TOWN OF GEORGETOWN
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: Wednesday, July 28, 2021
Location: 39 The Circle, Georgetown, DE 19947

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

Dial-In (Toll Free): 1-855-332-4182
Access Code: 8567391

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
Eric Rust, Wastewater Superintendent

7:00 PM REGULAR MEETING

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
   Mayor West 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 JULY 14, 2021 TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES**
   Motion by Councilman Barrett, seconded by Councilwoman Barlow to approve the July 14, 2021 Town Council Minutes as presented. **Motion Carried Motion (unanimous)**

5. **STEP THREE GRIEVANCE HEARING(S) UNDER GPD COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT – OFFICER GOINS ON BEHALF OF FOP**
   A. DISCIPLINARY ACTION RE: OFFICER ROGERS – ALLEGED VIOLATION OF CBA §2.1(C)
   - Officer Rogers presented an overview of his case to Mayor and Council. Council asked questions of Officer Rogers and Town Staff.
     - Chief Hughes discussed the process of the Grievance and the basis for his response. Council asked questions of the Chief, including whether others have been disciplined for this violation.

Motion by Councilman Barrett, seconded by Councilwoman Townsend to enter Executive Session at 7:50pm. ***Motion Carried (unanimous)***

Exited Executive Session at 8:15pm.

Town Solicitor, Stephani Ballard, summarized Council's decision on the Disciplinary Action for Officer Rogers.

Motion by Councilwoman Townsend, seconded by Councilwoman Barlow to move forward with the decision discussed in Executive Session.

Vote:

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

Motion Carried (unanimous)

A verbatim recording was made of the hearing and the Board's decision and summary of evidence will issue in written form within 30 days.

6. COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Ward 1, Councilwoman Diaz-Malone

- Ward 1 is hosting Georgetown's National Night Out at the Richard Allen School

Ward 2, Councilwoman Barlow

- Pleased to see so many people here tonight and encouraged them to come back.

Ward 3, Councilwoman Townsend

- Requested update on letters to be sent to everyone who helped work on the Comprehensive Plan.
- Requested update on Ordinance that specifies only Town residents should serve on the Planning Commission.
- Requested more notice when receiving the supplemental information for the agenda packets.

Ward 4, Councilman Barrett

- Reminder that any purchases or leases on vehicles are to be brought to Council's attention before it happens.
- Request to have discussion of GPS system on the August 11, 2021 Town Council meeting.

Mayor West

- The Town received an AG's letter stating we violated FOIA after a complaint was filed regarding Juneteenth decision on closing offices.
    - Discussion among Council about the matter.

7. HARRIS ALLEY ABANDONMENT

Motion by Councilman Barrett, seconded by Councilwoman Barlow to approve the abandonment of Harris Alley. **Motion Carried (unanimous)**

8. RENTAL PROPERTY INSPECTION COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

Mayor West nominated Penuel Barrett, Linda Dennis, Christina Diaz-Malone, and Bahar's Property Manager Cassandra to serve on the Rental Property Inspection Committee.

Questions/Comments:

Councilwoman Barlow

- What is this committee's criteria for meeting?
- I don't really believe we need another committee. I believe Mayor and Council should be making these decisions.

Councilwoman Diaz-Malone

- Councils are allowed to form committees

Councilwoman Townsend

- I like the idea of having a workshop, but my question is how long will this process take?
- A lot of things to consider before moving forward.

Councilman Barrett

- Why can't we include all of Council on this committee?

Mayor West

- Cannot have all of Council on a "Committee." If a quorum of Council meets, it is a Council meeting. We can request that the committee report back to Council by the end of September so we can try to have something in place by November

9. EMERGENCY SERVICES FUNDING REQUEST FROM GEORGETOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR REPLACEMENT OF CAMERAS ON THE CIRCLE

Motion by Councilwoman Townsend, seconded by Councilman Barrett to approve the Emergency Services Funding Request from the Georgetown Police Department for replacement of cameras on the Circle in an amount not to exceed $19,750.00. **Motion Carried (unanimous)**

10. 1ST READING OF ORDINANCES

A. ORDINANCE #2021-06 COMPLIANCE TIMING

Town Manager Dvornick read an overview of the Ordinance, which addresses the time allowed to fix various Code Enforcement violations.

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

11. RESOLUTIONS

A. RESOLUTION #2021-04 NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Motion by Councilman Barrett, seconded by Councilwoman Townsend to adopt Resolution #2021-04 National Night Out.

