

**TOWN OF GEORGETOWN
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting Date: Monday, June 26, 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: 830 6590 5659

Time: 7:00 PM Regular Meeting

TOWN COUNCIL PRESENT:

Bill West, Mayor
Christina Diaz-Malone, Ward One
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
Bobby Fletcher, Public Works Superintendent

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 Councilman Barrett to adopt the agenda as presented. **Motion Carried (unanimous)**

4. APPROVAL OF JUNE 12, 2023 TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Motion by Councilwoman Townsend, seconded by Councilman Neal to approve the June 12, 2023 Town Council Minutes as presented. **Motion Carried (unanimous)**

5. COUNCILMEMBERS COMMENTS

Councilman Barrett, Ward 4

- Commented on statements made about him making money from a bid on a vehicle.
- Stated First State Chevrolet donated \$1000 every year for the New Year's Eve event
- Stated bid assist is the best way for the Town to save money
- Asked the mayor for his opinion on non-tax paying citizens having a say at Town Council meetings.
 - Mayor responded with his opinion

- Town Manager Dvornick and Town Solicitor Ballard confirmed that under Delaware Law, you do not have to be a resident of the Town of Georgetown to attend our meetings and speak at Public Comment

Councilwoman Diaz-Malone, Ward 1

- No comment

Councilman Neal, Ward 2

- Stated as a new member he is looking forward to learning more about this Town and how things work.
- Stated he would like to sit down with each member of Council to learn about each other and see how we can come together as one.

Councilwoman Townsend, Ward 3

- Provided an update on the Police Department Open House that is coming up on July 8th.
- Stated a constituent came to her with an issue with his water meter sinking
- Stated a constituent came to her with an issue with her water bill having a late fee added to it.

Mayor West

- Commented how Council continues to argue with each other
- Commented on slander has been an issue at our Council meetings

6. RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING OFFICIALS

Mayor West recognized former Councilwoman Sue Barlow for her time served on Town Council.

Sue Barlow spoke about her time on Council and all of changes she has been a part of during her time served.

7. OVERVIEW OF TOWN OPERATIONS AND PROJECTS

Town Manager Dvornick presented a PowerPoint with an overview of town operations and projects.

8. DISCUSSION OF PLACEMENT OF PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA

- Councilman Barrett stated his reason for wanting to move Public Comment earlier on the agenda
 - If the public has questions/concerns relating to items on the agenda, we can address those questions/concerns before we vote instead of waiting until the next meeting.
- Councilwoman Diaz-Malone spoke in favor of keeping public comment at the end of the meeting
- Councilman Neal commented on the pros/cons of having public comment early on the agenda compared to later in the agenda

- Councilwoman Townsend spoke in favor of moving public comment earlier on the agenda
- Mayor West commented on how he is flexible about allowing people to comment on items on the agenda outside of public comment. Spoke in favor of keeping public comment at the end of the agenda.
- Questions/Comments from the audience
 - Linda Dennis, provided input on how to allow public comment for specific agenda items throughout the meeting
 - Jon Peterson, spoke in favor of keeping public comment at the end of the meeting
- Town Manager Dvornick recommended a 3 to 4-month trial period of having additional opportunity for the public to sign up to comment on agendas agenda items arise.
- Linda Dennis recommended allowing additional public comment on certain agenda items such as Ordinances. But also keeping public comment at the end of the meeting for general comments

9. PUBLIC WORKS VEHICLE PURCHASE AWARD – ½ TON PICKUP TRUCK

Town Manager Dvornick presented a summary of the bids received.

- Questions/Comments posed from Council
 - Public Works Superintendent responded to all questions
 - Councilwoman Diaz-Malone questioned Councilman Barrett's suggestion a few years ago to have all vehicle purchases come to Council first
 - Councilman Barrett explained why he requested vehicle purchases to come before Council first, and also discussed previous conversations the Town has had regarding Fleet Management

Motion by Mayor West, seconded by Councilwoman Diaz-Malone to award the bid for the purchase of a ½ ton pickup truck to I.G. Burton at an amount not to exceed \$50,480.00.

Vote:

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

Motion Carried (4 yeas, 1 recused)

10. 1ST READING OF ORDINANCE

A. ORDINANCE #2023-05 OVERTIME AND FLEX TIME

Town Manager Dvornick read an overview of Ordinance #2023-05 Overtime and Flex Time.

