

TOWN OF TOWNSEND COUNCIL MINUTES
May 7, 2014

Council Meeting - 7:30 pm

I. Call to Order: 7:30 pm

II. Opening Ceremonies

- a. Roll Call: Mayor Jermaine Hatton, CM John Ness, CM Joel Esler, CW Lorraine Gorman, CM Rudy Sutton, TA Fred Townsend, TE Owen Hyne, TM Dawson Green, TC Cathy Beaver
- b. Pledge of Allegiance: the pledge was said.
- c. Recognition of Visitors: 10 visitors
- d. Announcements:
 - Mayor Hatton read the thank you card from Sandy Sturgis, former Councilwoman for the fruit basket and flowers in the loss of her husband.
 - Budget Meeting May 14, 2014 @ 7:00 pm @ Town Hall
 - Town Hall closed May 26, 2014 for Memorial Day

III. Mayor Updates

- a. Capital Development Partner Group
 - Council granted a waiver of the 120% bond on the site work for the property on the corner of Main and Summit Bridge Road at the workshop on 4/30/14.
- b. Diamond State Motors
 - Also at the workshop, Council granted permission for Diamond State Motors to seek an auction license from DMV.

IV. Additions/Deletions to Published Agenda

- a. CM Esler deleted 8d, community relations.
- b. CM Ness motioned, CM Esler seconded with unanimous vote to accept agenda with above deletion.

V. Council Minutes (copies on back table)

- March 19, 2014 Workshop minutes approved at workshop
- April 2, 2014 Council minutes approved at workshop

VI. Reports of the Officers

- a. State Police: Lt. Tom Paskevicius
 - The copper thefts from homes in new developments have gone down. Most recently there has been an increase in burglaries of sheds and homes. Some are in the local area but are primarily in Kent County and Smyrna area. Did catch several guys in the act of breaking into a house and locked them up. Arrested 2 other individuals who were out on bail for a burglary on Vandyke Greenspring Road. It is a never ending battle.
 - The criminal response units on Rt. 1 and 13 are pulling people over daily and getting a lot of cash seizures, asset seizures and drugs off the street.
 - Lt. P. stated CM Ness emailed him concerning vehicle thefts in TVII. Never heard from any of the residents involved. Reminded all to lock their cars, an unlocked vehicle is a crime of opportunity.
 - CM Ness stated he talked to the residents and they said they called the police; he will have to talk to them again and beg them to file reports. He stated he also has a video one of the residents gave him but will have to get permission to give it to the police.
 - Lynne Newlin asked Lt. P. how far into Kent County Troop 9 goes.
 - Lt. explained Scarborough Road and north, all of Kenton and north to the bridge. None of it is clear cut and it may be extended further.
- b. Representative: Jeff Spiegelman – not here, has a newborn at home.
- c. Townsend Fire Department: Bob Biggs/Keith Shoemaker
 - Hope to have the AC done next month.
 - Spring fling is June 14th and tickets are on sale until that morning.

VII. Reports

- a. Fred Townsend III, Attorney: nothing to report.
 - Mayor Hatton asked if we can move forward with the other dangerous properties the Town cited, or do we have to start all over.

- TA Townsend stated he will look at the code again but the Town has done due diligence with the letters, should be able to proceed to the next step. Will contact TM Green by the end of the week.
 - CM Ness asked if all could be done in the same hearing or do we have to do them individually.
 - TM Townsend stated all can be done in the same public hearing.
- b. Owen Hyne, Engineer:
- We are watching to ensure the site improvements in TVI and TVII are being done properly.
 - Waiting for the contracts for the electrical in the park. Will forward it to Council as soon as I receive it.
 - Mayor Hatton asked for a projected start date on the electrical.
 - TE Hyne stated they will probably start in late summer and it will take approximately 2 months to complete.
- c. Dawson Green, Town Manager:
- One new building permit was issued in April for JS Homes. They are working on 4 other homes and Handler is working on 8 new homes.
 - Its grass time again! Have started sending out letters and posting properties. The good news is 2 that were posted yesterday have been mowed. Am also working with the developers to get ahead of the game. Hopefully we can stay on top of it this year.
 - CM Ness said they patched the pot hole on Edgar. Has the one in TVII been done?
 - TM Green said the builder is going to fix them as soon as they put in the next driveway. It's much easier dealing with him since the developer is in Baltimore. The builder also took care of the pot hole on Feret.
 - Mr. Roche asked for the status on the small park by the Town office. At a previous meeting it was mentioned NCC may give it to the Town and nothing is being done with it.
 - Mayor Hatton said that will be discussed later on the agenda.

