



Townsend Town Council Meeting Agenda
May 7th, 2025 @ 7:00 pm
VIA CONFERENCE CALL & Town Hall
141 Main St, Townsend, DE 19734

7:00 pm Town Council Meeting

- I. Call to Order: Approximately 7:06pm.
- II. Opening Ceremonies
 - A. Roll Call: Mayor S. Lobdell, CM M. Chapman, CM J. Bangura, TM J. Goodyear, TS L. Hatfield, Chief R. Longo, PWS R. Boyer, TE E. Gruenes, and CM M. Suhr (Via Zoom)
 - B. Pledge of Allegiance: All present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.
 - C. Moment of Silence: All present participated in a moment of silence.
 - D. Recognition of Visitors: State of Delaware CM D. Carter, D. Haines
 - E. Announcements: None.
- III. General Citizen Comments: None.
- IV. Review/Adoption of Agenda:
 - A. *CM Bangura made a motion to adopt the agenda for May 7th, 2025. CM Chapman seconded the motion. Voice Vote of Council- all yeas.*
- V. Approval / Rejection of Minutes:
 - A. **ACTION ITEM:** Approval/Rejection of Town Council Minutes from April 2nd, 2025, Town Council Meeting.
 1. *CM Bangura made a motion to adopt the council meeting minutes from April 2nd, 2025. CM Chapman seconded the motion. Voice Vote of Council- all yeas.*
- VI. Departmental Reports:
 - A. Mayor S. Lobdell
 1. None.
 - B. New Castle County Councilman David Carter
 1. Councilman Carter discusses new castle county property tax rates, and the concerns residents have. He states residential values increased 448%, commercial values increased 241%, making an average of a 378% increase in value. He also states NCC split their tax rates from .8054 to .1596 for residential and commercial was split from .8054 to .2412.
 - C. Town of Townsend Police Chief's Report
 1. TM Goodyear asks for clarification on item #4 in the Police Chief's Report.
 - i. Chief Longo states the Town of Hartly asked for him to attend a board meeting for the startup of their station.
 - D. Town Solicitor Lisa Hatfield
 1. TS Hatfield briefly discusses a FOIA request she assisted the Town with this month, ongoing litigations, and an update on the deeds of the smaller park within Town.
 - E. Town Engineer Erik Gruenes
 1. CM Bangura asks for clarification about open spaces in areas still being developed.

- i. TM explains that the developer must follow an approved list of items they must follow before turning the property over to the town.
- F. Town Manager Julie Goodyear
 - 1. **ACTION ITEM:** Discussion and possible vote on proposal for the '2025 Brook Ramble Repaving Project'.
 - i. TM Goodyear shares that the repaving project for Brook Ramble is over her spending authority, and she would like for Council to decide on if it can be done.
 - 1. CM Chapman asks why the cost is so high when the road is already existing and only needs repaving. He also asks what is changing with the overlay for there to be a cost.
 - a. TE Gruenes states he can review costs with his team and see what can be done regarding cost by the next meeting.
 - i. The vote was tabled until cost is re-evaluated.
 - 2. TM Goodyear shares the Town has been awarded a Cyber Security Grant which will cover new computers for all staff and Cyber Security for the Town for 2 years.
 - 3. TM Goodyear also shares that the Town was awarded \$40,000 for the EECBG Grant to make more environmentally friendly changes to the Town.
- G. Public Works Supervisor Rick Boyer
 - 1. CM Chapman asks about the posting of the Hometown Heroes Banners and how they will be hung.
 - i. PWS Boyer shares that the banners will be spaced out first without flags. When they are rehung for the 4th of July, they will alternate flag then banner.

VII. Committee Reports:

- A. **Finance Committee:** Chair: Mayor S. Lobdell, Co-Chair: Councilman J. Bangura
 - 1. **ACTION ITEM:** Review and possible discussion on the March 2025 Budget vs. Actual Reports.
 - a. No questions regarding the March 2025 Budget vs. Actual Report.
 - 2. **ACTION ITEM:** Discussion and possible vote to reallocate budget from Payroll to Community Relations: Veterans for \$100.
 - a. *CM Bangura motioned to reallocate budget from payroll to community relations: Veterans for \$100. CM Chapman seconded the motion. Voice vote of Council- All yeas.*
 - 3. **ACTION ITEM:** Discussion and review of proposed new tax rate and potential vote of council for tax rate change.
 - a. TM Goodyear explains the 2 examples of proposed new tax rate options for the Town.
 - i. Mayor Lobdell adds to this and states the Town is considering re-visiting the option of adding the accurate trash and lighting fees for each property instead of having it be part of the tax rate to differentiate what is taxes and what is trash and lighting fees.

- a. TS Hatfield states a certified accountant will need to look at the accounts and see if these items can be separated as they are considered a utility and not a tax.
- ii. CM Chapman proposed a survey for the public to see what the overall data is and make the adjustment based on that.
 - a. CM Wiggins agrees with CM Chapman and states that each person has a different budget so it should be up to the people to decide.

B. Human Resources Committee: Chair: Councilman Suhr, Co-Chair: Mayor S. Lobdell

- 1. None.

C. Public Works and Land Use Development Committee: Chair: Councilman J. Bangura, Co-Chair: Councilman M. Chapman

- 1. None.

D. Public Safety Committee: Chair: Councilman M. Suhr, Co-Chair: Councilman D. Wiggins

- 1. None.

E. Community Engagement Committee: Chair: Councilman D. Wiggins

- 1. CM Wiggins shares that the next Community Engagement Committee Meeting will be for discussing final preparations and assigning staff to tasks for the Annual Town Fair.
- 2. TM Goodyear shares the Community Yard Sale event on May 17th. Following the yard sale event, we will be having a Community Clean Out day for May 19th.

F. Code Review Committee: Chair: Mayor S. Lobdell, Co-Chair: Councilman M. Chapman

- 1. None.

G. Veterans & Social Services Committee: Chair: Councilman M. Chapman, Co-Chair: Councilman M. Suhr

- 1. CM Chapman thanks the Community Engagement Committee for allowing them to participate in fundraising at this year's Town Fair.

VIII. Discussion of future agenda items.

- A. None.

IX. Recess Council Meeting to Convene Executive Session.

- A. *CM Bangura made a motion to recess the Council Meeting to convene executive session. CM Chapman seconded the motion. Voice vote of council- all yeas.*

- 1. *Meeting recessed at approximately 8:45 pm.*

X. Convene Executive Session: Pursuant to 29 Del. C. §§10004(b)(4), the Town Council will consider a motion to meet in an executive session for the discussion of potential litigation.

XI. Close Executive Session & Re-convene Council Meeting.

- A. *CM Wiggins made a motion to leave the executive session and go back to a public meeting. CM Bangura seconded the motion. Voice vote of council- all yeas.*

- 1. *Executive session meeting closed at approximately 9:43 pm.*

XII. ACTION ITEM: Possible vote of Council.

- A. None.

XIII. Adjournment.

A. *CM Wiggins made a motion to adjourn the council meeting. CM Chapman seconded the motion. Voice vote of Council- all yeas.*

1. *Meeting adjourned approximately 9:43 pm.*

REVISED KG- 4/30/2025