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

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

11. 2ND READING & ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE

A. ORDINANCE #2023-04 EMERGENCY SERVICES FEE

Motion by Councilman Barrett, seconded by Councilwoman Townsend to adopt Ordinance #2023-04 Emergency Services Fee as presented. **Motion Carried (unanimous)**

12. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

A. TOWN MANAGER – GENE DVORNICK

Project Updates

- Bedford & Market Street Rehabilitation
 - ADA ramps, sidewalk repair, and concrete road patches continue (anticipate completion by June 26)
 - Hot-mix asphalt (HMA) patching on Market & Bedford starts this week
 - Pavement rehabilitation to follow
- Sussex County Family Court Facility
 - Foundation work in process
 - Water tie in anticipated week of June 26 (night work)
 - Stair towers will be next
- Cinder Way Traffic Calming
 - Meeting with Rossi Group week of July 10
 - 4 to 5 alternatives
- Advanced Metering Infrastructure
 - Propagation Study underway
 - Composite (vs stainless steel) meter being evaluated
- Efficiency Improvements
 - E-PlanSoft and ZenCity Agreements executed

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			

General Items

- Upcoming Events
 - Town Offices Closed: Tuesday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day
 - Police Department Open House: Saturday, July 8, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- Legislative Update
 - 4 Legislative Days Remain

B. BOBBY FLETCHER – PUBLIC WORKS SUPERINTENDENT

- Public Works Department
 - Trash downtown/Circle trash cans emptied/ loose trash/ debris picked up (first three block of East Market Street)
 - Town properties mowed, trimmed weekly, and edged when needed (28 properties)
 - Bike trail trash/debris/dog waste stations maintained weekly
 - Stage set up/break down every Thursday for summer concert series
 - Parking meters collected monthly/or when full
 - Cigarette butt containers collected monthly
 - Bush hog mowed properties monthly
 - Pothole patrol monthly/or as needed
 - Trees along East Market Street have been pruned/ Grates weeded
 - Alley ways have been trimmed back and graded with millings where needed
 - Wagamon Avenue speed humps have been installed
 - Installed new L.E.D lights at Police Department
 - Rebuilt storm drain on Albury Avenue. Cleaned out storm drains in Ward 2.
 - Paved patches from water leaks
 - Installed new 25 MPH signs along South Railroad Avenue, and 15 MPH signs on Kimmey Street
 - Sprayed weed control throughout Town. Did not spray South Bedford, North Bedford, East Market, and West Market due to construction.
 - Located 196 flag holders on The Circle for Flags for Heroes

- Serviced Police, Public Works, and Water Department vehicles/equipment
 - Installed flashing red lights on stop signs. Painted stop lines on roads where needed.
 - Re striped police department parking lot
 - Assisted water department on re-reads of water meters/replacement of water meter registers/ exercising water valves
 - All A/C units have been serviced at the Admin Building and Town Hall
- Water Department
 - Ceiling insulated/ new mini ductless A/C unit installed at King Street water lab
 - SCADA software updated/ new modem installed at King Street Water plant
 - Valve exercising in Wards 1 and 2 completed. Hydrant flushing where needed
 - Lynch Lane water tower has been sand blasted, pressure washed, and painted inside and out. Sanitized with chlorine before placing back in service. (now back in service)
 - Generator maintenance is done at Del Tech plant
 - Del Tech water plant building pressure washed/ sidewalks completed.
- Questions/Comments posed from Council

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jane Hovington, 204 South Railroad Avenue

- Thank you for the speed signs on South Railroad Avenue

Jon Peterson, 304 North Bedford Street

- Welcomed Councilman Neal to Council
- Questioned how the light is changed on the very high ceiling at Town Hall
- Discussed his experience as a manager and dealing with many different employees.
- Stated Councilmembers cannot make side deals on their own.

Linda Dennis, 4 Huckleberry

- Question regarding traffic calming on Cinder Way
- Stated that everyone on Council has had negative comments made about them and we need to start being more respectful toward one another.

Clayton Townsend, 20293 Ennis Road

- Commented on the disrespectful comments made toward Council members

Dennis Winzenreid, 23365 Park Avenue

- Thank you to Public Works for the work they have been doing for the summer concert series, especially the concert I sponsored in memory of my wife.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Councilwoman Townsend, seconded by Councilman Barrett to enter into Executive Session at 8:41pm. **Motion Carried (unanimous)**

15. ADJOURNMENT

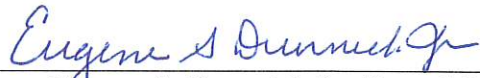
Motion by Councilman Barrett, seconded by Councilwoman Diaz-Malone to adjourn at 8:50pm. **Motion Carried (unanimous)**

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