

Council Meeting
September 10, 2018
7:00 p.m.

The council meeting of Mayor and Council was held on the above date and time with Council members Dias, Carrow and DeBenedictis present with Mayor Letterman presiding. Recording Secretary Sue Muncey, Town Foreman Jeff Hurlock, Captain Carl Hutson, Town Solicitor Gary Junge, and Wayne Gladhill were also in attendance. Mr. Letterman stated Mr. Smith was excused from the meeting due to a back injury.

1. **Call to Order** - Mr. Letterman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Pledge to the Flag** – Mr. Carrow led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Approval of Minutes** –

Mr. Carrow made a motion to accept the Council Meeting minutes from 08/12/18, the Personnel Meeting minutes of 8/20/18, the Street Committee minutes of 8/23/18, and the Budget Committee minutes from 08/23/18 in written form. Mr. Dias seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Approval of Income and Expense Report** –

Mr. Dias made a motion to approve the Income and Expense Report. Mr. Carrow seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

5. **Communications** – Ms. DeBenedictis read an email from DEMC dated 9/6/18. It was an ACES report on the upcoming hurricane. It could linger over the south until Sunday. We are expected to get 3 – 6” of rain.
6. **Report of the Chief of Police** – Mr. Hutson reported statistics from his August report. There were 286 calls, 250 traffic arrests, 49 parking tickets (mainly street sweeping violations), and 51 criminal arrests. Pfc. Hibbert attended Child Abuse and Neglect Training. We provided assistance to the Wyoming Peach Festival. We also assisted with Wyoming and Smyrna’s Night Out. Mr. Hutson participated in the Fire Company 5K. Mr. Hutson and Ms. Letterman attended the community luncheon at the Lillian Smith Senior Center. Mr. Hutson attended the Smyrna School District Welcome Back Breakfast. Cpl. Bishop attended a DRE Conference. The Office of Highway Safety will pick up the expenses for this conference. Cpl. Graham and Pfc. Hume attended the Hometown Security Conference.
7. **Report of the Town Foreman** – Mr. Hurlock had no report.
8. **Report of the Town Solicitor** – Mr. Junge had no report.

9. Report from Inspections/Enforcement – Mr. Hurlock had no report.

10. Reports from Members of Council

- a. Report from Electric Committee** – Ms. DeBenedictis stated a wire came down on Smyrna Avenue. Mr. Hurlock stated a tree came down and snapped two poles. AUI came and repaired this. There was a power loss to a small portion of town. In the middle of October Mr. Hurlock is having a contractor come in and trim trees. They will spend one day in the Town Park area. On 9/10/18 Mr. Hurlock stated there was a planned outage in Providence Crossing to move wires. This was to have it built as designed. Mr. Hurlock stated Providence Crossing's electric is complete and now built as designed. Mr. Letterman asked about the trees in the area of the elementary school to Southern States. Are they cleared? Mr. Hurlock stated no. They will be cleared in the early spring. The contractor will come back the first of the year and clear it better. A 4 – 6' clearance is needed.
- b. Report from Street Committee** – Mr. Letterman stated a few patches have been repaired. Mr. Hurlock stated the letter of commitment for Reed Street has come in for \$40,000. Mr. Letterman stated the projected cost was \$70,000. Mr. Hurlock stated there is money in the Municipal Street Aid Fund. Ed will put it out to bid. Mr. Letterman stated the contractor needs to use a steam roller on the street. He wants no equipment that uses vibration because this could affect the water pipes. Mr. Letterman stated a meeting is scheduled tentatively for 9/20/18.
- c. Report from Water & Sewer Committee** – Mr. Dias had no report. Mr. Hurlock stated there was a water leak on 9/6/18. Customers had an outage. The issue was the interconnection between the town and Hanover Foods. Mr. Hurlock stated there was hydrant flushing done recently. They had their hand on every hydrant in town. There are about 400 hydrants.
- d. Report from Equipment Committee** – Mr. Letterman had no report.
- e. Report from Personnel Committee** – Mr. Carrow had no report.
- f. Report from Public Safety Committee** – Mr. Dias had no report.
- g. Report from Budget Committee** – Mr. Letterman stated a meeting is scheduled 09/26/18.
- h. Report from Economic Development Committee** – Mr. Carrow had no report.
- i. Report from DEMEC** – Ms. DeBenedictis stated she and Sue went to a training class on body language. Ms. DeBenedictis also stated the annual DEMEC dinner is 9/19/18 at Dover Downs. Mr. Letterman asked why DEMEC had a class about body language. Ms. DeBenedictis stated to deal with customer service.
- j. Report from Board of Adjustments** – Mr. Hurlock had no report.

k. Report from Planning & Zoning Committee – Mr. Hurlock stated they received the comments from the PLUS meeting. They are very disturbing. Mr. Hurlock stated he has a conference call with Linda Raab next Monday. Mr. Carrow asked if they had comments before. Mr. Hurlock stated no. It looks like rubber stamp questions for a big municipality. Mr. Letterman stated some of the issues with the comp plan don't deal with us. If you have questions, send them to Sue. If you have three or more people at the meeting we will be required to follow FOIA policy and will have to reschedule. Mr. Hurlock stated council members can come to the Planning & Zoning meeting and comment. Mr. Carrow asked if Linda works with others. Mr. Hurlock stated yes – she is upset. Mr. Hurlock stated he had a meeting with the developer and our engineer reference Ovarions. We will oversee construction of the lift station. Ms. DeBenedictis asked about Grain Mill Station. Mr. Hurlock stated the materials have been delivered.

l. Appeals Board – Mr. Hurlock had no report.

