

**TOWN OF GEORGETOWN
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting Date: Wednesday, January 26, 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: 819 1241 5302

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
Penuel Barrett, Ward Four

STAFF PRESENT:

Eugene S. Dvornick Jr., Town Manager
Stephani J. Ballard, Town Solicitor
William Bradley, Director of Public Works

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 JANUARY 26, 2022 TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Councilwoman Townsend requested to add more detail to future minutes.

Motion by Councilwoman Townsend, seconded by Councilwoman Barlow to approve the January 12, 2022 Town Council Minutes as presented. **Motion Carried (unanimous)**

5. COUNCILMEMBERS COMMENTS

Councilwoman Barlow – Ward 2

- Bill Bradley and his team did a marvelous job with the snow storm
- Concerns with Candlelight Vigil
 - Not enough notice
 - Vigil is too soon.

- Putting more pressure on our already over worked and understaffed police department.
- Since there has been no arrest, it seems to me that there is still some danger out there.

Councilwoman Townsend, Ward 3

- The schedule for the budget presentations that is listed, will they be part of our meetings?
 - Gene Dvornick: Yes, they will each be at the scheduled Town Council meeting so the public can participate as well.
- We had received an email from the Lawson's about the POW/MIA chair. I know I responded but did anyone else respond?
 - Gene Dvornick: We will be working on that in the Spring to relocate it back outside.
- Will we ever hang the POW/MIA flag on the pole?
- Concerns with Candlelight Vigil
 - This will bring a big crowd and I want to be assured that it will be safe.
 - Captain Holm assured Council it is his job to make sure that any event in Town is safe. I feel confident that we are able to have a safe gathering. Discussed plans for safety and police presence on the Circle.
 - Townsend: When an event like this comes up, do they ever look at an alternative location? When it was presented to me, I thought about the possibility of having it at the Catholic Church so we didn't have to close any streets down.
 - Captain Holmadvised it has not been a discussion for this particular event

Councilman Barrett, Ward 4

- Requested a workshop to discuss the fees and the amount of money we spent in certain areas to possibly cut down on switching money from one account to another?
 - Town Manager Dvornick advised that is what we will be doing at the next four Council meetings. Tonight there will be a presentation on revenues. Water and Sewer is scheduled for February 14th. Public Works and Police are scheduled for February 28th. Administration and Planning is scheduled for March 14. By March 28th we will have everything together for a draft budget.
 - Councilman Barrett requested staff look into the money we spent this past year and figure out why we had to transfer \$800,000 dollars. If we don't know that, then we don't know what to work on.
- Public safety concerns for Candlelight Vigil
 - When we get circumstances such as this one, I think we need to contact the Police Chief before we agree on an event to make sure he thinks it is safe for the residents of Georgetown.

Councilwoman Diaz-Malone, Ward 1

- Requesting Council to consider a streamlined version the budget so the public can understand. If we decide to raise taxes, the people of Georgetown will want to know why.
- Concern with comments made about our first responders in a recent news article.
- With regard to the POW/MIA flag, I did not respond to that email because I want to make sure that when I say something in public, that I am not speaking for us as a whole and only for myself. I do not feel comfortable that I can do that as of today.
- Some comments in regard to the upcoming candlelight vigil:
 - Upset about the negativity I have heard about this vigil and burden on the police. The police budget is the highest expense we have in our budget. If they can't meet their responsibilities, then we need to have a conversation about what it is they are expected to do.
 - Do not make me think that the reason for these objections is because we are all afraid of these Hispanic people having events on The Circle.
- Request to have the GREAT Fund request from Sandhill Fields added back to the agenda. It would have been helpful to know what criteria we use to disburse funds from our GREAT Fund and what is our expectation.

Mayor West

This vigil was the right thing to do. We have done it for several other people.

6. RESOLUTIONS

A. RESOLUTION #2022-01 AMENDING 2022 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

Councilwoman Townsend requested we double check the date for the Special Meeting to Certify Candidates is correct.

