

**TOWN OF GEORGETOWN
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting Date: Monday, January 23, 2023
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: 841 3609 0093

Time: 6:30 PM Public Hearings
Regular Meeting Immediately Following Public Hearings

TOWN COUNCIL PRESENT:

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

STAFF PRESENT:

Eugene S. Dvornick Jr., Town Manager
Stephani J. Ballard, Town Solicitor
Ralph Holm, Chief of Police

6:30 PM PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. CASE #2022-35 CASA BLANCA MEXICAN GRILL – REZONE APPLICATION

Magali Tellez Blancas, applicant, and Robert Palmer, engineer from Beacon Engineering, presented an overview of the zoning map amendment application from UR1 to HC at the property located at 20898 DuPont Boulevard, identified as Sussex County Tax Parcel 135-14.19-34.00.

- Questions/comments posed from Council
- Questions/comments posed from members of the audience

The record will stay open until the next regular Town Council meeting.

B. ORDINANCE 2022-11 AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 230, ZONING ARTICLE XV, HC COMMERCIAL DISTRICT, 230-104 PERMITTED USES, AA. REGISTERED COMPASSION CENTER, (7) SIGNS

Town Manager Dvornick provided a timeline of events, addressed areas of concern and modifications with proposed ordinance 2022-11 Amendment to Chapter 230, Zoning Article XV, HC Commercial District, 230-104 Permitted Uses, AA. Registered Compassion Center, (7) Signs.

- No questions/comments from Council.
- Questions/comments posed from members of the audience

The record will stay open until the next regular Town Council meeting.

REGULAR MEETING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING PUBLIC HEARINGS

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 remove item #9 Springboard Pallet Village Update from the agenda and to adopt the agenda as amended.

Vote:

Councilwoman Diaz-Malone, Ward 1:	Yea
Councilwoman Barlow, Ward 2:	Yea
Councilwoman Townsend, Ward 3:	Yea
Councilman Barrett, Ward 4:	Yea
Mayor West:	Yea

Motion Carried (unanimous)

4. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 9, 2023 TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Motion by Councilwoman Diaz-Malone, seconded by Councilwoman Townsend to approve the January 9, 2023 Town Council Minutes as presented.

Vote:

Councilwoman Diaz-Malone, Ward 1:	Yea
Councilwoman Barlow, Ward 2:	Yea
Councilwoman Townsend, Ward 3:	Yea
Councilman Barrett, Ward 4:	Yea
Mayor West:	Yea

Motion Carried (unanimous)

5. COUNCILMEMBERS COMMENTS

Councilwoman Diaz-Malone, Ward 1

- Commented on trash in Town. There is a community clean-up day in Town that was started two years ago. We need to build some sort of responsibility and consciousness about how to handle trash.

Councilwoman Barlow, Ward 2

- Thank you to Bill West and Angela Townsend for their efforts with getting the Pallet Village where it is today.

Councilwoman Townsend, Ward 3

- Neighbors Helping Neighbors project was a huge success. Thank you to our Police Department for their help with directing traffic. Thank you to Louise from Boy Scout Troop 95, she had the boy scouts out there helping unload donations.
- Discussed the idea of having a “Quarter Drive” to help our homeless population do laundry at the local laundromats
- Spring block party is scheduled for March 18th from 12:00 to 6:00pm.
- I had two requests to put up additional flashing lights at Margaret/Wilson Street, and Nancy/Walter Street.

Councilman Barrett, Ward 4

- Question for Town Manager on the status of the meeting with Sun Behavioral.
- Request to have Discussion of Town Managers contract added to the February 13th Town Council agenda.
- Discussed how the Town allowed a business to operate without a business license for over a year.
- Pallet Shelters are coming along and look great.
- Questioned if the church service held at Sandhill Fields was run by the church or the Town.

Mayor West

- Placing the first homeless in the shelters will take place at the end of the month. Goal is to get 10 in the shelters a day until all forty are occupied.

6. GRANT FUND RECIPIENT REPORTS – GEORGETOWN RECREATION, EDUCATION, ARTS AND TRUST FUND

A. GEORGETOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY (\$24,750.00) – AUGUST 10, 2022

Town Manager Dvornick read into the record what was provided from the president of the Georgetown Historical Society on how the funds were spent.

B. GEORGETOWN LITTLE LEAGUE (\$15,000.00) – JANUARY 25, 2022

Town Manager Dvornick read into the record what was provided from the Georgetown Little League on how the funds were spent.

C. GEORGETOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY (\$30,000.00) – APRIL 12, 2022

Rachel Culver, Director of the Georgetown Public Library, presented to Council how the \$30,000.00 from the GREAT Fund was used.

D. SANDHILL FIELDS (\$25,000.00) – MAY 24, 2022

Town Manager Dvornick read into the record what was provided from the General Manager of Sandhill Fields on how the funds were spent.

