

**TOWN OF GEORGETOWN
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting Date: Monday, September 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: 821 4954 8727

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

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.

Vote:

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

Motion Carried (unanimous)

4. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2022 TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Motion by Councilwoman Townsend, seconded by Councilwoman Barlow to approve the September 12, 2022 Town Council Minutes as presented.

Vote:

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

Motion Carried (unanimous)

5. COUNCILMEMBERS COMMENTS

Councilman Barrett, Ward 4

- No Comment

Councilwoman Diaz-Malone, Ward 1

- Thank you to Mayor West for following Roberts Rules of Order at our meetings
- Thank you to our Police Officers for all of their work at the Hispanic Festival this past weekend

Councilwoman Barlow, Ward 2

- Thank you to our Police Department for a smooth Law Enforcement Bike Ride event on The Circle

Councilwoman Townsend, Ward 3

- Thank you to our Police Department
- Weeds along the pond at the walking trail at Sandhill Fields need to be cut

Mayor West

- No Comment

6. LOWER SUSSEX NAACP – REQUESTED PRESENTATION TO COUNCIL: GEORGETOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY FUNDING

Fleur McKendall presented a PowerPoint to Mayor and Council on the following:

- Georgetown Town Council's recent decision to disburse funds to the Georgetown Historical Society Marvel Museum that fly's the confederate flag
- NAACP's Resolution on Confederate Flag and Emblems
- Tarnished Timeline
 - Presented facts on slavery
- Impact of the Confederate's Ideology
- Today's Call to Action: Rescind the payment to the Georgetown Historical Society and reject future funding to any organization that wave the confederate flag

Questions/Comments

- Fleur McKendall
 - Stated that Councilwoman Barlow should have recused herself from voting to approve the funding to the Georgetown Historical Society because she is a lifetime member of the organization.

- Jea Street
 - Commented on how there is no excuse to use government funds to fund the confederate flag and monument
- Coby Owens
 - Commented on how diversity makes a Town great.
 - Going forward, I hope no funding goes to this organization while they continue to fly the confederate flag

7. AMENDMENT TO THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF GEORGETOWN AND THE GEORGETOWN POLICE

Town Manager Dvornick presented the amendment to the collective bargaining agreement between the town of Georgetown and the Georgetown police department, changing the title of certain ranks. There is no fiscal impact.

Motion by Councilwoman Barlow, seconded by Councilwoman Townsend to approve the amendment to the collective bargaining agreement between the town of Georgetown and the Georgetown Police Department.

Vote:

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

Motion Carried (unanimous)

8. PROPOSED RESTRUCTURING OF THE GEORGETOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION CHART

Chief Holm presented to Council a proposed restructured organization chart of the police department, proposing 2 lieutenants in lieu of a Captain and lieutenant.

- Questions/comments posed from Council
- Town Solicitor asked Chief for clarification on whether or not he will be permanently eliminating the rank of Captain from the rank and pay scale.
 - Chief Holm stated he does not want to remove any ranks from the pay scale for the purpose of future growth and promotion.

Motion by Councilman Barrett, seconded by Councilwoman Barlow to approve the proposed restructuring of the Georgetown Police Departments organization chart as presented.

Vote:

Councilwoman Diaz-Malone, Ward 1:	Yea
Councilwoman Barlow, Ward 2:	Yea

Councilwoman Townsend, Ward 3:	Yea
Councilman Barrett, Ward 4:	Yea
Mayor West:	Yea
Motion Carried (unanimous)	

9. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION NO. 22-IB34 – FOIA PETITION REGARDING THE TOWN COUNCIL OF GEORGETOWN AND AG REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF ACTION REGARDING FUNDING TO GEORGETOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Town Manager Dvornick and Town Solicitor Ballard presented an overview of the Attorney General Opinion No. 22-IB34 – FOIA petition regarding the Town Council of Georgetown and AG request for reconsideration of action regarding funding to the Georgetown Historical Society.

Questions/Comments from Council

- Councilwoman Townsend stated there were no private meetings of a quorum held and that she would not do anything to jeopardize the check.
- Mayor West asked Councilwoman Barlow if her affiliation with the Georgetown Historical Society is affecting her decision to ratify Council's decisions to provide the funds to the historical society.
 - Councilwoman Barlow stated that she is not an active member of the Historical Society.
- Councilwoman Diaz-Malone
 - Brought up the events that occurred leading up to the issuance of the check to the Historical Society.
 - Expressed her concerns with how Council ignored the legal advice provided about following the terms of the GREAT ordinance, and to continue with what they feel is right regardless of the consequences.

