

**TOWN OF GEORGETOWN
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting Date: Wednesday, January 12, 2022
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: 846 5559 4636

Time: 7:00 PM Regular Meeting

TOWN COUNCIL PRESENT:

Bill West, Mayor
Christina Diaz-Malone, Ward One
Sue Barlow, Ward Two
Angela Townsend, Ward Three
Penue! Barrett, Ward Four

STAFF PRESENT:

Eugene S. Dvornick Jr., Town Manager
Stephani J. Ballard, Town Solicitor

7:00 PM REGULAR MEETING

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Town Manager Dvornick led the pledge of allegiance.

2. INVOCATION

Mayor West led the invocation.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Councilwoman Townsend, seconded by Councilwoman Barlow to adopt the agenda as presented. **Motion Carried (unanimous)**

4. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 8, 2021 TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Motion by Councilwoman Townsend, seconded by Councilman Barrett to approve the December 8, 2021 Town Council Minutes as presented. **Motion Carried (unanimous)**

5. COUNCILMEMBERS COMMENTS

Councilwoman Diaz-Malone, Ward 1

- Thank you to everyone who attended the New Year's Eve event.

Councilwoman Barlow, Ward 2

- Disappointed that the rental property inspection ordinance was not on this agenda
- Would like back up for GREAT Fund requests provided before the meeting

Councilwoman Townsend, Ward 3

- Can the Police Department be included in our cleaning services?
- Will Department Heads be scheduled to attend our meetings once a month again?
- Council and Mayor need to get together and come up with a list of goals we want to achieve this year
- Requesting that the Mayor and Council meet with the individual department heads and figure out what their individual needs are for the FY23 Budget.

Councilman Barrett, Ward 4

- Thank you to Public Works on their great job with the snow removal
- How long is Mike Picarello staying with us?
- Thank you for everyone who attended the New Year's Eve event
- Several people have asked why Mayor West voted against awarding the bid for the water department vehicle to First State Chevy. Asked Mayor West to explain.

Mayor West

- Thank you to Linda Price from the Chamber of Commerce for helping put together the New Year's Eve event.
- As to First State Chevy bid, Mayor advised it seems unethical when a Councilmember is associated with a business receiving funds from the Town of Georgetown

6. DELDOT PRESENTATION – NEWLY ADDED CTP PROJECTS

Jennifer Cinelli-Miller, Transportation Planner with DelDOT, presented to Mayor and Council regarding the draft FY23-FY28 Capital Transportation Plan Update. Also discussed the current Sussex County Planning studies, and statewide transportation planning.

7. FY 2021 AUDIT PRESENTATION

Sheldon Forney, Jefferson Urian Doane and Sterner, presented Council with an overview of the FY 2021 Audit. The Town is in good standing and has reduced debt.

8. GREAT FUND REQUESTS

A. GEORGETOWN LITTLE LEAGUE (\$15,000) – FENCING

Motion by Councilwoman Townsend, seconded by Councilwoman Barlow to approve \$15,000 from the GREAT Fund for fencing at Georgetown Little League.

Motion Carried (unanimous)

B. SANDHILL FIELDS (\$100,000) – PRESENTATION AND REQUEST

Brad Leinbach, General Manager at Sandhill Fields, and Stacey Short presented their request for indoor artificial field and a multi-use sport court.

Questions/Comments from Council:

Councilwoman Townsend

- No history as to how Sandhill Fields started. Who funds the complex? Who is responsible for the complex?

Councilman Barrett

- What did the Town put up on Phase 1?
 - Grass cutting and trash collections only. No financial contribution
- I cannot see how we can give this organization \$100,000 when we can't even give our emergency services this kind of money.

Councilwoman Barlow

- I can't see how the town of Georgetown is receiving any income from the use of the field because most of the people that use the field, are not Georgetown residents.

Councilwoman Diaz-Malone

- Had to do some background work on how we funded the GREAT Fund. Also, did not see where we have approved a request this large.
- I would have liked to have seen a breakdown of the demographics.
- There was no mention of the value of the people utilizing this complex and coming into Town.

Mayor West

- To say we are not getting any benefit from this is ridiculous. These people need a place to stay. They need somewhere to eat. I have noticed restaurants and churches are packed full when there are sporting events happening at Sandhill Fields.
- Joe Schell did state to me that this indoor facility can be used for concerts, and church services.

Motion by Councilwoman Diaz-Malone to approve request.

