

**TOWN OF GEORGETOWN  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Meeting Date:** Monday, February 26, 2024  
**Location:** 39 The Circle, Georgetown, DE 19947

Live Stream Can be Found at the Following Link:  
Website: <https://www.georgetowndel.com/live-stream.htm>

Zoom.us/join  
Zoom Meeting ID: 849 4993 0438

**Time:** 7:00 PM Regular Meeting

**TOWN COUNCIL PRESENT:**

Bill West, Mayor  
Christina Diaz-Malone, Ward One (Zoom)  
Anthony Neal, Ward Two  
Angela Townsend, Ward Three  
Penuel Barrett, Ward Four)

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Eugene S. Dvornick Jr., Town Manager  
Stephani J. Ballard, Town Solicitor (Zoom)  
Diana Ramirez, Administration  
Bobby Fletcher, Public Works

**7:00 PM REGULAR MEETING**

**1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Member of Boy Scouts of America, Troop 95 led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. INVOCATION**

Councilman Neal led the Invocation.

**3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Motion by Councilwoman Townsend, seconded by Councilman Neal to adopt the agenda.  
**Motion Carried (unanimous)**

**4. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 12, 2024 TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES**

Motion by Councilman Barrett, seconded by Councilman Neal to approve the February 12, 2024 Town Council Minutes as presented. **Motion Carried (unanimous)**

**5. COUNCILMEMBERS COMMENTS**

Councilwoman Diaz-Malone, Ward 1

- Thank you to Troop 95 for being present at Town events (clean-up, etc.) – they can always be counted upon for helping out

Councilman Neal, Ward 2

- Appreciates everything in Town and still learning about issues & concerns

Councilwoman Townsend, Ward 3

- None

Councilman Barrett, Ward 4

- None

Mayor West

- Reminded Council he would be attending the National League of Cities, Congressional City Conference, and missing the March 11, 2024 Town Council Meeting. After discussion, it was decided the meeting would be held as scheduled with the Vice Mayor presiding.

**6. PRESENTATION – OFFICE OF THE MARIJUANA COMMISSIONER**

Commission Rob Coupe presented information on his office and the recent legislation regarding marijuana, items included:

- Overview of HB2 Delaware Marijuana Control Act
- Timeline for Implementation and License Types
- Office of the Marijuana Commissioner (OMC)
- Health & Safety
- Current Marijuana Industry – Office of Medical Marijuana
- Considerations – Towns, Cities and Rescheduling
- Legislative Requests – Technical Fixes and New Legislation
- Budget Projections

Questions/Comments from Council

- Councilwoman Diaz-Malone
  - Will medical marijuana and recreational marijuana remain separate?
    - *Anticipate there being a merging/conversion of the two*
  - How many medical users in Georgetown?
    - *No specific as to 'in-town' – 301 in the 19947 ZIP Code*
  - Current medical dispensary is clean, secure, looks clinical, feel safe. Will this be the same for retail establishments?
    - *Regulations are similar, packaging requirements, some states have opted to use reservation/appointment systems to ensure order*
  - What are Social Equity Applicants?
    - *Individuals impacted by arrest, location, court actions*
  - What protections does the Town have?
    - *OMC will not issue a license without compliance with Town, County, and other local requirements*
  - How is the Tax on marijuana spent?
    - *15% tax on retail sale – no tax on medical marijuana*

- *7% of the collections go to the Justice Reinvestment Fund; 93% goes to the State General Fund*
- Councilman Neal
  - Concerned over individual self-growing
  - How do we make sure there is no negative impact on addicts or those in recovery
- Councilwoman Townsend
  - How are Social Equity and expungement different or are they the same
- Councilman Barrett
  - None
- Mayor West
  - How does regulated marijuana differ from black market marijuana?
    - *Tracking and testing (cultivation through sale); organic growing (no pesticides)*
  - How are the funds collected for the Justice Reinvestment Fund allocated?
    - *Oversight of this fund rests with the Criminal Justice Council*

Final Comments/Observations:

- Marijuana is legal to possess (2015)
- Marijuana is legal to use (2023)
- No place to purchase
- Market for marijuana products is growing – infused drinks is a new trend

**7. INITIAL PRESENTATION OF FY 2025 BUDGET**

Town Manager Dvornick presented the initial FY 2025 Budget. Discussed the next steps for a budget workshop before final adoption.

**8. 1ST READING OF ORDINANCES**

**A. Ordinance 2024-02 Vacation Leave Accrual**

Town Manager Dvornick read an overview of Ordinance 2024-02 Vacation Leave Accrual.

This is the first reading. No action at this time.

**B. Ordinance 2024-03 Fire and Carbon Monoxide Alarms**

Town Manager Dvornick read an overview of Ordinance 2024-03 Fire and Carbon Monoxide Alarms.

This is the first reading. No action at this time.

**C. Ordinance 2024-04 Outdoor Grills.**

Town Manager Dvornick read an overview of Ordinance 2024-04 Fire and Carbon Monoxide Alarms.

