

**TOWN OF GEORGETOWN  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Meeting Date:** Wednesday, March 8, 2017  
**Location:** Town Hall, 39 The Circle, Georgetown, DE 19947  
**Time:** 6:45 P.M. Public Hearing  
Regular Meeting – Immediately Following Public Hearing

**PRESENT:**

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

**STAFF PRESENT:**

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

**ABSENT:**

Bob Holston, Ward Four

**6:45 P.M. PUBLIC HEARING**

Town Manager Dvornick spoke: The Public Hearing tonight is for the authorization up to \$500,000 supplemental financing for the upgrades and improvements to the King Street Water Plant Project. This is an addition to the \$3,300,000 that we already have secured. This is through the Office of Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. It will be at a 0% interest rate, with 100% principal forgiveness at the conclusion of the project.

Mayor West asked for any questions or comments.

No one spoke.

Public Hearing ended.

**REGULAR MEETING – IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING PUBLIC HEARING**

**1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Town Manager Dvornick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. INVOCATION**

Councilwoman Lecates led the Invocation

**3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

**4. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 22, 2017 TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES**

Motion by Councilwoman Lecates, seconded by Councilwoman Johnson-Dennis to approve the February 22, 2017 Town Council Minutes as presented. **Motion Carried (unanimous)**

**5. BID AWARD – TOWN HALL & ANNEX**

Town Manager Dvornick presented Council with an overview of the bid award for the Town Hall and Annex Project. The four (4) bids received were from John L. Briggs Co., Kent Construction, Amakor Inc., and EDiS in the amounts of \$1,343,000, \$1,388,000, \$1,542,000, and

\$1,595,000 respectively. John L. Briggs Co. had the lowest overall bid. Our engineer, Davis, Bowen & Friedel, recommended that we award the bid to John L. Briggs Co.

Motion by Councilwoman Lecates, seconded by Councilman Hartstein to award the bid for the Town Hall & Annex project to John L. Briggs Co. **Motion Carried (unanimous)**

## 6. WAPLES DRIVE – NO PARKING REQUEST

Town Manager Dvornick presented Council with an overview of the No Parking Request on Waples Drive.

We had a similar situation on Mae Street. The Town put up “No Parking” signs and we painted the curb yellow.

### QUESTIONS:

Chris Lecates

- Is this a dead end?
  - Gene Dvornick responded: Yes, this is a dead end.

Rebecca Johnson-Dennis

- Who is parking there?
  - Gene Dvornick responded: I am not sure. He indicates that people were parking there and when they turn around, they end up driving on his lawn.

Chris Lecates

- Did he say that there was a lot of foot traffic as well?
  - Gene Dvornick responded: Yes, there is foot traffic. Delmarva Power owns the property they are walking on. It is where the substation is. There is a big sign in English and Spanish that says “No Trespassing”. They are not paying any attention to this sign.

Motion by Councilwoman Lecates, seconded by Councilwoman Johnson-Dennis to approve the placement of “No Parking” signs and painting the curb yellow at the dead end on Waples Drive. **Motion Carried (unanimous)**

## 7. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

### A. GENE DVORNICK – TOWN MANAGER

#### 2017 ANNUAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Statements of Candidacy for Ward 1 and Ward 2 are currently available. The deadline for completion and filing is April 21, 2017. Should an election be needed it will be held on Saturday, May 13, 2017.

#### FY 2018 BUDGET WORKSHOP

The Finance Staff and I have been working on the FY 2018 Budget – initial projections were distributed this evening. We would like to schedule a workshop with the Mayor and Council to review the information, identify alternatives, and discuss potential solutions to address the projected deficit.

Possible dates: Tuesday, March 14; Thursday, March 16; Tuesday, March 21; or Thursday, March 23.

Council chose to meet on Thursday, March 23, at 4:30pm for the FY 2018 Budget Workshop.

#### **NORTH BEDFORD STREET & BRIDGEVILLE ROAD**

The Town has been in contact with the Department of Transportation, Division of Maintenance & Operations, Roadside Environmental regarding the two (2) islands at the intersection of Bridgeville Road and North Bedford Street.

They are requesting completion of a Right of Way Use Application – Landscape Request. Proposal is to request replacement of planting area (wester side) with stamped concrete and a combination of plants/river stone on the eastern side (see hand out). DELDOT does require use of a Certified Landscape Designer or Registered Landscape Architect to assist with the design and drawings.

Council granted permission to move forward with replacing the planting area with stamped concrete and a combination of plants and river stone.

#### **CTF PROJECT UPDATE**

The anticipated start date for repaving Burger King Road is March 21 – immediately followed by Bramhall Street. Both jobs are weather dependent.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

- DLLG Capitol Hill Visit to Washington, DC: Wednesday, March 15, 2017
- Sussex Count Association of Towns: Legislative Breakfast: Friday, April 7, at 9:00 AM, Georgetown CHEER Center.

