

Town of Camden
Public Workshop
Camden Municipal Building
May 20, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Dougherty called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and noticed that this Public Workshop was being held in compliance with the Delaware Open Public Meeting Act by posting the agenda on May 10, 2024, in the following manner:

- a. The electronic sign,
- b. The official bulletin board,
- c. The official Town of Camden website, and
- d. The Delaware State News.

Mayor Dougherty led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

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

Council Absent: Councilman Woodall

Staff Attending: Town Manager Harold Scott Jr, Account Specialist Malori Lewis, CFO Tom Josiah, and Police Chief Marcus Whitney

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

REVIEW/DISCUSSION

Proposed FY25 Budget

Mayor Dougherty explained that the purpose of this Public Workshop is to review the proposed budget for FY25 and asked if there were any questions, concerns, or statements regarding the proposed budget.

Councilman Ridgely asked for clarification on the highlighted fields and confirmed the meaning of COLA as “Cost of Living Adjustment”.

Tom Josiah explained that the highlighted fields are those that have been updated since the first budget meeting took place in April.

Vice-Mayor Sturgeon asked for clarification as to the Business License line under Revenues being highlighted.

Mr. Josiah said that the Business License line was updated in error and has been corrected to the Building Permit line.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Ridgely confirmed that the budget has been discussed and staying within budget is a priority, but there may be a need to revisit some things later in the year.

Mayor Dougherty agreed that things may be revisited, when necessary.

Vice-Mayor Sturgeon wanted to reiterate that this budget is balanced due to one-time funding, such as the portion of land being sold for the Camden Bypass. We will not have that funding again, budget preparation for the next Fiscal Year will take some work and changes will need to be considered to ensure we continue presenting a balanced budget. Vice-Mayor Sturgeon suggests starting the budget process earlier next year to tackle these obstacles.

Councilman Ridgely agrees that we are a little in the red and understands that amounts coming from one-time funding are what has allowed us to have a balanced budget for FY25. He added that there is not much room for adjustment and confirmed that the budget does include two more Police Officers.

Vice-Mayor Sturgeon stated that this is a draft budget and has not been approved yet, and confirmed with Tom that nothing has changed since the last budget meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made at 6:37 p.m. by Councilwoman Rhodes, seconded by Vice-Mayor Sturgeon, to adjourn the Public Workshop. All in favor; none opposed.

*Respectfully submitted,
Malori Lewis, Account Specialist*