Motion by Councilwoman Townsend, seconded by Councilman Barrett to adopt Resolution #2022-01 Amending 2022 Town Council Meeting Schedule subject to verifying meeting date for Special Meeting to Certify Candidates. **Motion Carried (unanimous)**

7. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

A. TOWN MANAGER – GENE DVORNICK

Residential Rental Properties Ordinance

The Residential Rental Properties Ordinance Committee, Town Solicitor and Staff met on Monday, January 24 to review the draft ordinance in its entirety. Our review outlined the following:

- Clarification of § 167-3 Exceptions – for large scale complexes
- Removal of § 167-11 Authorization, D. – specifically for change in tenants
- Development and or revision of several forms by staff:
 - Application Form for license; form of License itself
 - Inspection Program parameters/policy (keeping details in a policy will enable ease of amendment as needed)

- Inspection checklist
- Inspection Schedule
- Removal Request Form (§167-13)
- No changes suggested for the License Fee (remain at \$65.00)
- Determination of an appropriate Inspection Fee
- Placement of fees in Code

The first reading of the ordinance is anticipated to be at the February 14 Town Council Meeting

Condemned Properties

Below is a status updated of condemned properties:

- 107 South Race Street
 - Building Permit issued on October 28, 2021
 - Lot clearing and material delivery has taken place
- 26 Ingramtown Road
 - Property owner has submitted a Building Permit Application
 - Demolition is currently Stayed
- 404 Old Laurel Road
 - Demolition Notice being advertised
 - Scheduled for early February

Wagamon Avenue Pavement Rehabilitation

The Town has obtained bids for the pavement rehabilitation of Wagamon Avenue – bids were received from three (3) vendors and are summarized below:

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Proposal</u>
C & J Paving, Inc	\$96,992.00
Del-Mar-Va Paving	\$111,778.00
Jerry's Paving	\$70,471.00

After review by the Construction Coordinator and myself, we recommend award of the street rehabilitation projects to Jerry's Paving at an amount not to exceed \$70,471.00. Funding will be through the Community Transportation Fund.

*Motion by Councilman Barrett, seconded by Councilwoman Townsend to approve the award of the street rehabilitation project to Jerry's Paving at an amount not to exceed \$70,471.00 from the Community Transportation Fund. **Motion Carried (unanimous)***

Miscellaneous

- Legislative Update
- Upcoming Events:
 - Candlelight Vigil: Thursday, January 27, 6:30 PM, The Circle

- Sussex County Association of Towns: Wednesday, February 2, 6:00 PM, CHEER Center, hosted by Georgetown
- Police Chief Candidate Review & Recommendation Committee: Thursday, February 3, 4:00 PM

Other Items:

- Presented the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Development
 - Fund Review
 - Governmental, Business-Type, Restricted
 - Discussion of line-item details

Questions/Comments:

- Mayor West: Request Councilman Barrett forward any information from the Fire Department in reference to Electric vehicle charging stations to the Town Manager.

B. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS – BILL BRADLEY

- We had a snow storm with 10 – 12 inches of snow.
 - No issues and no damage to the equipment
- Curbs painted in Ward 1 and Ward 2
 - Supply shortage for paint.
 - Scheduling rest of Town to be completed once weather breaks
- King Street water plant back online after problem with manganese
- We are running well pump 2R and shut down well pump 1B.
- Averaging nine million gallons per month per well during the winter months and 11 million gallons per well in the summer time.
- We are running Well S1, S2 and 2R to supply the Town with water
- Street sweeper has been out on a regular schedule

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

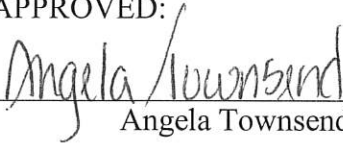
Linda Dennis, 4 Huckleberry Drive

- In reference to presentations on the agenda, how is the public supposed to provide input if we don't get to see the material prior to the meeting?
- Will there be an increase to payment in lieu of taxes included in the budget due to the Family Court project?
- In regard to the candlelight vigil, it is unfortunate when people can take a negative spin on it when the problem is there has been no communication. I would like to say to Councilwoman Diaz-Malone that this is in no way a negative spin on the Hispanic community

9. ADJOURNMENT

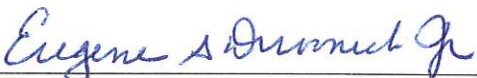
Motion by Councilwoman Townsend, seconded by Councilwoman Barlow to adjourn at 8:00pm. **Motion Carried (unanimous)**

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