

**TOWN OF GEORGETOWN  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Meeting Date:** Wednesday, March 9, 2016  
**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

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Kristen Dabrowski, Receptionist  
Eugene S. Dvornick, Jr, Town Manager  
R L Hughes II, Police Chief

**ABSENT:**

Jason Loar, Town Engineer  
Stephani Ballard, Town Solicitor

**7:00 P.M. Regular Meeting**

**1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Bill West led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. INVOCATION**

Councilperson Lecates led the Invocation.

**3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

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

**4. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 24, 2016 TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES**

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

**5. 2<sup>ND</sup> READING & ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE**

**ORDINANCE #2016-3 FOOD VENDORS**

Amending Chapter 119, Ice Cream Peddlers, and Chapter 98, Fees

Motion by Councilperson Lecates, seconded by Councilperson Johnson-Dennis, to adopt Ordinance #2016-3 Food Vendors. **APPROVED (unanimous).**

**“Ordinance #2016-3 is incorporated as part of the minutes.”**

**6. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

**A. GENE DVORNICK – TOWN MANAGER**

**Stevenson Lane Site**

The Department of Natural Resources has completed the Proposed Plan of Remedial Action (PPRA) for the Stevenson Lane Site (DE-0224) and is proposing an Environmental Covenant with the following: Restriction to non-residential uses (commercial, manufacturing, or industrial); Restriction on digging and excavating without prior DNREC approval; Limitation on groundwater withdraw without prior DNREC approval; and Development of a Contaminated Materials Management Plan.

A 20 day comment period will begin once the PPRA is advertised. After this period the Town can request the Certification of Completion of Remedy (COCR).

### **Downtown Development District Plan**

Our Downtown Development District Plan Task Force held its 4<sup>th</sup> meeting last week (February 29<sup>th</sup>) – the focus was on refinement of goals and objectives for the DDD as well as possible local incentives for consideration by the Town. The current identified boundaries for the DDD extend along East Market Street from The Circle to Parsons Lane and North Race Street from East Market Street to just before J. G. Townsends. A copy of the proposed boundary has been distributed.

### **2016 Annual Municipal Election**

Statements of Candidacy for Mayor, Ward 3, and Ward 4 are available. The deadline for completion and filing is April 22, 2016. Should an election be needed it will be held on Saturday, May 14, 2016 from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

### **Miscellaneous**

- Legislative Update
- 101 East Market Street – Significant progress has been made – photographs and material sample available for review.
- Town Hall will be closed from 10:30 AM to NOON on Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, for Delaware Economic Development Office sponsored Team Building Workshop
- Upcoming Events:
  - **Budget Workshop:** Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM, Georgetown Train Station
  - **2016 Downtown Delaware Revitalize! Awards Ceremony:** Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 PM baby Grand, Wilmington
  - **Sussex County Association of Towns Legislative Breakfast:** Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 AM, CHEER Georgetown

## **B. R L HUGHES II – POLICE CHIEF**

### **Police Department Renovations**

Your Police Department renovations are coming along very well and it would not be possible without the help from Billy Bradley, Hobie, Bobby, Donald, and the rest of the Public Works Department. They are such a hardworking group; Kudos to all of them.

### **Recent Police Work**

- As far as the actual police work, we do have a number of things. And actually, I have some very good news to report. As I was coming in tonight, we have apprehended two (2) juveniles spray painting over at Briggs Construction. The arresting officers were Mark Rogers and Edgar Verde. We are not sure if these are the culprits for the 40 plus graffiti cases and we are not sure if this will put a stop to all of the graffiti cases, but this is definitely a good start. Also, as suspected, the two (2) juveniles apprehended are not gang-related.
- Additionally, sexual assaults do occur here. We picked up two (2) more people today. These cases are very tough and very time consuming. Fortunately, having Mayra, our Victims Services person, has helped tremendously and is working out wonderfully. It is also beneficial having her help with the language barrier with these cases. Right now, I have two (2) officers doing detective work; Tommy Tyndall and Brad Cordrey. They could be working on these cases for up to six (6) weeks. While they are working on those cases, other cases need to be taken care of us well.

- Other crime trends resurfacing in Georgetown are Shoplifting. A lot of that is the fact that our Cadets are not out there. We have cut back on their hours during the winter months because they are back in school. We hope to have them back later on this spring so we can pin point problems and have them do some more work.
- Drug Crimes are still an issue. Yes, heroin is a problem. We have not seen as many cases recently in the last three (3) weeks, but it is still a problem we need to be aware of.
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### **New Hires**

Edgar Verde, Washington Alava, and Tykee Perry are doing a wonderful job. They are on week three (3) of the field training, and have nine (9) more weeks to go before they finish the twelve week FTO process. The FTO process is mapped out so that every week there is certain topics that must be covered by the Field Training Officer. I am also requiring that every day the recruit has a D.O.R, Daily Observation Report. The field training officer fills out this report and the report evaluates the recruit's performance. One of the changes I did make was that the recruit will also fill out a D.O.R that evaluates the senior officer. I made this change so we can get some helpful feedback. So far this process is working out really well. I personally review all of the Daily Observation Reports for both the recruit and the senior officer. I am looking to make sure we have great communication in our department. We are excited to get the new hires out on their own because we do have some ideas for changing our structure so we can better serve Georgetown.

