



**Town of Townsend**  
**Townsend Council Public Hearing Minutes**  
**Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.**  
**Via Town Hall & Conference Call**

6:30 p.m. Townsend Town Council

Public Hearing

I. Call to Order: 6:30 p.m.

II. Opening Ceremonies

a. Roll Call: Mayor S.

Lobdell, Councilwoman E. Clarke, Councilwoman S. Rojas, Councilman J. Mertz, Councilman E. Dugan, Town Manager A. Tantillo, Town Clerk M. Rivera, Police Chief R. Longo, and Town Solicitor L. Hatfield.

b. Pledge of Allegiance: all present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

c. Recognition of Visitors: Sharon Yealey, Max Yealey, David Bailey, Dwain Haines, Matthew Chapman, Christina Suhr, and Marcus Suhr.

d. Announcements: None.

III. Additions and Deletions to published Agenda.

a. *CW Rojas made a motion to approve the agenda. CM Mertz seconded the motion. Voice vote of Council: all yea's.*

i. Council approved the agenda.

IV. Public hearing Ordinance 2023-003, An Ordinance to Adjust Compensation for Town Council.

a. Mayor Lobdell introduced the ordinance explaining the Town does not have a record of a previous ordinance for compensation, therefore the Council has moved forward with formalizing compensation for Town Council members. Additionally, Council moved forward with making the pay scale even for all members of Council.

b. TM Tantillo provided reading of Ordinance 2023-003, An Ordinance to Adjust Compensation for Town Council.

c. Mayor Lobdell noted the ordinance establishes compensation of \$100.00 per month for all Council members, effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

Town Meetings will return to both an in person and a virtual format. Those wishing to attend virtually may dial **1(301)715-8592**. When directed, provide following meeting ID **827- 6421-7575#** and then the following password **361631#** to enter the meeting. If you choose to access the meeting online click the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82764217575?pwd=aHI4RDhTZ0xjME1HV0Z0cHRxSHZ3QT09>

Residents will be able to view documents posted to the meeting tab on the Town website at <https://townsend.delaware.gov> or by joining the meeting via computer.

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- d. Public Comment was opened:
  - i. Mr. Yealey advised he disagreed with the ordinance. Additionally, advised compensation should be up to the residents. Mr. Yealey explained he served on Council previously and this is the first time he has seen or heard of pay for Council.
  - ii. Mr. Bailey asked when the compensation for Council members began and why the current members feel compensation is justified.
    - 1. Council advised compensation was established before their time serving. CW Rojas advised she has been working many hours organizing and planning events as Chair for the Community Engagement Committee. Additionally, most of the compensation she received has been donated back to the Town. Other Council members advised that their compensation is donated back to the Town.
    - 2. Mayor Lobell advised many municipalities in Delaware provide compensation to Council members.
  - iii. TM Tantillo asked each member of the public if they had any comments. No additional comments were received. TS Hatfield advised Council they may adjourn the Public Hearing as there are no additional items on the agenda. Mayor Lobdell noted no additional comments have been received from the public.
- V. Adjourn at 7:00 pm
  - a. *CM Mertz made a motion to adjourn the meeting. CM Dugan seconded the motion. Voice vote of Council: all yea's.*
    - i. Council adjourned the meeting at 6:45 pm.