

**TOWN OF GEORGETOWN
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting Date: Wednesday, December 9, 2015
Location: Town Hall, 39 The Circle, Georgetown, DE
Time: 7:00 P.M. Regular Meeting

PRESENT:

Bill West, Mayor
Steve M Hartstein, Ward One
Rebecca Johnson-Dennis, Ward Two
Chris Lecates, Ward Three
Dave Anderson, Ward Four

STAFF PRESENT:

Angela Townsend, Town Clerk
Eugene S Dvornick, Jr Town Manager
Stephani Ballard, Town Solicitor
RL Hughes, II, Chief of Police

7:00 P.M. Regular Meeting

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor West led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. INVOCATION

Councilperson Lecates led the Invocation.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Motion by Councilperson Anderson, seconded by Councilperson Johnson-Dennis, to adopt the agenda as presented. **APPROVED (unanimous).**

4. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 10, 2015 TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Motion by Councilperson Lecates, seconded by Councilperson Anderson, to approve the minutes as presented. **APPROVED (unanimous).**

5. FY15 AUDIT RESULTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Sheldon Forney, Jefferson, Urine, Doane & Sterner, presented the FY15 Audit Results and Financial Statements.

6. LANKFORD SIGN RENEWAL

The contract is for two portable signs, from November 1, 2015 to November 1, 2016. The amount of the contract is \$2,000.00. Lankford Advertising will maintain and change the signs when notified; they will also carry the necessary insurance to cover liability.

Motion by Councilperson Lecates, seconded by Councilperson Hartstein, to accept the Lankford Sign Renewal. **APPROVED (unanimous).**

7. RESOLUTION #2015-7 2016 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Adoption by resolution of the actual date of the holiday is required in the Code of the Town of Georgetown. Councilperson Lecates asked that Christmas Eve be all day versus ½ day. Councilperson Lecates recommended changing Christmas Eve from ½ day off to all day.

Motion by Councilperson Hartstein, seconded by Councilperson Johnson-Dennis, to adopt Resolution #2015-7 – 2016 Holiday Schedule as amended. **APPROVED (unanimous).**

“Resolution #2015-7 is incorporated as part of the minutes.”

8. RESOLUTION #2015-8 2016 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

Adoption by resolution of the actual date of the meeting is required in the Code of the Town of Georgetown.

Motion by Councilperson Lecates, seconded by Councilperson Johnson-Dennis, to adopt Resolution #2015-8 – 2016 Town Council Meeting Schedule.

APPROVED (unanimous).

“Resolution #2015-8 is incorporated as part of the minutes.”

9. 1st READING OF ORDINANCES

A. ORDINANCE #2015-18 RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

Discussion regarding modifications to paragraph C regarding “screening from adjacent properties” and deletion of paragraph D. Screening.

B. ORDINANCE #2015-19 BUILDING CONSTRUCTION

Motion by Councilperson Lecates, seconded by Councilperson Anderson, to refund \$85.00 to the American Legion Ambulance Service for a building permit.

APPROVED (unanimous).

10. PARKING METER WAIVER

The waiver originated years ago for downtown merchants and convenience of shoppers during the Christmas season. The parking waiver if granted would be from Monday, December 14, 2015 thru Friday, January 1, 2016.

Motion by Councilperson Hartstein, seconded by Councilperson Anderson, to deny the Parking Meter Waiver. **APPROVED (unanimous).**

11. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

A. GENE DVORNICK – TOWN MANAGER

Special Event Policy

The Town has been working to craft a Special Event Policy to outline roles, responsibilities, and costs associated with various events held throughout the year – both Town Sponsored and non-Town sponsored. A working copy of the policy has been distributed to the Police Chief and Public Works Director for review and comment. Copies have been provided this evening – should you have any additional items you’d like included, please let me know by Wednesday, December 16, 2015.

King Street Water Treatment Facility Upgrades

The King Street Water Treatment Facility Upgrade Project is currently out for bid. There is a mandatory pre-bid meeting scheduled for Thursday, December 17th, 2015, 1:00 PM here at Town Hall. Bids are due on/before Wednesday, January 7th, 2016 by 2:00 PM at which time the bid opening will take place. Funding for this project is through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund with a 0% interest rate and 100% principal forgiveness at the completion of the project.

