

# Council Meeting

July 12, 2021

7:00 p.m.

The council meeting of Mayor and Council was held on the above date and time with Council members Carrow, DeBenedictis, and Burnett present with Mayor Smith presiding. Recording Secretary Sue Muncey, Town Foreman Jeff Hurlock, Chief Carl Hutson, Town Solicitor Scott Chambers, Robert Bishop, John Pridemore, Tina Moss, Jeff Lightcap, Harvey Scott, Kevin Wilson, and Joel Tulhammer were also in attendance. Councilman Valentine was excused from the meeting.

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

*Mr. Carrow made a motion to accept the Council Meeting minutes of 06/14/21 and the ARPA Committee Meeting minutes of 06/15/21 as presented in their written form. Mr. Burnett seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.*

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

*Mr. Burnett made a motion to approve the Income and Expense Reports for June 2021 as presented in the email sent out. Ms. DeBenedictis seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.*

5. **Communications** – No communications

6. **Report of the Chief of Police** – Mr. Hutson stated there were 404 calls for service. The call volume is up. At this rate, there will be 800 more complaints by the end of the year. There were 277 traffic tickets and 65 parking tickets. Lt. Scott, Cpl. Hume, and PFC Hibbert assisted with First State Military Academy's graduation on 06/04/21. Cpl. Bishop and Cpl. Andrews provided security and assisted with traffic enforcement at Smyrna High School's graduation on 06/05/21. Lt. Scott and Cpl. Andrews assisted with Providence Creek Academy's graduation on 06/08/21. Chief Hutson, Lt. Scott, and Cpl. Hume ran in the Special Olympics Delaware Law Enforcement Torch Run on 06/10/21. Mr. Hutson stated for 2021 Clayton was listed as the safest city for 2021. This is determined by FBI statistics.

7. **Report of the Town Foreman** – Mr. Hurlock stated the yard waste truck is requiring three (3) people to operate on Monday and Thursday – 10 hours per week. Employees are in the process of painting curbs and fire hydrants in town limits and developments as time allows. Mr. Hurlock stated they are still searching to fill the part-time position. They have not had any applicants since the job posting was submitted on Facebook and the town's website. Due to the high amount of garbage in the old part of town, the streets are being swept on a weekly basis. The developments

will be swept every other week. The water demand is still extremely high. The cleaning and video inspection of the sewer system started on 7/12/21. Chesapeake Supply picked up the backhoe for repair. Repairs have been completed. Mr. Hurlock stated the builders are having a hard time getting meter pans. Old Country Farm cannot get pipes. Mr. Hurlock stated he was pleased with three (3) guys on his staff for stepping up on the electric last week while he was on vacation. He did not get one (1) phone call all week. Mr. Carrow asked about street signs in Ovations. Mr. Hurlock stated they should be done. Mr. Smith stated the 35 mph speed sign is missing again on Wheatley's Pond Road.

**8. Report of the Town Solicitor** – Mr. Chambers 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 had no report.

**b. Report from Street Committee** – Mr. Smith had no report. Mr. Hurlock said to think about what streets they wanted blacktopped.

**c. Report from Water & Sewer Committee** – Mr. Burnett stated there will be a meeting set up in the next couple of weeks for a request to bid.

**d. Report from Equipment Committee** – Mr. Smith had no report.

**e. Report from Personnel Committee** – Mr. Carrow commented on the town manager position. They are going through applications. A meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 07/22/21 at 6:30 p.m. to review applications.

**f. Report from Public Safety Committee** – Mr. Smith had no report.

**g. Report from Budget Committee** – Mr. Smith stated the report is reflecting a negative. Taxes are going out so it will look better.

**h. Report from Economic Development Committee** – Mr. Carrow had no report.

**i. Report from Downtown Development Rebate** – Ms. DeBenedictis stated Penny Pierson has left. They are trying to get ahold of a couple of people to discuss funding.

**j. Report from DEMEC** – Ms. DeBenedictis had no report. She stated the next meeting will be in person.

**k. Report from Board of Adjustments** – Mr. Hurlock had no report.

**l. Report from Planning & Zoning Committee** – Mr. Hurlock had no report.

**m. Appeals Board** – Mr. Hurlock had no report.

- n. **Law and Legislature Committee** – Mr. Smith stated a meeting will be set up in August to discuss the town charter.

**11. Public Forum** – No response from the public.

**12. Unfinished Business** –

- a. **Second Reading and Vote – An Ordinance for “Annual Registration of Vacant Buildings and Registration Fees”.** (MD) - Mr. Chambers stated the entire ordinance does not have to be read a second time. He stated since it was read in its entirety at the last meeting, the charter states it doesn’t have to be read in its entirety again. Mr. Burnett asked if it can be read and voted upon in the same month. Mr. Chambers stated it has to be read at the first meeting and voted on at the second meeting.

*Mr. Carrow made a motion to accept the Ordinance for “Annual Registration of Vacant Buildings and Registration Fees” as read on 06/14/21. Ms. DeBenedictis seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.*

**13. New Business**

- a. **Presentation to Sgt. Robert Bishop – Lifesaving Award from the Clayton Fire Company.** – Mr. Pridemore stated this is being presented by the Clayton Fire Company and the Clayton Police Department. EMS Joel Tulhammer read the circumstances of how Sgt. Bishop saved a human life. Mr. Pridemore read the lifesaving award certificate. Chief Hutson commended Sgt. Bishop and presented him with a certificate for outstanding police performance.
- b. **Request to be put on the Town Council Agenda – Danielle Sims/Tina Moses – Would like to use “Movie Night” field for Boy Scout event.** – Ms. Moses stated they are requesting to use the open area for a Boy Scouts movie night for their popcorn kickoff event. Ms. Moses stated it is only open to the scouts, maybe about 30 people. They wouldn’t turn people away. Mr. Hutson stated we have done stuff like this before.

*Mr. Burnett made a motion to accept the use of the property at Bassett Street and Smyrna Avenue on 08/21/21 for the Boy Scout’s Popcorn Kickoff. Mr. Carrow seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.*

- c. **Discuss and Vote – Placing a Flag Pole at the Public Works Building (WC).** – Mr. Carrow stated he was approached by public works staff if they could get a flag pole for the Public Works building. The projected cost would be \$2,500. Public Works would install and run the electric. Mr. Burnett asked what the location of where they would install the flag pole. Mr. Hurlock stated around Kirkwood or Haslett Street. Mr. Burnett asked if it would be left up 24/7. Mr. Hurlock stated yes. Mr. Hurlock stated you would need to find the money for it. He was not approached about this from his staff.

*Ms. DeBenedictis made a motion to install a flag pole and equipment for the Public Works building on Bassett Street not to exceed \$2,500. Mr. Burnett seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.*

#### **14. Adjournment**

Mr. Smith asked for a motion to adjourn.

*Mr. Carrow made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. DeBenedictis seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.*

Recording Secretary,

Sue Muncey