### **Grants**

Grant season is upon us. There are a couple grants out there that we are looking into. We now have an evidence processing room, and we need some forensic science equipment. We are looking into the Coverdale Forensic Science Grant that could bring in 14 to \$15,000.00. We are looking for some revenue in all of the right places.

### **Georgetown Police Advisory Council**

I now have the commitment of two (2) people so I will be sending out an e-mail to say we are going to have a meeting probably the last week in March or the first week in April.

### **Upcoming Events**

- Officer Joey Melvin will be hosting the very first Georgetown Junior Police Academy this summer. The requirements are: 1. You must be a middle school student. You do not have to attend Georgetown Middle School. 2. They must hold at least a B average. 3. They must have recommendations from people in the community. The academy will be a week long, two (2) weeks after school lets out for the summer. It will begin at 7:30 AM and the participants will run through physical training and a miniature police academy training appropriate to their age. This will teach them some of the things that Police Officers have to do and what they go through. We are hoping that this will spark some interest later on down the road.
- Next week, run by officer Joel Diaz, the kindergarten center is having a family fun night that our department is taking part in.
- A few weeks later we have another event, also run by Joel Diaz, which we are working on with North Georgetown School.

- Joel has a lot of ideas for events that he wants to move forward with this summer.

### **Questions**

Councilperson Lecates asked “How are you coming along with the burglary case that just occurred?”

R L answered “We did pick up on a lead today, and we are confident we will catch the culprits.”

## **7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Gene Dvornick, Town Manager

Today was Delaware League of Local Governments end of National League of cities Congress and we had the opportunity to meet with Senator Coons and Senator Carper. There was a lot of talk about some things they are focusing on. The biggest thing is for the first time in probably seven (7) years, they passed a comprehensive transportation bill, and it has five (5) years of commitment toward transportation, and this time there are actually funds that are going into it to see the transportation being funded. Also, the RND tax credit was made permanent as part of the transportation bill.

Senator Coons spoke about local law enforcement, and one of the things he talked about was violence reduction network. This is a combination of local and federal agencies that are going to do their annual meeting in Wilmington. Mayor Williams was there while this was being said, and he was nodding his head in agreement that this was going to take place.

A new Market Tax Credit that focuses on mixed use properties and economic incentive areas. So far, in Delaware, the only place that has taken advantage of that is Smyrna.

There was a significant focus on Veterans Affairs and Service for Veterans and what they are experiencing from a medical standpoint. Senator Carper will be holding a Town Hall meeting at the Elsmere VA Hospital where they have asked the Inspector General to come and share his results of the study they have done on all of the VA Clinics and to explain exactly what they information means.

Senator Carper also spoke a good amount about the opiate crisis facing the entire nation. They are working with more clinic/treatment facilities trying to start some type of program with a pharmacy lock. That meaning if you are someone who is normally receiving some sort of opiate for pain, you will only be able to go to a specific pharmacy instead of being able to jump around from place to place. TDC is receiving funding for alternative medicines and he recognized that it is not just a Delaware problem, it is nationwide.

## **8. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A. Mayor and Council will meet in executive session which authority is pursuant to “29 Del.C. §10004(b)(2) for preliminary discussion of sales or leases of real property.”

Motion by Councilperson Lecates, seconded by Councilperson Hartstein, to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:31pm.

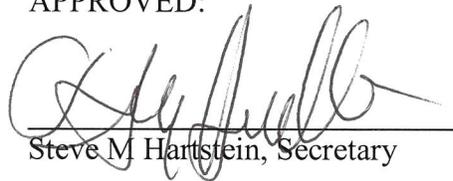
Executive Session exited at 8:00pm.

Motion by Councilperson Lecates, seconded by Councilperson Johnson-Dennis to appoint Mr. Robert Holston to fill the Ward 4 vacancy. **APPROVED** (*unanimous*). *Abstained: Hartstein*

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

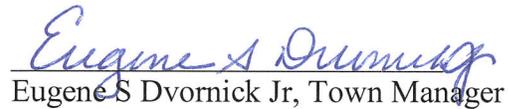
Motion by Councilperson Hartstein, seconded by Councilperson Lecates, to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. **APPROVED** (*unanimous*).

APPROVED:



Steve M Hartstein, Secretary

ATTEST:



Eugene S Dvornick Jr, Town Manager