

**TOWN OF GEORGETOWN  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Meeting Date:** Wednesday, March 24, 2021  
**Location:** In accordance with the State of Emergency Declaration issued by Governor John Carney that became effective on March 13, 2020, and as extended, all public meetings of the Town of Georgetown shall be conducted electronically through Zoom until further notice to prevent unnecessary public gatherings.  
Zoom.us/join  
Zoom Meeting ID: 929 6860 5226  
Follow Onscreen Instructions  
**Time:** 7:00 PM Regular Meeting

**PRESENT:**

Bill West, Mayor  
Steve Hartstein, Ward One  
Rebecca Johnson-Dennis, Ward Two  
Angela Townsend, Ward Three  
Penuel Barrett, Ward Four

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Eugene S. Dvornick Jr., Town Manager  
Stephani J. Ballard, Town Solicitor  
RL Hughes II, Chief of Police

**7:00 PM – REGULAR MEETING**

**1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor West waived the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. INVOCATION**

Mayor West led the Invocation.

**3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

**4. APPROVAL OF MARCH 10, 2021 TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES**

Motion by Councilman Barrett, seconded by Councilwoman Townsend to approve the March 10, 2021 Town Council Minutes as presented. **Motion Carried (unanimous)**

**5. EL MERCADO LATINO DE GEORGETOWN PRESENTATION**

Mary Dupont presented to Mayor and Council information on Plaza Latina De Georgetown. Requesting support on this project from Mayor and Council.

Motion by Councilman Barrett, seconded by Councilwoman Townsend to table moving forward with the Plaza Latina De Georgetown project.

**Motion Carried ( 3 yea's, 1 nay)**

<b>Councilman Hartstein, Ward 1:</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Councilwoman Johnson-Dennis, Ward 2:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Councilwoman Townsend, Ward 3:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Councilman Barrett, Ward 4:</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**6. EMERGENCY SERVICES FUND REQUEST – GEORGETOWN FIRE COMPANY (77)**

Motion by Councilwoman Townsend, seconded by Councilman Hartstein to approve the Emergency Services Fund Request for the Georgetown Fire Company (77) in the procurement of a Homaltro Rescue Cutter in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00.

**Motion Carried (3 yea's, 1 recused)**

<b>Councilman Hartstein, Ward 1:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Councilwoman Johnson-Dennis, Ward 2:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Councilwoman Townsend, Ward 3:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Councilman Barrett, Ward 4:</b>	<b>Recused</b>

**7. 1<sup>ST</sup> READING OF ORDINANCES**

**A. ORDINANCE #2021-01 AMENDING THE ZONING CODE BY ADDING CEMETERY USES TO §230-25. PERMITTED USES**

Town Manager Dvornick presented an overview of Ordinance #2021-01.

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

**B. ORDINANCE #2021-02 ZONING MAP AMENDMENT FROM MEDIUM RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT (UR2) TO PROFESSIONAL BUSINESS DISTRICT (UB3) LOCATED AT 216 WEST MARKET STREET (135-19.08-105.00)**

Town Manager Dvornick presented an overview of Ordinance #2021-02.

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

**8. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF TOWN ETHICS COMMISSION PER TOWN CODE §18-6**

Mayor West read over Town Code §18-6 Ethics Commission.

Requesting we appoint Gary Tonge, Martin Donovan, Jim Hudson, Curt Howes, and Tony Neal to the Ethics Commission.

Motion by Councilman Hartstein, seconded by Councilwoman Johnson-Dennis to appoint Gary Tonge, Martin Donovan, Jim Hudson, Curt Howes, and Tony Neal to the ethics commission. **Motion Carried (unanimous)**

## **9. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

### **A. TOWN MANAGER – GENE DVORNICK**

#### **2021 Annual Municipal Election**

Statements of Candidacy for Ward 1 and Ward 2 are currently available. The deadline for completion and filing is April 16, 2021. If an election is needed, it will be held on Saturday, May 8, 2021.

#### **FY 2022 Budget Workshop**

The Finance Staff and I have been working on the FY 2022 Budget – initial projections were distributed at the March 10 Town Council Meeting and showed a deficit of \$2,389,575. We would like to schedule a workshop with the Mayor and Council to review the information, identify alternatives, and discuss potential solutions to address the projected deficit. Based on replies to the Doodle Poll, Monday, April 12, 2021 from 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM was the most convenient time – for anyone who cannot attend, a separate one on one meeting will be scheduled.

