. All in favor; none opposed.

**MAYOR**

Mayor Dougherty stated that Chief Whitney advised him that several security cameras around the Town need to be replaced and that a vote isn't needed because it's under the limits set by the Town Charter. He said that 3 cameras needed to be replaced on the streets, which will be roughly around \$4,800.00 and will come from RETT.

Mayor Dougherty thanked Craig Eliassen for all his years of service to the Town of Camden.

Mayor Dougherty informed the public that Savannah Farms is suing the Town of Camden.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### *Police body camera- Axon contract*

Chief Whitney said the contract is for 5 years and can be paid upfront or broken down into payments. He said the cost is \$38,126.30 and the funds typically come from RETT.

Mayor Dougherty asked if there was a discount if it was paid in full.

Chief Whitney said no, but they will get credit from their existing contract for \$934.40.

Mayor Dougherty asked to have a motion to pay the bill annually from RETT.

A motion was made by Councilman Ridgely, and seconded by Vice-Mayor Rhodes, to approve the Axon contract. All in favor; none opposed.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### *Signing of the CPOA Contract.*

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Rhodes, and seconded by Councilman Ridgely, to approve the signing of the CPOA contract. All in favor; none opposed.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Dawn Gonzalez- Said she appreciates the Fire Department giving their reports. She asked about roll call on attendance and asked if certain people could leave during meetings. She asked if the charter will be amended in 2024.

Gale Christensen- 21 S. Main St- Asked if there are acronyms on the agenda if there could be a layout of what it is.

John Badger- Stated that he is on the Board of Adjustments and wanted to know if the fireproofing is a part of the lawsuit with Savannah Farms.

Craig Eliassen advised him that what the Board of Adjustments did or didn't do isn't a part of this Superior Court case.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilman Ridgely wanted to add a reason why he seconded the motion for Savannah Farms in November's Council meeting. He doesn't believe the Planning Commission and the Board of Adjustments received all the information; they need to make a good decision. He added the proposed variance would require special fire-rated construction or sprinkler systems in the houses being less than 10 feet away from each other.

Councilman Ridgely thanked the Town Manager and Chief of police.

Vice-Mayor Rhodes thanked the Town staff, the Fire Department, and the Police Department

Mayor Dougherty thanked the Town staff and Craig Eliassen.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*To consider strategy concerning pending and/or potential litigation and/or with respect to personnel issues and/or collective bargaining.*

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Rhodes, seconded by Councilman Ridgely, to enter into executive session. All in favor; none opposed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made at 7:43 pm by Vice-Mayor Rhodes, and seconded by Councilman Ridgely, to adjourn the council meeting. All in favor; none opposed.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah Cahall, Town Clerk*