VIII. Committee Reports

- a. Finance Committee: Chair – Mayor Jermaine Hatton
- Finance Report – Total Assets – 3.4 million, total liabilities – 2.9 million.
 - Mayor Hatton said he met with Metlife last week, the Town portfolio is doing very well. We currently have about 2.1 million invested. We have not had to touch it this year for our operating budget. At this point, going into fiscal year 2014-2015 we are financially sound.
 - Mayor Hatton said he will have the 3 year projected budget to Council by the end of the week.
- b. Public Works Committee: Chair – CM Rudy Sutton
- Streetscape Update – the streetscape continues to progress, it looks like they will start on the other side of the street in 2 weeks.
 - Mayor Hatton asked what the saw cut across Main Street at South Street is for.
 - TE Hyne said they are installing additional storm pipes because of the bump outs at the curb. It could create some drainage issues without the additional storm pipes.
 - CM Esler asked if the masonry brick in front of the mason building is staying or being replaced?
 - CM Sutton stated it is staying.
 - TE Hyne stated he believes only the curb is going to be replaced there. He will double check.
 - Mayor Hatton asked if we heard back from Delmarva about the Cobra overhead lights.
 - TE Hyne said he hasn't heard back from them.
 - TM Green said Mike Young from Delmarva called him and said it is up to the Town if we want to leave them or have them removed.
 - TE Hyne said if it is up to the Town, he recommends leaving them in now and see how it looks once the streetscape is done. They can be removed later if necessary.
 - Mr. Keenan said at a previous meeting he had mentioned the stop sign between DE Homes and Little Italy. It is hard to turn out of there now, with the bump outs at the curb it will be even worse, a wider turn to get out and virtually impossible to turn right. This is a Town Street; I suggest the Town consider making it one way in between the buildings and one way out on the other side of DE Homes.
 - Mayor Hatton said they will look into it, it makes sense.

- CM Sutton said the radius changed to allow for that.
 - TE Hyne said all the corners should be 15' radius.
 - Mr. Keenan said the deli parking is on the side of the building, if someone is trying to pull out and you want to make a right hand turn and someone is coming the opposite way, it is a big cluster.
- c. Land Use & Development Committee: Chair – Mayor Jermaine Hatton
- PLUS Committee update – got an update from Herb Inden today. NCC has made some comments on our annexing 6 parcels on Dexter Corner Road. We should have the remaining list of comments by the end of the week so we can address them.
 - Mayor Hatton said to answer Mr. Roche's earlier question, based on the comments from NCC I don't think they are very happy with us right now. I don't when they will turn over the park or maintain the park, but we will hold them accountable for it and the park on Wiggins Mill Road. They are obligated to the residents of Townsend to maintain both of them. Per the comments, the County is not in favor of us updating our comp plan to include the 6 parcels. We will have to wait to see what the final ruling is that comes down from the committee.
- d. Community Relations – CM Joel Esler - deleted
- e. Public Safety Committee: Chair – CM John Ness
- CM Ness asked residents to please contact the police when you have an issue. Early in the morning of 4/26/14 I was contacted by residents affected and at least 2 of them said they made reports to the police so I will go back and ask them. I pleaded with them to please file a report. Also have several videos and will ask if I can turn them over to the police or ask them to turn them over.
- f. Charter & Ordinance Committee – CM Joel Esler
- Charter Update – the charter has been edited per the meeting last week and is ready to go to the state. We edited the section around voter registration.
 - There are 3 ordinances that have to do with elections. I have re-written the "voting ordinance" and combined the 3 previous ordinances into one. Will email it to everyone this week to review.
 - Had a copy of the charter for Rep. Spiegelman tonight but he isn't here. I left voicemails with several other public servants and will follow up with them tomorrow.
 - Mayor Hatton said he briefly spoke with Rep Spiegelman, he is waiting for the document so please send it electronically.
- g. Parks & Recreation Committee: Chair – CW Lorraine Gorman
- Townsend Community Yard Sale at the Park – Saturday, May 10, 2014
 - Pavilion and Multi-Purpose field cannot be reserved
 - Have 40 residents sign up for sale. Hope to have a lot of people attend.
 - Annual Townsend Fair and Parade – Saturday, September 27, 2014
 - Fair Committee
 - Volunteers
 - Update on parade & vendor registrations
 - Suggestions for Activities/Contests
 - Not much has happened since the workshop. Intend to talk to all the people at the yard sale to see if they would be interested in helping at the Town fair.
 - If you know any vendors or anyone interested in being in the parade, please have them call me.
 - Mayor Hatton said Snoopy will be in the parade, Tony will contact you later.

IX. Citizens Comments & Participation

- a. Mr. Mack apologized for being late to the meeting. He asked what happened in his neighborhood, they were on vacation.
- b. CM Ness explained about the cars being broke into.

X. Adjournment: CM Ness motioned, CM Esler seconded with a unanimous vote, 8:03 pm