

Council Meeting
January 10, 2022
7:00 p.m.

The council meeting of Mayor and Council was held on the above date and time with Council members Valentine and Burnett present. Mayor Smith was presiding. Recording Secretary Sue Muncey, Town Foreman Jeff Hurlock, Lieutenant Harvey Scott, Town Solicitor Gary Junge, Alex Dias, John Pridemore, and Jeff Lightcap were also in attendance. Mr. Carrow and Ms. DeBenedictis were 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. Valentine led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Approval of Minutes** –

Mr. Burnett made a motion to accept the Council Meeting minutes of 12/13/21 and the Personnel Committee Meeting minutes of 12/27/21 as presented in their written form. Mr. Valentine seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Approval of Income and Expense Report** – Mr. Smith suspended the approval of the Income and Expense Report to have adjustments made. This will be approved next month.
5. **Communications** – N/A
6. **Report of the Chief of Police** – Mr. Scott stated there were 327 calls for service and 126 traffic arrests. On 12/5/21 Chief Hutson, Lt. Scott, Lt. Rau, Sgt. Bishop, Cpl. Hibbert, and Cpl. Andrews helped with the Christmas in Clayton Parade. They preceded to the Blue Light Vigil at the Delaware Law Enforcement Memorial. Lt. Rau escorted Toys for Tots from Camden to Little Creek. Rehoboth Beach held their Hometown Christmas Parade on 12/6/21. Lt. Scott, Cpl. P. Bishop, Cpl. Hibbert, and Cpl. Andrews assisted with traffic enforcement. Chief Hutson went to the Kent County Chiefs Meeting in Wyoming on 12/7/21. Lt. Scott and Lt. Rau helped with Ewell-St. Paul's Live Nativity on 12/9/21 and 12/10/21. Lt. Rau and PFC Fox led the Smyrna Christmas Parade on 12/12/21. The Police Chiefs Meeting was held at the DSTA Hall on 12/14/21. Chief Hutson, Lt. Scott, Lt. Rau, and Christine Letterman attended. Lt. Scott and Lt. Rau covered for Cheswold on 12/15/21. Cpl. P. Bishop escorted Santa to Clayton Veteran's Park on 12/18/21. Multiple officers provided traffic enforcement during the FSMA Formation Run on 12/22/21.
7. **Report of the Town Foreman** – Mr. Hurlock stated everyone received the monthly activity report via email.
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** – Mr. Burnett had no report.
- b. Report from Street Committee** – Mr. Valentine had no report.
- c. Report from Water & Sewer Committee** – Mr. Burnett stated a meeting is being scheduled to discuss the report received of the video of the sewer system and to prioritize the streets. The meeting will be either January 19 or January 20. Mr. Burnett stated he also reached out to soil conservation in reference to the storm sewer to bust up the beaver dams.
- d. Report from Equipment Committee** – Mr. Valentine had no report.
- e. Report from Personnel Committee** – Mr. Smith stated the contract went to legal for review and the Town Manager will be announced at the February meeting.
- f. Report from Public Safety Committee** – Mr. Smith had no report.
- g. Report from Budget Committee** – Mr. Valentine had no report. Mr. Smith stated a meeting could be scheduled for late February or early March.
- h. Report from Economic Development Committee** – Mr. Smith had no report.
- i. Report from Downtown Development Rebate** – Mr. Smith had no report.
- j. Report from DEMEC** – Mr. Burnett stated DEMEC is scheduling meetings with several politicians reference senate bills.
- 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 had no report.

11. Public Forum –

Alex Dias stated Orbit Energy is stating they are working hand in hand with the Electric Department to sell solar. Mr. Smith stated he will call them. They have no solicitation permit. Mr. Smith also stated that disconnections were suspended due to the weather. Mr. Hurlock stated disconnections might be done on Thursday. Mr. Burnett stated that Code Red can target individual houses.

12. Unfinished Business – No unfinished business.

13. New Business

a. Review, Adjust, and Vote on Revised COVID Employee Policy.

Mr. Smith stated we have a current COVID policy in place. He stated the CDC guidelines change frequently. Mr. Smith made the suggestion of changing to policy to state: Any employee testing positive is to report the results to the Department Head immediately. Mask and quarantine guidelines will follow current CDC guidelines at the time of decision. Mr. Smith stated we should ride the wave with the CDC. Mr. Junge stated it is safe, but they could question what the guideline is at that time.

Mr. Valentine made a motion to change the COVID Employee Policy to read: Any employee testing positive is to report results to the Department Head immediately. Mask and quarantine guidelines will follow current CDC guidelines at the time of decision. Mr. Burnett seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Discuss and Vote – Add Juneteenth as a holiday to the Employee Handbook.

Mr. Smith stated this is an approved federal holiday. Mr. Burnett stated it is also an approved state holiday. Mr. Burnett stated Milford and Seaford have approved this. Smyrna, Newark, and Middletown have not approved this.

Mr. Burnett made a motion to approve Juneteenth as a holiday for town employees and to close the office accordingly. Mr. Valentine seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Smith asked for a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Valentine made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Burnett seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Recording Secretary,

Sue Muncey