

Town of Camden  
Special Town Council Meeting  
Camden Municipal Building  
February 23, 2024

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Dougherty called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. A special meeting is required by the Department of Elections and the Town of Camden to replace an Election Board Member for the February 24, 2024 Election. 7-day notice is not possible per F.O.I.A. since the Camden Election is being held on Saturday, February 24, 2024. The Town is posting the agenda on February 21, 2024, which is at least 24 hours prior notice, in the following manner:

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

Councilman Woodall led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Dougherty led a moment of silence.

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

Council Absent: None.

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

**AMENDMENTS**

None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

**MINUTES**

None.

**FINANCE REPORT**

None.

CAMDEN WYOMING FIRE DEPARTMENT

None.

CAMDEN WYOMING SEWER & WATER AUTHORITY

None.

FRIENDS OF HISTORIC CAMDEN

None.

POLICE REPORT

None.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

None.

MAYOR

None.

NEW BUSINESS

*Replacement of Election Board Member that is unable to fill the position.*

Mayor Dougherty explained two letters of intent were received. One stated they would be willing only if no one else stepped up. Mayor Dougherty stated Adam Colaprete is currently a member of the Planning Commission and would like to be appointed to be an Election Board Member.

Councilman Woodall asked if we could continue with the two members that are already serving. He inquired about the notice and if something was supposed to be posted two weeks ago, he didn't want anything to affect the Town.

Greg Morris stated that State law requires a minimum of 3 Election Board Members. Mr. Morris explained to him that the Elections are scheduled for Saturday and that F.O.I.A. only requires a 24-hour notice for a special meeting, which was done.

Councilman Ridgely referred to the Delaware Code Chapter 75 Title 15 Article 7551 Board of Elections because he questioned Mr. Colaprete's address being listed as Dover.

Mayor Dougherty stated that Wilder Rd. is in Tamarac which is within the Town of Camden's jurisdiction.

Chief Whitney added that Wilder Rd. is in the Town of Camden's jurisdiction and certain portions of Tamarac are not within the jurisdiction of Camden.

Councilman Woodall asked Ms. Cahall what occurs at the Elections. Ms. Cahall explained that the Board of Election Members observe the elections and come an hour before the polls open to set up the room. She added that they don't touch the machines, they do not check anyone in, and they observe and help with challengers' questions.

Councilman Woodall asked what the next step is when elections are over.

Ms. Lewis stated that at the end of the elections, the results are considered unofficial results after all ballots and absentee ballots are accounted for. Then on Monday, they have a meeting to certify the results.

Councilwoman Sturgeon asked who was going to be monitoring the machines.

Ms. Lewis explained there would be a poll worker, two people would be checking in, a table for the Election Board, people in and out to vote, and a table for the challengers.

A motion was made by Councilman Ridgely, seconded by Councilman Rhodes, to approve Adam Colaprete as an Election Board Member. 3 in Favor; 1 opposed.

Councilman Woodall- No; because of the time frame but knows it's an emergency.

## OLD BUSINESS

None.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

Maryanne Faust – 267 Paynters Way- Stated that a resident received a call because they had a sign in their flower bed, and she was asked to take down the political sign. She added that this election has caused a lot of problems in Barclay Farms.

Mayor Dougherty apologized for what happened and he was asked previously to remove a political sign from his residence as well.

Fleur McKendell- 44 E. Fred Circle- Asked what time the absentee ballots would be opened and if the certification of the votes is open to the public.

Ms. Lewis stated that if all ballots that were issued have been received, they will be opened at 6:00 pm. If all the ballots have not been received, they have until the polls close.

Susan Savage- She said she owns a home in Camden Commons but lives in Sussex County, so her tenant is allowed to vote. Ms. Savage mentions a previous issue with the past Mayor and Council.

Chief Whitney- Stated that was under prior Administration and that the case has been closed.

Fleur McKendell- 44 E. Fred Circle- She asked Mayor Dougherty if he ever responded to the email, she initiated with Public Integrity regarding the Town paying for and receiving services from business(es) owned by former Mayor Justin King.

Mayor Dougherty stated he did not see the email until this morning. He intends to do nothing until after the election, he said whoever the mayor would be can address the issue.

#### COUNCIL COMMENTS

None.

#### ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made at 8:18 a.m. by Councilman Woodall, seconded by Councilman Ridgely, to adjourn the special council meeting. All in favor; none opposed.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah Cahall, Town Clerk*