Motion Failed for lack of a Second.

C. SOUTH RAILROAD AVENUE TO PARK AVENUE MULTIMODAL PATH FEASIBILITY STUDY (\$2,500)

Motion by Councilwoman Townsend, seconded by Councilman Barrett to approve \$2,500 from the GREAT Fund for the Multimodal path feasibility study.

Motion Carried (unanimous)

9. DISCUSSION ITEM

A. TOWN COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

- Councilman Barrett brought up changing the Town Council meeting schedule from the 2nd and 4th Wednesday to either Mondays or Tuesdays.
- Mayor West - Scheduling conflicts with engineers and meetings have been on Wednesdays for years. Everyone has their schedules. Suggest this issue be deferred until after elections.

Motion by Councilman Barrett, seconded by Councilwoman Diaz-Malone to change the meeting schedule from Wednesday nights to Monday nights starting 30 days from today.

Motion Carried (unanimous)

10. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

A. TOWN MANAGER – GENE DVORNICK

FY 2023 Budget

The Town has begun work on our FY 2023 Budget. A timeline is being developed to allow for each department head to present highlights as requested during last year's budget process. If there are any specific item(s) or projects you would like to see included in the budget, please let me know.

Project Updates:

- Water Main & Service Line Replacement Project
 - West Market Street replacements – completed
 - North Bedford is scheduled next
- Front Street & Wagamon Avenue Redesign
 - Requesting bids from 3 contractors (Del-Mar-Va Paving, Jerry's Paving, and Thompson & Sons Contracting)
- Wagamon Avenue Pavement Rehabilitation
 - Bids being reviewed – award anticipated at the January 26 Meeting

Police Chief Vacancy

The vacancy announcement for Chief of Police closed on December 31, 2021. A total of 10 applicants responded, 8 were complete with all information supplied, 2 were contacted to submit additional information. The next step will be for the Police Chief Recruitment & Recommendation Committee to meet and initially review the candidate's submissions.

Condemned Properties

The Town has received three bids for the demolition of 28 Ingramtown Road – the work is anticipated to be done within the next 2 weeks.

We are in the process of obtaining bids for demolition of 404 Old Laurel Road.

Miscellaneous

- Legislative Update
- Upcoming Events:
 - Town Offices Closed: Monday, January 17, in observation of Martin Luther King Jr. Day
 - Residential Rental Properties Ordinance: Monday, January 24, 2:00 PM, Town Hall

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

Maria Hammond, 507 North Bedford Street

- Called Code Enforcement about trees falling on my property from neighboring property. Why does my neighbor have to put more trees up?
 - Mayor West: I believe there was a conditional use on this property a long time ago.

- Concern with four wheelers down North Bedford Street by Royal Farms. Who is responsible for addressing this issue?

Dennis Winzenried, Park Avenue

- Upset that Sandhill Fields request was turned down. How could any Councilmember say they did not know what was happening with Sandhill Fields when it was all over the news? The Town benefits tremendously from this complex.
- The things happening at tonight's meeting is unbelievable. Moving Town Council meetings to accommodate one member of Council is unbelievable. You are inconveniencing the Town and the residents to suit one person's particular needs. That is not serving the residents interests.

Jon Peterson, North Bedford Street

- Sent the Town a link about the Chesapeake Watershed. There is extra money available through DNREC
- Will the Town consider a traffic study in the area of North Bedford Street and Edward Street? There is a lot of foot traffic in this area and vehicle traffic has increased exponentially due to construction in surrounding areas.
- I read through Ordinance 2007-6 for the GREAT Fund and I recommend we pull the money approved for the Little League because it does not fit all the requirements stated in the Ordinance.

Multiple Residents, area of Old Laurel Road

- Concerned with barking dog at night at neighboring property that has been happening for a few months.

Lance Mears,

- Thank you to Council for approving the Georgetown Little League's GREAT Fund request
- Need to come up with a solution for the sound system so everyone on live stream and Zoom can hear.

12. ADJOURNMENT

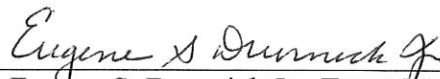
Motion by Councilman Barrett, seconded by Councilwoman Townsend to adjourn at 9:07pm.

Motion Carried (unanimous)

APPROVED:


Angela Townsend, Secretary

ATTEST:


Eugene S. Dvornick Jr., Town Manager