#### **American Rescue Plan Act of 2021**

Under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 it is projected that the Town of Georgetown may receive up to \$3.86 million in direct allocation. Specific guidance related to the use of these funds are currently being drafted by U S Department of the Treasury. Initial publications indicate funds may be used to:

- Respond to the COVID-19 emergency and address its economic effects, including through aid to households, small businesses, nonprofits, and impacted industries such as tourism and hospitality;
- Provide premium pay to essential employees of state or local governments or make grants to the employers of essential employees. Premium pay may not exceed \$13 per hour or \$25,000 per worker;
- Provide government services to the extent of any revenue reduction resulting from COVID-19; and
- Make investments in water, sewer and broadband infrastructure.

All funds must be spent on costs incurred on or before December 31, 2024.

Some initial thought into potential areas for consideration of funding include:

- Main Pump Station Upgrade (sewer)
- Big Park Pump Station Upgrade (sewer)
- Meadows Pump Station Upgrade (sewer)
- Allegro AMI System & meters (water)
- Elevated Storage – SCI (water)

We are working closely with the Delaware League of Local Governments, Office of the State Treasurer and Office of Management and Budget regarding guidance rollout, fund distribution and reporting requirements.

#### **Updates:**

- Water Main & Service Line Replacement Project
  - Pre-construction conference held on March 19
    - Anticipated start date – June 1, 2021
    - Construction days – 120
    - Working with DelDOT regarding work days (due to summer traffic)
- Georgetown East Gateway Project
  - Due to the later start of construction last year because of extended right of way negotiations and subsequent utility delay, DelDOT's contractor has requested a 21-day closure of US 9 to resequence some of the work to keep the project on schedule. The closure would begin on May 1 and be complete on May 21 weather permitting.
- Brittingham Lane Survey
  - Survey has been sent out to all councilmembers – placement of markers is being coordinated

#### **Miscellaneous**

- Legislative Update
- Reminders:
  - Town Offices Closed: Friday, April 2, in observance of Good Friday
  - SCAT Legislative Breakfast: Friday, April 9, 9:00 AM, Georgetown CHEER

#### **B. CHIEF OF POLICE – RL HUGHES II**

- Accredited Agency
- Active Participation with HTICC, DFSC, SCPC, DPCC, OSCC, BHC
- Victim Services Program
- Guardian Program (Mental Health Professionals)
- Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Investigator
- School Resource Officer Program
- MVR Replacement project underway
- Body Work Cameras
- Cradle Point Modem in all vehicles
- DEA Task Force Participant
- Homeland security investigations joint operations program participant
- Naloxone leave behind program partner
- DDD Area - calls for service
- Property Crimes from November 1, 2020 – March 21, 2021
- Crimes Against Person from November 1, 2020 – March 21, 2021
- Crash Data

#### **10. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Councilman Barrett

- Who do Police Officers go to with any problems they may have – Police Chief of Ethics Commission?

Councilwoman Townsend

- Request to get information on Zoom Etiquette
- Trash everyone on East Market Street
- Abandoned houses
- Need to know what the residents of Georgetown think of Plaza Latina De Georgetown. Would feel better if it was a joint effort and not solely focused on the Hispanic Community.

Linda Dennis, 4 Huckleberry Drive

- Comments on Plaza Latina De Georgetown
- Ethics Commission – What is their responsibility?
  - Disappointed that there is not a woman on this committee

Judson Malone, 216 South Race Street

- Spoke in support of Plaza Latina De Georgetown

Suraj Gyani

- Spoke in support of Plaza Latina De Georgetown. It will be more than just the Hispanic community that will benefit from this project.

Jane Hovington


- If there was a female who had an issue, don't you think she would have a problem or feel intimidated with the Ethics Commission being made up of all men?

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Councilwoman Townsend, seconded by Councilman Barrett to adjourn at 8:43pm.

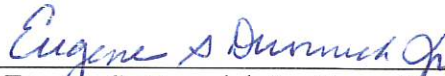
**Motion Carried (unanimous)**

APPROVED:



Penuel Barrett, Secretary

ATTEST:



Eugene S. Dvornick Jr., Town Manager