

**TOWN OF GEORGETOWN  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Meeting Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 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: 848 1408 6638

**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

**1. 6:30 PM – STEP THREE GRIEVANCE HEARING(S) UNDER GPD COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT**

*Grievance re: Termination of Edgar Verde – alleged violation of CBA §2.02; 6.01; 13.02*

Michael Coviello, attorney representing Edgar Verde, presented his argument on behalf of Mr. Verde's case to Mayor and Council:

- Arrested for DUI; Case dropped by State Attorney.
- Spoke in reference to Mr. Verde's career as a police officer.

Town Solicitor Stephani Ballard

- Asked if anyone wanted to make any contractual arguments
  - Michael Coviello spoke in reference to the timeliness matter of this grievance.

Town Manager Dvornick

- Question for Mr. Verde regarding his notice of termination informing him of his right to request a meeting with the Town Manager?
  - Mr. Verde: Did not request this meeting
- Cited a section from Town Code Chapter 29 section 46 C-3, requiring that all drivers for the Town hold a valid license. They also must be insurable.

Dean Rubino, Insurance Market Account Executive

- Spoke in reference to matters regarding the grievant having a valid driver's license and whether or not the grievant is insurable.

- He was not comfortable when Officer Goins contacted him directly with vague questions about this matter and wanted to make the Town a part of the conversation
- Questions/Comments posed from Council.

## **2. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Town Council met in executive session for deliberations after grievance hearing, and legal advice or opinion from an attorney-at-law, with respect to collective bargaining or pending or potential litigation. 29 Del. C. §10004(b)(4).

*Motion by Councilwoman Townsend, seconded by Councilwoman Barlow to enter into Executive Session at 7:03pm. **Motion Carried (unanimous)***

Exited Executive Session at 7:21pm.

*Motion by Councilwoman Townsend, seconded by Councilwoman Barlow to move forward with the action discussed in Executive Session. **Motion Carried (unanimous)***

Mayor advised that Council would issue a written decision within 30 days.

## **REGULAR MEETING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

### **4. APPROVAL OF MARCH 14, 2022 TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES**

Motion by Councilwoman Townsend, seconded by Councilwoman Barlow to approve the March 14, 2022 Town Council Minutes as presented. **Motion Carried (unanimous)**

### **5. COUNCILMEMBERS COMMENTS**

Councilwoman Barlow, Ward 2

No Comment

Councilwoman Townsend, Ward 3

- Send a Thank You to all the members of the Rental Inspection Committee.
- Spoke to Deborah Moreau from the Public Integrity Commission about our Code of Ethics. She offered to schedule a workshop with all of Council and Town employees.
- Request to add Station 93 Ambulance (possible funding) to the next Town Council Agenda.

- Why does the Town not do supplemental billings on properties?

Councilman Barrett, Ward 4

- Discussion on hometown hero's banners
- Georgetown Little League opening day is April 23<sup>rd</sup>

Councilwoman Diaz-Malone, Ward 1

- Discussion on Ethics workshop
- Thank you to Gene for meeting with me
- Received favorable comments regarding the library presentation at the last meeting

Mayor

- The Town looks very good
- Received negative comments from the parents of the Boy Scouts who attended our last meeting because their children were upset about the behavior they observed

**6. ADOPTION OF ANNUAL TAX ASSESSMENTS**

Motion by Councilwoman Townsend, seconded by Councilwoman Diaz-Malone to adopt the annual tax assessments. **Motion Carried (unanimous)**

**7. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

**A. TOWN MANAGER – GENE DVORNICK**

**Project Updates:**

- Service Line Replacements
  - Market and Bedford Streets – Completed
  - Permanent patches – Complete
  - All Original Contract Items – Complete
  - Valve box, 2" to Big Park PS, 2 new services – Complete
  - Investigating 4 additional properties
- Wagamon Avenue & South Front Street
  - Concrete contractor to begin work Mid-April
- 404 Old Laurel Road
  - Asbestos removal complete
  - Demolition underway
- Former Georgetown Dump Site (DE-1719)
  - Meeting with HSCA Certified Consultant being scheduled

**General Items:**

- 2022 Annual Municipal Election
  - Notice of Solicitation of Candidates for Mayor, Ward 3, and Ward 4 are currently available
  - Candidate Filing Deadline is Thursday, April 14, 2022
  - Municipal Election – Saturday, May 14, 2022, polls open 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM
- FY 2023 Budget Workshop

- Tuesday, March 29, 2022 at 5:30 PM
- Emergency Services Enhancement and GREAT Fund Budget Workshop
  - Monday, April 4, 2022 at 5:30 PM
- Potential Request for Community Reinvestment Funds (due May 15, 2022)
  - Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacons – Pedestrian Crossing (South Bedford Street/Pine Street)
  - Restroom upgrades – Police Station
  - La Casita Building – North Race Street
  - Soliciting other potential projects
- Legislative Update
- Questions/Comments from Council
- Interim Chief Ralph Holm discussed staffing at the Police Department and possible solutions or incentives for recruiting
  - Questions/Comments from Council

#### **B. WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT SUPERINTENDENT – ERIC RUST**

##### **1. Flows**

Influent Flow January – March 15:	58.97mg
Gallons Sprayed Town's Fields:	12.92mg
Gallons Sprayed Baxter's Fields:	0mg
Gallons Sprayed Pettyjohn's Woods:	33.68mg

Rainfall: 5.94"

Lagoon Depths - 75mg, 11.5' 15mg, 4.75'

2. Work on rebuilding the Bio-Lac system at the plant is scheduled to begin the week of April 4<sup>th</sup>. All the parts and materials for the project have already been delivered.
3. I spoke with Bob Palmer from Beacon Engineering about the progress of the design of the pump stations that are to be rebuilt. He stated that they are working with the electrical engineer to create preliminary electrical designs, and panel sizing.

#### **8. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Linda Dennis, 4 Huckleberry Drive

- Should we look into adding a K9 Unit or summer police officers?
- Our Public Library is one of three that is not part of the state system. Is that financially disadvantageous to our library?
- What is the status on HB245?

Clayton Townsend, 20293 Ennis Road

- House on Wingate is in really bad shape

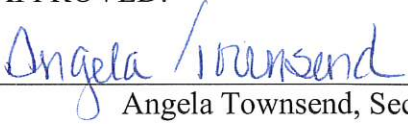
Dennis Winzenreid, Park Avenue

- Caution with sign-on bonuses for police officers
- Made a suggestion for the rescue squad to generate revenue through subscriptions

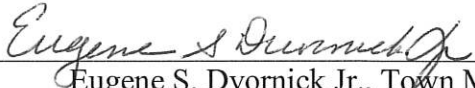
**9. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Councilwoman Townsend, seconded by Councilwoman Barlow to adjourn at 8:15pm. **Motion Carried (unanimous)**

APPROVED:

  
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Angela Townsend, Secretary

ATTEST:

  
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Eugene S. Dvornick Jr., Town Manager

*\*These minutes are a summary of the meeting. Complete audio and visual recordings are available upon request\**