



## Townsend Town Council Special Meeting Minutes

May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 @ 7:00 pm

VIA CONFERENCE CALL &

Town Hall

141 Main St, Townsend, DE 19734

### 7:00 pm Town Council Special Meeting

- I. Call to Order: 7pm
- I. Opening Ceremonies
  - A. Roll Call: Mayor S. Lobdell, Councilman J. Mertz, Councilman J. Bangura, Councilman M. Chapman, Financial Officer J. Helms, Chief of Police R. Longo, Sergeant E. McCloskey, Officer B. Peters, and Town Clerk M. Rivera. Councilman M. Suhr – absent.
  - B. Pledge of Allegiance: all present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
  - A. Recognition of Visitors:
    1. Mayor Lobdell recognized all visitors present as reflected on the sign in sheet and via zoom: Kevin Moran, Simon Brand, Thomas McGalliard, Jonathan Justice.
  - C. Announcements:
    1. CM Chapman thanked everyone who signed up for the Hometown Hero Banners and announced that all spots have been filled. Additionally, the Town will continue accepting nominations for next year.
    2. CM Mertz congratulated the Townsend Deli on their opening.
    3. CM Chapman thanked everyone present for the mural press release and noted it looks great.
- II. General Citizen Comments
  - A. None.
- III. Review/Adoption of Agenda
  - A. *CM Chapman motioned to adopt the agenda. CM Bangura seconded the motion. Voice vote of Council: all yea's.*
    1. Council adopted the agenda.
- IV. **ACTION ITEM:** A discussion and reading of National Police Week and Peace Officers Memorial Day to proclaim May 12<sup>th</sup> through May 18<sup>th</sup>, as “Police Week” and May 15<sup>th</sup> as “Peace Officers Memorial Day” in the Town of Townsend.
  - A. Chief Longo provided a brief history of the Peace Officers Memorial Day and Police Week.
  - B. CM Mertz provided a reading of the Proclamation of National Police Week and Peace Officers Memorial Day.
  - C. *CM Mertz made a motion to accept the proclamation. CM Chapman seconded the motion. Voice vote of Council: all yea's.*
    1. Council accepted the proclamation of National Police Week and Peace Officers Memorial Day.
  - D. Chief Longo thanked Council for their support.
- V. Presentation by University of Delaware (UD) Capstone Project of the feasibility study regarding the Town’s Taxes and Budget.

- A. Students from UD presented their Capstone Project of the feasibility study regarding the Town's Taxes and Budget.
- B. Mr. Brand advised they did not defer to the Police Department but rather the previous Town's budgets and FO Helms for their study.
- C. Council and FO Helms thanked the students for their work on the project and advised it is valuable information to take into consideration.

**VI.** Discussion of future agenda items.

- A. CM Mertz advised the following items would need to be discussion at the upcoming meeting, June 5<sup>th</sup>:
  - 1. His roll moving forward
  - 2. Updates on events
- B. FO Helms advised additional funds in the amount of \$20k are needed to be matched by the Town for the irrigation system of the ORPT (Outdoor Recreation, Parks and Trails) Grant.

**VII.** Recess Council Meeting to Convene Executive Session.

- A. *CM Mertz made a motion to recess the Council meeting and convene to Executive Session in accordance with the agenda. CM Bangura seconded the motion. Voice vote of Council: all yea's.*
  - 1. Council voted unanimously to recess and convene to executive session at 7:42 pm.

**VIII. Convene Executive Session:** Pursuant to 29 Del. C. §§10004(b)(2) and (4), the Town Council will consider a motion to meet in executive session for a strategy session, which will include legal advice or opinions from an attorney-at-law, with respect to potential litigation, as well as discussions that may have an adverse effect on the bargaining or litigation position of the Town, and 29 Del. C. §10004 (B)(9), the Town Council will consider a motion to meet in executive session for a strategy session, to address personnel matters.

**IX.** Close Executive Session & Re-convene Council Meeting

- A. The Council meeting reconvened at approximately 9:29 pm.

**X. ACTION ITEM:** Possible vote of Council.

**XI.** No motion made, nor action taken for this agenda item.

**XII.** Adjournment.

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- A. *CM Mertz made a motion to adjourn the meeting. CM Chapman seconded the motion. Voice vote of Council: all yea's.*

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- 1. Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30 pm.
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