This is the first reading. No action at this time.

**9. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

**A. TOWN MANAGER – GENE DVORNICK**

**Project Updates**

- Sussex County Family Court Facility
  - 1) Main building steel erection is complete
  - 2) Rooftop and 3<sup>rd</sup> floor concrete poured
  - 3) Under slab MEP continues
  - 4) Exterior wall frame out continues
- Kimmey Street & Pepper Street Roadway Improvements
  - 1) Pre-Bid Meeting held on February 15
  - 2) No attendees (not mandatory)
  - 3) Bid Due Date – February 29 at 3:00 PM
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial
  - 1) Deed from College Park Residential to Town of Georgetown recorded February 6, 2024
  - 2) Parcel is now included in Town owned open space/parkland
  - 3) Seeking funding for 6 bollard lights along the pathway to the memorial

**ARPA Encumbrances**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Obligated</b>	<b>Vendor</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>TC Approved</b>
Biolac	\$171,875.00	Parkson Corporation	Biolac Repairs/Nozzles/Biofuser Replacement, Barge Purchase	September 8, 2021
SCI Elevated Storage	\$88,500.00	Davis, Bowen & Friedel Inc	Preliminary Engineering	September 22, 2021
PS Rehabilitation	\$51,000.00	Beacon Engineering	Preliminary Engineering	September 22, 2021
Pooled Lawyer	\$16,332.50	Barnes \$ Thornberg	Lawyer	October 13, 2021
Flygt Pump (Wastewater)	\$15,427.00	Xylem	Submersible Pump (Cedar Lane)	October 27, 2021
Springboard Collaborative	\$500,000.00	Sub-recipient	Pallet Shelters	May 9, 2022

AMI Proposal	\$31,000.00	Davis, Bowen & Friedel Inc	Engineering Services	July 25, 2022
Main Station Upgrade	\$57,500.00	Davis, Bowen & Friedel Inc	Engineering Services	October 24, 2022
AMI Equipment Purchase	\$500,000.00	Core & Main	Initial Equipment Purchase	June 12, 2023
<b>Total Encumbered</b>	<b>\$1,431,634.50</b>			

- Upcoming Events
  - 1) Dog Park Committee, February 27, 7:00 PM, Town Hall
  - 2) Sussex County Association of Towns – No March Dinner Meeting
  - 3) Sussex County Association of Towns – Steering Committee – Friday, March 8, 9:00 AM
  - 4) “Hill Day” – Wednesday, March 13, 9:00 AM, Washington, DC
- Legislative Update
  - 1) In recess for Joint Finance Hearings
  - 2) State of the State Address on March 5
  - 3) Bill Tracking

**B. PUBLIC WORKS – BOBBY FLETCHER**

- Public Works Department
  - 1) Poly jacking sidewalks on South Railroad Ave. from Stevenson Ln. south to the end of sidewalk has been completed.
  - 2) The sweeper truck still has been doing a great job on streets since repairs and adjustments were made.
  - 3) Have met with Sussex Conservation District on problem ditches, Calhoun ST. where we have had a concrete beaver, Pepper St. Ext. and East Laurel St. needs to be cleaned out silt and trees to be removed. It was a very positive meeting.
  - 4) Public Works has been picking up trash along Railroad tracks from Depot St. to Douglas St.
  - 5) Installed mop sink at Police Department prisoner's bathroom, replaced flush handle on urinal, flapper in toilet, and added faucet in kitchen area.
  - 6) Replaced circle inner bollard light and wired in from accident.
  - 7) Safety inspection of playground equipment has been completed.
  - 8) Spring cleaning of parks has begun; mulching of flower beds will follow up in March
  - 9) Steps at Town Hall 39 The Circle to be repaired in April, re mortar all joints, fix broken corner, and relevel by poly jacking

10) HVAC has been repaired at 37 The Circle (Admin building one unit had slow leak)

- Water Department

- 1) Three water leaks at Wagamon Ave., West Adams St., and South Bedford St. all three were 4" ductile iron pipe that had cracked all the way around.
- 2) Water dept. has taken delivery of most of the new Kamstrup AMI water meters and are currently stored at public works facility.
- 3) All three new hires have been enrolled in basic water operators course at Del Tech Community College
- 4) Raising and straightening Fire hydrants throughout town
- 5) Leaking sky lights (well access in roof area) have been replaced
- 6) Installed 1" service 92' feet of Polly pipe with new valve and frost-free yard hydrant at main pump station for wastewater department

## 10. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Sunny Gyani – 22512 Springfield Lane

- The Town should look at ways for more revenue

B. Louise Rathfon, Troop 95

- Thank Council for all they do – very nice to see the main roads repaired

## 11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilwoman Townsend, seconded by Councilman Neal to adjourn at 8:30 pm.

**Motion Carried (unanimous)**

APPROVED:



Angela Townsend, Secretary

ATTEST:



Eugene S. Dvornick Jr., Town Manager

*\*These minutes are a summary of the meeting. Complete audio and visual recordings are available upon request\**