



Townsend Council Meeting Minutes October 3, 2018

7:30 pm - Council Meeting

- I. Call to Order: 7:30 pm
- II. Opening Ceremonies
 - a. Roll Call: Mayor Rudy Sutton, CW Lorraine Gorman, TA Fred Townsend, TE Ed Van-Otoo, TC Cathy Beaver
 - Mayor Sutton wanted all to know the other 3 council members could not make it tonight, was the perfect storm in the last hour. There is no quorum so no voting and this will be an information only meeting. Thanked all that are attending tonight.
 - b. Pledge of Allegiance: Pledge was said.
 - c. Recognition of Visitors: 11
 - d. Announcements: Office closed October 8, 2018 for Columbus Day
- III. Additions/Deletions to Published Agenda:
- IV. Presentation of parade trophies:
 - a. Smyrna High School Marching Band – Best Parade Performance – not here
 - b. 1st Delaware Regiment Fife and Drum Corps – Most Creative Entry – not here
 - c. Frederic Homan – 1965 Pontiac LeMans Hardtop – Best in Show – not here
 - d. Bill & Barbara Austin – 1946 Ford Super Deluxe – Best Classic Vehicle
 - Mr. and Mrs. Austin were presented the trophy for Best Classic Vehicle for their 19746 Ford Super Deluxe.
 - CW Gorman congratulated Regina Albert for winning the Volunteer of the Year award which was presented at the fair.
- V. Presentation/discussion – Linda Popels - National Flood Insurance Program for Townsend
 - a. We are one of 3 communities that aren't part of the national flood program, so residents can't purchase flood insurance. It is a concern with the weather. Many areas in last 2 years have been devastated by floods and aren't in the flood zone. Encourage Council to look into this, have also been in touch with FEMA and DEMA. I work for the state, at a recent meeting they were looking into increasing enrollment, there is an application to complete and they will help us. Magnolia just joined. I personally would like to be able to purchase flood insurance
 - b. Mayor Sutton thanked Ms. Poppels for coming, this is definitely something we wish to look into and I will be in touch with you.
 - c. Mr. McDonald asked if we have a current map of the flood zone.
 - d. Ms. Poppels said yes, it is 3 years old, it is only incorporated town that can't purchase insurance, unincorporated can as NCC is part of the plan.
 - e. Dave Carter said he can also help with this.
 - f. Ms. Albert asked if we have any information on the car wash coupons.
 - g. Cathy stated they were dropped off today and residents can come and get tickets as needed.
- VI. Mayors Report
 - a. Discussion/possible vote on Suppi settlement
 - b. Discussion about Preliminary Major Subdivision Plan – Woods at Hidden Creek
 - c. Discussion/possible vote on Revisions to Town Fee Schedule
 - CW Gorman stated this was an ordinance passed in 2016. We will be incorporating our rental fees into it, which will be effective on January 1st.
- VII. Reports
 - a. State Police:
 - Officer Tina Abbott introduced herself and said she works out of Troop 9.
 - Townsend is a bit busy at times.
 - In September we handled 5 domestic incidents, some with arrests. Most were in TVI.

- Crime reports – child at TES in possession of pocket knife; grandfather called in and turned in granddaughter who had warrants; fight on RR avenue; stolen vehicle and drug arrests.
 - On fair day we had officers there and a K-9 demonstration.
 - I have been on several assists for calls in Townsend. We had 2 suspicious vehicles in Town, several abandoned vehicles, a fraud complaint, and 6 incidents of alarms.
 - Sgt. Bucket, one of the pay troopers, issued 8 traffic tickets for speeding, cell phones, possession of paraphernalia; he writes lots of tickets, loves to come here.
 - In a nutshell, not much happening but the domestics in Townsend Village are killing us. People in Town call us often with suspicious vehicles, speeding etc., really makes a difference and our presence here is keeping crime down. Believe the Town is well protected.
 - Mr. Haines asked to put it out – Commerce Street – truck speeds and smokes tires with no lights on so can't get his tag number almost every night.
 - Officer Abbott stated Troop 9 is down to 5 officers right now with a very large area to cover, apologize for not getting here for many of the complaints. It isn't because we don't want to come, it's because we are out working some serious/dangerous crimes.
 - Mayor thanked Officer Abbott for the report and coming this evening.
- b. Representative Jeff Spiegelman:
- Out of session until January.
 - Election next month.
 - DEFEC numbers came back and we are up again.
 - Next year's budget shouldn't be a wild swing, up about 26 million dollars, not a huge number but the bills get paid.
 - Looking at creating a new system for the budget next year, watch for it.
 - Have 2 students from my politics class here tonight completing an assignment.
 - TA Townsend asked if the superior court vacancy was filled. Rep Jeff said he just got an email stating everyone was confirmed today but will check for you.
- c. Town Attorney Fred Townsend III:
- Have only worked on one issue since last meeting, is a personnel matter which we can't talk about other than to say it was resolved.
 - Have interacted with some of our PC members.
- d. Town Engineer Ed Van-Otoo:
- MS Development punch list – spoke with Sapperstein the other day, he is getting some cost estimates for the items on list and will be back in touch in 10 days.
 - Spoke to Tony Yarmolyk who is handling the punch list items for Townsend Properties Two. He was very receptive and will get back to me in several days.

VIII. Committee Reports

- a. Finance: Chair – Mayor Rudy Sutton
- Audit to begin this month for fiscal year 2018, good news is this is the first year we will be able to conduct a full audit in a number of years. Due to our finance clerk, who is a great asset to the Town, we are able to this and thank her for a great job.
- b. Public Works: Chair – CM Ed Dugan
- Discussion for Town sidewalk repairs
- c. Land Use & Development: Chair – CW Lorraine Gorman
- Now that the fair is over, focus will be on getting packets together on the rental ordinance for the landlords in Town.
 - Ms. Albert asked if we know how many rental properties there are in Town.
 - CW Gorman said approximately 50 that we know of.
 - Ms. Albert asked if these are individual units or landlords and CW Gorman said landlords.
- d. Veterans Committee: Co-Chairs – CW Cindy Cook & CM Steve High
- e. Public Safety: Chair – CM Steve High
- f. Community Relations: Chair – CW Cindy Cook
- g. Parks & Recreation: Chair – CW Lorraine Gorman
- Thanked everyone for the help with the fair, so many people helped that we could not have done it without them, Austin and Bednash who supplied the barrels, Waste Industries for the additional trash cans, Mission Church for supplying the bounce houses and manning them all

day, all out business that donated money to help the fair be the success it was, DJ Jammin Jeff for donating his time for the 13th year, all our volunteers, the Townsend Fire Company, my daughter Dana who took pictures, the Town staff and Council, and the list goes on and on.

- Mayor Sutton thanked CW Gorman for all her hard work on the fair. She starts planning for the next year as soon as the current fair is over, always very organized.
- Mr. Austin said the parade was wonderful, gets bigger every year.
- Christmas Caroling in the Park – 12/9/18

IX. Citizens Comments & Participation:

- a. none

X. Motion to Recess for Executive Session:

XI. Motion to Convene Executive Session:

- a. In accordance to 29 Del. C. §10004 (b) (4) the Town Council will be meeting in executive session to discuss personnel matters.

XII. Motion to close Executive Session & Re-Convene Council Meeting

XII. Adjournment: 8:12 pm the meeting was dismissed.