South Railroad Avenue Pavement Rehabilitation

The Town received official notice of the funding for the South Railroad Avenue Improvements in the amount of \$84,947.00 – paving is estimated at \$69,827.00 and ADA Sidewalk Improvements is estimated at \$15,120.00. Funding has been provided through Representative Briggs-King and her Community Transportation

Funds. Once the DelDOT Project Agreement is executed by both parties, the work can begin.

Miscellaneous

- Reminder:
 - There is no second Town Council Meeting this month
 - Town Hall will be closed from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM on Thursday, December 10th for our annual employee benefit plan and Town policy review meeting
- Town Offices will be closed on:
 - Thursday, December 24th, ½ day in observance of Christmas Eve
 - Friday, December 25th, in observance of Christmas Day
 - Friday, January 1st, in observance of New Year's Day

Legislative Items

Activity on the legislative front is starting up in anticipation of the second half of the 148th General Assembly. Both the Delaware League and Sussex County Association of Towns have identified the following as their priorities:

1. Realty Transfer Tax
 - Preservation of existing split between State and Municipals
2. Tax Intercept
 - Delinquent Municipal property taxes
3. HB 200 – Accessible Parking
 - Recommend continued compliance with Federal ADA guidelines
 - Municipalities already following and complying with law
4. Accommodations Tax
 - Modify Title 22 to allow taxation
 - Willing to have a cap on percent
 - Possible meeting with hotel lobbyist to learn of concerns/opposition
5. Municipal Street Aid and Community Transportation Funding
 - Maintain levels with no reductions
6. Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)
7. Clean Water Act for Delaware Act
8. Others:
 - Gas Tax
 - Job creation
 - Infrastructure improvement
 - Stable MSA and CTF funding
 - Minimum Wage
 - Sen. Marshall proposal to move towards \$15.00
 - Impact on small businesses
 - Impact on State of Delaware (seasonal employees)

Late yesterday, we received notice of draft legislation to modify the PILOT for State Owned Tax Exempt Properties to include Newark.

B. RL HUGHES, II – CHIEF OF POLICE

County Post did an article on RL Hughes and the Police Department.

Updates: Special Events Policy is critical, Legislation impacting DELJIS has been clarified – impact was not only e-mail it included secure access and computer

generation of citations and reporting. Shoplifting has been slightly up, burglary slightly down. Hired a former La Esperanza employee for the Victim Services position. School Resource Officer continues to get positive reviews. Police Academy recruits continue to do well. Thanks to Public Works, improvements at the police station continue – Phase I: Evidence Locker (complete); Phase II: new interview room and Phase III: conference room are planned next. Funding will be through selling the motor unit and other surplus vehicles. Additional grant funding will be explored as well.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

Thank you note received from Keith & Brice Hudson for the Town's expression of sympathy in the passing of their Mother

Correspondence from Mr. Keavney L. Watson regarding challenges obtaining employment in Sussex County

Mayor West shared information on the Sussex County Action Prevention Coalition (SCAPC) Town Hall Meeting on Thursday, January 14, 2016 at 6:30 PM, Carter Partnership Building – focus is prevention and education of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug usage in our county

Mayor West Thanked Councilperson Lecates for a wonderful employee Christmas Party

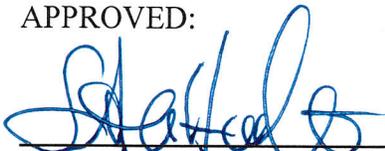
Mrs. Linda Miller, volunteer for Read Aloud Delaware, invited anyone interested in joining their program to contact her

Mayor West wished Merry Christmas to the people of Georgetown

13. ADJOURNMENT

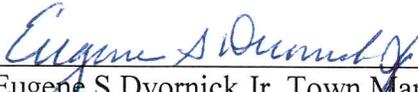
Motion by Councilperson Lecates, seconded by Councilperson Johnson-Dennis, to adjourn at 8:11 PM. **APPROVED (unanimous).**

APPROVED:



Steve M. Hartslein, Secretary

ATTEST:



Eugene S. Dvornick Jr, Town Manager