11. Unfinished Business

a. No unfinished business.

12. New Business –

a. 2017 Financial Statements – This was removed by the Mayor.

b. Discuss and vote on additions to Public Safety Committee – Alexander C. Carrow from the Clayton Fire Company and Russell Stinson from American Legion Ambulance. Replacement of William Carrow from Public Safety Committee. – Mr. Letterman moved Mr. Smith from the Electric Committee and put him on the Public Safety Committee. Mr. Carrow was moved from the Public Safety Committee and put on the Electric Committee. Mr. Letterman stated the listing will be updated. Mr. Letterman stated it was suggested to have people from the public on the committee.

Ms. DeBenedictis made a motion to add Alexander Carrow from the Clayton Fire Company and Russell Stinson from American Legion Ambulance to the Public Safety Committee. Mr. Dias seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Request to be put on the Town Council Agenda – Wayne Gladhill. Transparency in reporting major crimes to citizens of Clayton and news media; Facebook page; community policing (involvement of the community etc.); town watch. Mr. Gladhill stated he spoke with the Mayor and Mr. Hutson. Mr. Gladhill stated in reference to Facebook no information is provided of crime activity. It is not in the paper. People are unaware of the car broken into on West Street. The news media is unaware. As far as Facebook something comes in you post it. You have an alert system for emergencies. You should have a Facebook page for the Clayton Police Department. Clayton town watch sign – it is faded and you can hardly read it. Providence Crossing created a town watch. Mr. Hutson responded to the town watch. This has been started three (3) times. The last one was in 2012. When it is first started, everyone is all gung ho for 5 – 6

months. After that, people withdrawal. It lasts 1-1/2 years if we are lucky. If someone is interested in it, have them contact Captain Hutson. Mr. Letterman stated it doesn't have to be a regimented group. The signs are posted. If someone sees the sign it might deter them if they think there is a town watch group. Mr. Gladhill asked about replacing the signs. Mr. Letterman stated we have no spare signs. They are expensive. Mr. Hutson stated things have been put in the paper in the past. He is not against it. If the car break in was an ongoing incident, it would have been put in the paper. This involved teenagers. They were going into unlocked cars and rummaging around. As far as the car being stolen, the key fob was left in the car. An arrest was made the same day. Ms. DeBenedictis stated this was on Facebook. Mr. Hutson stated as far as social media – bigger departments do have it. Camden PD, Wyoming PD, and Felton PD do not have it. They are about the same size as we are. Mr. Hutson stated it has its pros and cons. Milton had a posting and comments were made degrading people. It has its benefits, but it also has its drawbacks. Mr. Gladhill stated you can eliminate the comments. Mr. Hutson stated we can sit down and talk about it. Mr. Hutson stated he is not against putting things in the paper. Mr. Gladhill stated communication to the town's people. Mr. Hutson stated the situation he used is not a good example. The crime was already solved. There was nothing to post. Mr. Carrow stated he completely agrees with social media. In the past we have done a terrible job. He has been in the police field for 34 years. He sees many things. You can control the information you put out. You can delete negative comments. Someone can be trained. The public can be your eyes and ears. Be proactive instead of reactive. It is a very good tool to use. Smyrna PD has used it and solved crimes. Mr. Dias stated the paper used to come to our meetings but they stopped. Mr. Letterman stated they stopped due to financial restraints. Mr. Letterman stated Sue sends a monthly summary of the Council Meeting to the newspaper. It is not put in the paper.

13. Public Forum –

- a. Mr. Gladhill asked about the sidewalk on W. Duck Creek Road from the townhomes to Longwood Lane. Wanted to find out who cuts the grass. He asked Mr. Hurlock to call. Mr. Letterman stated it got cut. Mr. Gladhill stated it took a week to cut the grass. Mr. Letterman stated it is Clayton property. Public Works is a thin crew. They are trying to keep up. They had water main breaks. Mr. Hurlock stated part of that property belongs to the Longwood Lane Homeowner's Association. We just cut it. For unclaimed property we will cut it to keep complaints down.

Mr. Letterman asked if the public had any other comments. He asked for a motion to adjourn.

14. Adjournment

Mr. Carrow made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Dias seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Recording Secretary,

Sue Muncey