Motion by Councilwoman Barlow, seconded by Councilwoman Townsend to ratify the decision that was made on August 12th to give the Georgetown Historical Society funding.

Vote:

Councilwoman Diaz-Malone, Ward 1:	Nay
Councilwoman Barlow, Ward 2:	Yea
Councilwoman Townsend, Ward 3:	Yea
Councilman Barrett, Ward 4:	Yea
Mayor West:	Nay
Motion Carried (3 yea's, 2 nay)	

10. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

A. TOWN MANAGER – GENE DVORNICK

Project Updates

- Water Main & Service Line Replacement
 - Meter pits should be delivered by September 27
 - Installation to follow
- Bedford & Market Streets Pavement Rehabilitation
 - Agreement signed and returned to DelDOT
 - Construction review and comment completed
- Park Avenue – Phase 1
 - Relocation of 20" force main (Town)
 - Installing 1 ½ " force main (Royal Farms)

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
Total Encumbered	\$874,134.50			

General Items

- Upcoming Events
 - Sussex County Association of Towns: Wednesday, October 10, 6:00 PM, hosted by Seaford
 - Sussex County Association of Towns Steering Committee: Friday, October 12, 9:00 AM, Seaford
- Key Performance Indicators
 - Code Enforcement, FY 2023 Operating Budget, Planning & Zoning

- Questions/comments posed from Council

B. WASTEWATER SUPERINTENDENT

1. Flows

- Influent Flow January – September 1st
 - 197.43mg
- Gallons sprayed Town's field
 - 56.1mg
- Gallons sprayed Baxter's fields
 - 69.12mg
- Gallons sprayed Pettyjohn's woods
 - 76.09mg
- Rainfall
 - 18.5"
- Lagoon Depths
 - 75mg, 5.75', 15mg, 3.5'

2. We have a meeting with Beacon Engineering on Oct. 11 to discuss pump station upgrades and get ready to send out for bids.
3. County has finished installing the force main to Artesian and is working on the pump station. They hope to be completed by the end of the year.
4. We ordered a spare pump for the main station on Sept. 8. Ship date for the pump is October 19.

- Questions/comments posed from council

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Town Manager Dvornick received 17 pieces of correspondence regarding Georgetown Historical Society that specifically requested to be read into the record. All 17 pieces of correspondence were read into the record.
- Councilwoman Diaz-Malone
 - Appalled that we have become a renegade council
- Penny Marshall
 - Expressed her opinion on the cavalier attitude Council has taken towards having a confederate flag flying next to the Delaware flag.
- June Jeffries
 - Expressed her opinion on how offensive it is to provide public funding to the Historical Society that flies the confederate flag.

- Fleur Mckendall
 - Truly disappointed in the three Councilmembers' decision to ratify their decision to provide the funding to the historical society.
 - Told Council that there will be repercussions for their actions tonight
 - Commented on how Councilwoman Barlow had been a part of another legal battle years ago for having a private meeting with several officers at her home.
- Unknown Speaker, NAACP Representative
 - We will get the General Assembly, our supporters, and the Senate to cut funds to Georgetown.
- Joe Lawson, Representative of the Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial Justice (SDARJ)
 - The SDARJ is very disappointed in this vote.
 - SDARJ is proud of Mayor Bill West, and Councilwoman Diaz-Malone for representing what America can and should be.
 - Public money should never be given to an organization that fly's the confederate flag
- Jea Street
 - Commented on the confederated flag issue
- Adam Buczkowski, 200 South Bedford Street
 - Commented on the homeless problem in Town.
- Tony Kline
 - Commented on how the Confederate flag is symbol of hatred and slavery. It is appalling that we are using public money to fund this organization that fly's the confederate flag.
- Coby Owens
 - Commented on the decision three Council members made tonight to move forward with the funds for the historical society.
- Dennis Winzenreid, Park Avenue
 - Commented on the opinion issued from the Attorney General.
 - Commented on how the three Council people have broken the rules and still continued to vote the way they did.
- Two pieces of written correspondence from Nancy Barrett and Councilman Barrett thanking the Town for the flowers we sent on the loss of his father.

12. ADJOURNMENT

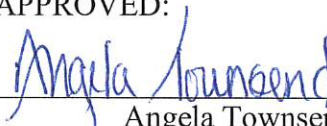
Motion by Councilwoman Townsend, seconded by Councilwoman Barlow to adjourn at 9:15pm

Vote:

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

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