

Council Meeting
August 10, 2020
7:00 p.m.

The council meeting of Vice Mayor and Council was held on the above date and time with Council members Carrow, Smith, Brockenbrough, and DeBenedictis present with Vice Mayor Dias presiding. Recording Secretary Sue Muncey, Town Foreman Jeff Hurlock, Chief Carl Hutson, and Town Solicitor Scott Chambers were also in attendance.

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

Mr. Carrow made a motion to accept the Council Meeting minutes of 07/13/20 and the Public Safety Committee minutes of 07/15/20 in their written form. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the Income and Expense Report for July 2020. Ms. DeBenedictis seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

5. **Communications** – No Communications

6. **Report of the Chief of Police** – Mr. Hutson stated there were 262 calls for service and 168 traffic arrests. He stated they focused on the developments per the Mayor’s request. On 7/27/20 Delaware Department of Homeland Security conducted a LESO Audit. They want to use the grant money for movable speed signs which includes free tracking software. Mr. Hutson stated they also submitted for the Violent Crime Grant for approximately \$27,000. They want to expand on the camera system. They want to focus on Route 300 into the developments, Industrial Park area and Route 300, School Lane and Route 300, and Underwoods Corner Road and Route 300. Mr. Carrow asked about the schools. Will this affect the SRO’s and the budget? Mr. Hutson stated he hasn’t heard. First State Military Academy is to call Mr. Hutson. Mr. Hutson stated he has not heard from Smyrna School District or Providence Creek Academy. The first six weeks are going to be virtual and then start hybrid. Mr. Carrow asked about tractor trailers parking in town. Mr. Hutson stated there is nothing in the ordinance where they cannot park in their driveway. They cannot block the sidewalk. Mr. Hutson stated he is looking into this. Mr. Smith stated there is a tractor parked on School Lane on the Wheatley’s Pond side. Ms. DeBenedictis asked if the reduced speed on Route 300 has helped. Mr. Hutson stated it has helped some.

- 7. Report of the Town Foreman** – Mr. Hurlock stated an email was sent to Council today. We had minor damage from the tropical storm. Three trees affected house services. There was medium street flooding. This normally occurs in the same place. There were two electric incidents during the extreme heat. Both were blown fuses. About 150 customers were affected both times for about one hour. One was caused by a bird and the other the fuse just gave out. Mr. Hurlock wanted to discuss the water system. He thinks we need to sell the water system or we will need to spend about \$3 million on a new system. Artesian is \$9.00 per 1,000 gallons. Mr. Brockenbrough asked who you would sell to. Mr. Hurlock stated maybe Artesian. They own a lot in the area. Building permits and developments are doing well. Mr. Hurlock stated we need to start preparing for multiple employees retiring over the next few years. We need to start advertising for a trained electric person. Ms. DeBenedictis stated we need to start looking. Mr. Dias asked about the salary. Mr. Hurlock stated we need to look at and study. Mr. Hurlock asked Mr. Chambers what we would need to do if we sell the system. Mr. Chambers stated Frankford had an RFB. Bids have to go out. There are a lot of layers to go through.
- 8. Report of the Town Solicitor** – Mr. Chambers stated a letter was sent out. The lawyer needs to clarify the status of the situation.
- 9. Report from Inspections/Enforcement** – Mr. Hurlock had no report.
- 10. Reports from Members of Council**

 - a. Report from Electric Committee** – Ms. DeBenedictis had no report.
 - b. Report from Street Committee** – Mr. Smith had no report. Mr. Carrow stated he was contacted by a resident. Their house backs up to the alley by the church. There is a lot of flooding. He would like to revisit and speak to representatives. Mr. Smith asked if there were options. Mr. Hurlock stated there are no options. That area is lower than anywhere in town. It cannot naturally get rid of water. It is a tough issue. Ms. DeBenedictis asked how often it floods. Mr. Hurlock stated during heavy rains.
 - c. Report from Water & Sewer Committee** – Mr. Brockenbrough had no report.
 - d. Report from Equipment Committee** – Mr. Smith had no report. He stated Carl and Shawn fixed two police cars.
 - e. Report from Personnel Committee** – Mr. Carrow stated he will send dates to schedule a meeting.
 - f. Report from Public Safety Committee** – Mr. Dias had no report.
 - g. Report from Budget Committee** – Mr. Smith stated a meeting is scheduled for 8/19/20.
 - h. Report from Economic Development Committee** – Mr. Carrow wanted to thank everyone for their help with the Clayton Veterans Park dedication. He wanted to thank Traci and Kelly for their help with the invitations and programs. Over 120 people came. Mr. Carrow stated

Railroad Days has been cancelled due to issues with COVID-19. Movie Night has been rescheduled until October. He stated a complaint was made to the State. It was in reference to the bounce house and food vendors. The bounce house was cancelled and we have to follow protocol with food vendors. We have to mark every six foot for residents standing in line. We came to an understanding with the State.

- i. Report from Downtown Development Rebate** – Ms. DeBenedictis had no report.
 - j. Report from DEMEC** – Ms. DeBenedictis stated the annual dinner is going to be virtual. They want a total number of employees in town to give out gifts. There has been two sessions thus far. They are working on a strategic plan for the next 5 to 10 years. It is interactive with the board and moderator. They have asked for six to eight priorities from the DEMEC board for the next 5 to 10 years. She reviewed this with Mr. Hurlock. She listed the priorities as follows: (1) lowest cost, (2) workforce development, (3) legislation lobbying, (4) communication of information, (5) power supply, and (6) support customers. DEMEC has talked about diversifying in the future. DEMEC voted to donate \$250,000 to COVID relief. \$4,025 will be donated to Clayton. This money will go to an organization to be distributed to our customers who are in need. We need to come up with a plan on how to distribute.
 - k. Report from Board of Adjustments** – Mr. Hurlock had no report.
 - l. Report from Planning & Zoning Committee** – Mr. Hurlock had no report. Mr. Hurlock stated the code enforcement officer has been very busy. He only works 24 hours per week so things are being prioritized.
 - m. Appeals Board** – Mr. Hurlock had no report.
 - n. Charter Committee** – Mr. Dias had no report.
- 11. Public Forum** – Public not present.
- 12. Unfinished Business** – No unfinished business.
- 13. New Business** – No new business.

Adjournment

Mr. Carrow made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Recording Secretary,

Sue Muncey