#### **B. RL HUGHES II – CHIEF OF POLICE**

- So far this year, Georgetown Police Department has handled 926 criminal incidents where a report has been required. That excludes traffic reports. Of those, 139 resulted in a criminal arrest.
- The area of most concern for me would be robberies. We have had seven (7) robberies this year. Three (3) of which involved a handgun. The good news is we apprehended the suspects with the handgun. Troy Bean and Katie Quillen did the apprehension seconds after the robbery was called in.
- One thing for sure, we are doing a power shift now. We have two cars coming in at 7:00am, and a third car coming in at noon. We still have the night time detective coming in at 2:00, five (5) days a week. We have our regular day work detectives, total of three (3), coming in later. We are trying to get as much coverage as we can out there.
- In the coming months, now that we have Tommy Tyndall on board as an administrators Lieutenant, we are going to be working on our On-Call and night work for commissions officers. I try to come in on a Friday night to get some work done, and my expectation is that all of the commissions officers will be doing the same at least one night out of the week. Preferably on the weekend (Thursday, Friday, or Saturday).
- We have investigated so far, 84 crashes within our city limits. Fortunately, most of them, about 77, have been personal injuries. A lot of that is because of speed and they usually take place on the highway.
- We have had a number of seizures as a result of being out on the highway working.

- So far we have issued 453 traffic citations. This is an increase from this same time last year, which was an increase from the previous year. A lot of driving while distracted citations. Statistics tell us that is what is causing crashes now, so we are putting a focus on that. Seatbelts are also a big offender.
- We have only had 11 DUI arrests so far this year. Which to me seems a little low. When we take a look at our statistics, we are not seeing DUI being a result of the crashes.
- One thing I did want to point out is, many of you I'm sure are aware that they Indian River School District referendum passed. That means there will be an eight (8) cent per every \$100 assessed value to go towards security. I am very hopeful that we will be secure in our funding for our grant to pay for our School Resource Officer. I think that he adds tremendous value to our agency, to the schools, and to the community.
- The interim superintendent had asked me for some statistics. Now I think that if you are only measuring the success of a school resource officer by the number of arrests that is wrong. I did the statistics by the number of incident reports rather than number of reports. Since September, 2015, he has had 85 criminal reports. He has investigated four (4) crashes that involved school busses in our city limits. More importantly, just this school year alone, he has been involved in 11 sexual offenses that have been reported to him because of the relationship he has formed through trust. As a group, I would ask that if you have contact with the school board that you express your opinion, which I hope is you feel he is a great value to the Town.
- The DART project, Bus Hub, was approved. It will be about \$40,000 but that will give us five (5) additional cameras on that part of Town.
- We did see an increase in the number of drug arrests we have made. 21 drug arrests year to date.
- Lastly, the renovation at the Police Department is finished. Public Works has done a fantastic job. We hope to have an open house when spring gets here. The last part that we need to work on is Advantech.

#### QUESTIONS:

Chris Lecates

- Will we have surveillance for the Christmas Tree this year?
  - Chief Hughes responded: Yes we will.
- Any idea when they Junior Cadet Camp will be held?
  - Chief Hughes responded: We will be having two this year. We try to give the kids a week off from school before we have the camp. The first one, which will be for the Junior Junior Cadets, will be the second week after school ends. The second camp, which is for the Senior Junior Cadets, will be held the following week.
- Joey really has put some nice PR out there. I am impressed.
  - We had the opportunity to take advantage of free training from the FBI. The training was on Public Information and Media Use.

Steve Hartstein

- What was the main cause of distractive driving?
  - Chief Hughes responded: Cell phones are the biggest culprit.

Rebecca Johnson-Dennis

- What were the drugs found on those arrests?
  - Heroin. And a lot of Marijuana. Almost every time we get someone with heroin, they get caught with marijuana as well. We have been working with the Drug

Addiction Section very closely. Seaford and Georgetown will be pilot programs. I have talked to Mike, and told him that if we get someone, say shoplifting, and they are on heroin, and they admit that they have an addiction problem, we will speak to the judge on their behalf to get them the help they need. The drug charge will stay with them, but we will be willing to help them get better. We are also working on a grant to add additional foot patrols. One of the options that we have, is that we will have a uniformed officer and someone from Health and Social Services that could walk around in hopes of meeting people willing to talk about recovery. We can not arrest our way out of this. We have to treat this as the medical disease that it is. The state has to do better with providing the resources here in Sussex County.

**8. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No one spoke.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Councilwoman Lecates, seconded by Councilman Hartstein to adjourn at 7:16pm.

**Motion Carried (unanimous)**

APPROVED:



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Steve M Hartstein, Secretary

ATTEST:



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Eugene S Dvornick Jr., Town Manager