Vote:

Ward 1, Councilwoman Diaz-Malone:	Yes
Ward 2, Councilwoman Barlow:	Yes
Ward 3, Councilwoman Townsend:	Yes
Ward 4, Councilman Barrett:	Yes

Motion Carried (unanimous)

12. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

A. GENE DVORNICK – TOWN MANAGER

Georgetown to Lewes Trail Lighting

The Town has received three proposals for installation of the lighting of the Georgetown to Lewes Trail (Phase 8) connector from Ingramtown Road to the main trail. Proposals were as follows:

Vendor		Cost
Apple Electric		$17,340.00
Billbrough's Electric Inc.		$14,100.00
Dawson & Bedsworth		$17,450.00

This project covers the costs related to the installation of nine (9) bollard lights along the connector. The purchase of the lights was through Community Transportation Funds. After review and discussion with the Construction Coordinator, it is our recommendation to award the project to Billbrough's Electric Inc.

Motion by Councilwoman Townsend, seconded by Councilwoman Barlow to authorize Billbrough's Electric Inc. install the bollard lighting along the Georgetown to Lewes Trail Connector at an amount not to exceed $14,100.00 from the GREAT fund.

Motion Carried (unanimous)

Project Updates:

- Water Main & Service Line Replacement Project
  - Water Main Redesign approved by DelDOT on July 27 – work to resume on Monday, August 2
- Brittingham Lane
  - Work on improvements planned in early August
  - Vegetation and stumps have been removed
- Georgetown to Lewes Trail (Phase 8)
  - Clearing complete
  - Subbase being installed

August 28 Meeting

I have received notice that a Member of Council and the Town Solicitor will not be available for the August 28, 2021 Regular Council Meeting. I'd like to suggest we consider cancelling this meeting, barring some significant arising

Motion by Councilwoman Townsend, seconded by Councilwoman Barlow to approve cancelling the August 28, 2021 Town Council Meeting. ***Motion Carried (unanimous)***

Miscellaneous

- Sussex County Council approved a grant request for $2,500 for the Georgetown National Night Out
- Reminders:
  - Sussex County Family Court Facility – Information Session: Thursday, July 29, 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Town Hall
  - Code Enforcement Workshop: Thursday, July 29, 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM, Town Hall
  - Georgetown National Night Out: Tuesday, August 3, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM, Richard Allen School

Questions/Comments from Council:
Councilman Barrett

- Thank you for Stop sign over at Wagamon Avenue
- Requested update on water meters
- Requested update on widening the Front Street and Wagamon Avenue project

B. ERIC RUST – WASTEWATER SUPERINTENDENT

1. Flows

Influent Flow January – June 2021:	180.764mg
Gallons Sprayed Town's Field:	68.89mg
Gallons Sprayed Baxter's Fields:	24.32mg
Gallons Sprayed Pettyjohn's Woods:	109.83mg
Rainfall:	19.35"
Lagoon Depths:	75mg, 10.75' & 15mg, 5.75'

2. Excelsior Blower has installed 2 new intake silencers for blowers 1, and 2. Blower 3's silencer looks good.
3. We had 2 out of 3 blowers fail in May, we have replaced 1 of the blowers, the 2nd new blower is on order, scheduled ship date is Aug. 16
4. The first cutting of the Town's 80-acre filed with Dean Veasey, the new farmer, went well.

Questions/Comments from Council:
Councilman Barrett

- I know the lagoon depths were high this winter. What happens when they get to the point where there is no where for it to go?

Councilwoman Diaz-Malone

- I had the opportunity to tour your facility, and I give you all the honors. We truly appreciate everything you do.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

Maria Hammond, 507 North Bedford Street

- Thank you to Linda Zelo at the Georgetown Police Department.
- Thank you to all of Georgetown Police Officers.
- Thank you to Chief Hughes
- Request to have trash picked up on North Bedford Street and Bramhall Street
  - Request a "No Littering" sign
- Request an Ordinance to prevent four wheelers/dirt bikes to ride on the roads in Town

Jon Peterson, 304 North Bedford Street

- Provided a suggestion for the Rental Property Inspection Committee
- Commented that he was satisfied with the information provided in the packets
- Kudos to Georgetown Police Department and all the Law Enforcement Officers
- Asking the Georgetown Police to talk to their regional FOP representative about Patrick Yoes.

Sergeant Mark Rogers

- Apologized to Mayor West for comments made earlier in the hearing.

Bamdad Bahar (by phone)

- Invited Council to meet with him at any time to address any of their concerns. Also, to allow for an opportunity to explain all the work I have done over the last several years.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Councilwoman Townsend, seconded by Councilwoman Barlow to enter executive session at 8:55pm for purposes of discussion of personnel matters. **Motion Carried (unanimous)**

Exited executive session at 10:10pm.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned immediately after exiting Executive Session.

APPROVED:

Angela Townsend

Angela Townsend, Secretary

ATTEST:

Eugene S Dvornick Jr

Eugene S. Dvornick Jr., Town Manager