7. GRANT FUND RECIPIENT REPORTS – GEORGETOWN EMERGENCY SERVICES FUND

A. AMERICAN LEGION AMBULANCE – STATION 93 (\$100,000.00) – MAY 11, 2022

Gary Morris, Manager of the Georgetown EMS, provided in writing a description of how the funds are planned to be spent.

Mr. Morris requested permission from Council to use the \$50,000 balance from the money granted in May 2022 and use it for renovations to their existing building. The reason for this change is because Station 93 was able to receive additional funding from other agencies to pay for the new ambulance in full. No additional money is being requested from the GREAT Fund. Town Solicitor clarified that this was not a request for new funds and Mr. Morris confirmed.

Motion by Councilwoman Diaz-Malone, seconded by Councilwoman Barlow to approve re-allocating the \$50,000.00 balance from the GREAT fund issued in May 2022 to be used for building renovations.

Vote:

Councilwoman Diaz-Malone, Ward 1:	Yea
Councilwoman Barlow, Ward 2:	Yea
Councilwoman Townsend, Ward 3:	Yea
Councilman Barrett, Ward 4:	Yea
Mayor West:	Yea

Motion Carried (unanimous)

B. GEORGETOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT – STATION 77 (\$25,523.18) – JUNE 18, 2022

Town Manager Dvornick read into the record what was provided from the Georgetown Fire Department on how the funds were spent.

8. CODE ENFORCEMENT UPDATE – RENTAL PROPERTY INSPECTION PROGRAM

Town Manager Dvornick provided a status update on the rental property inspections program. A spreadsheet showing all rental properties in Wards 1 and 3, and their inspection status was provided to Council.

- Questions/comments posed from Council
- Linda Dennis commented on the rental property inspection program and all the good that will come from it.

9. GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Town Manager Dvornick presented Council with the proposed guidelines for public comment.

Motion by Councilwoman Barlow, seconded by Councilwoman Diaz-Malone to approve the guidelines for public comment as presented.

Vote:

Councilwoman Diaz-Malone, Ward 1: Yea

Councilwoman Barlow, Ward 2: Yea
Councilwoman Townsend, Ward 3: Yea
Councilman Barrett, Ward 4: Yea
Mayor West: Yea

Motion Carried (unanimous)

10. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

A. TOWN MANAGER – GENE DVORNICK

Project Updates

- Water Main & Service Line Replacement
 - DelDOT Punch List provided to Contractor
- Park Avenue – Phase 1
 - Connection to existing force main scheduled for February 1
- Sussex County Family Court Facility
 - Site Contractor selected
 - Awaiting scheduling of preinstall conference
- Bedford & Market Street Rehabilitation
 - Awarded to Allan Myers
 - Mid-February Start
- Wagamon Avenue and Cinder Way Traffic Calming
 - Speed hump locations; estimated cost \$15,000
- Circle Bollards
 - Damages since 2018 - \$91,038
 - Requested Mini-Bond Funding for \$82,000
 - Funded through CTF (Sen. Pettyjohn & Rep. Briggs-King)

General Items

- Upcoming Events
 - Planning Commission Workshop: Tuesday, January 24, 6:00 PM, Town Hall
 - Delaware League of Local Governments: Thursday, January 26, 5:30 PM, Dover
 - Sussex County Association of Towns: February 1, 6:00 PM, Hosted by Georgetown
 - Sussex County Association of Towns Steering Committee: February 3, 9:00 AM, First State Community Action Agency
- Legislative Update

ARPA Encumbrances

Project	Obligated	Vendor	Description	TC Approved
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
Total Encumbered	\$931,634.50			

B. CHIEF OF POLICE – RALPH HOLM

- Organization Chart
- Objectives
 - Recruitment
 - New Hiring Process
 - Strategies
 - Uniform modification
 - New technology
 - Building Specialized Unites
 - Renovations
 - Training
 - Promotions
- Presented records in the Downtown Development District from September 1, 2022 to January 22, 2023
- Comparison of activity from previous year
 - Crash data comparison
 - E-ticket citation comparison
 - Calls for service

Michelle Robinson, Debbie Morrison, and Jim Deel, Mental Health Clinicians, presented information on The Guardian Program.

- Goal Statement
 - Providing mental health access
- Mental health clinicians job duty at Georgetown Police Department
- What to expect when contacted by a mental health clinician

11. NARCAN TRAINING – JIM DEEL

Jim Deel, Mental Health Clinician, provided an overview of the First Responder Naloxone Leave Behind Program.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Town Manager Dvornick read correspondence from Fleur McKendell requested to be into the record
- Dennis Winzenreid, Park Avenue
 - Commented how some Georgetown Town Council members continue to support flying the flag of oppression at the Marvel Carriage Museum, and the discrimination shown toward certain businesses on North Race Street because of their window displays.
- Mary Lou Barmby, Frankenberry Drive
 - On behalf of Georgetown Arts and Flowers group, thank you for approving the bollards to go around the Circle

13. ADJOURNMENT


Motion by Councilwoman Townsend, seconded by Councilman Barrett to adjourn at 8:54pm.

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