

**MINUTES of the REGULAR
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

February 11, 2020 @ 7:00PM
32 WEST AVENUE
OCEAN VIEW, DE 19970

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Curran called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

Present: Council Members Tom Maly, Frank Twardzik, Bert Reynolds and Bruce White. Town Manager Carol Houck, Finance Director Dawn Parks, Police Chief Ken McLaughlin, Planning & Development Director Ken Cimino, Town Solicitor Dennis Schrader, and Town Clerk Donna Schwartz present.

2. **PUBLIC HEARING**

A. A First Reading on an Ordinance to Amend Ocean View Code by Amending Chapter 1 by Adding Article 2 Relating to Penalties and Fines for Violations and Payment Thereof.

Mr. Schrader explained this ordinance saying this change makes it easier to pay for a violation or to appeal a penalty or fine.

B. A First Reading on an Ordinance to Amend the Ocean View Code, Chapter 199, Providing for the Defense and Indemnification of Town Officers and Employees.

Mr. Schrader explained the purpose of this ordinance saying it covers all uninsured claims against elected persons, appointed officials, and employees.

C. A First Reading of an Ordinance Adopting an Updated Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Ocean View.

Mrs. Houck explained the ordinance for the Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Mr. Schrader made note of some population changes and new demographics in the updated plan. Mayor Curran noted how engaged the public was with this plan, which was a very good thing.

3. **ADOPTION** of Agenda

A motion was made by Council Member Maly, seconded by Council Member Twardzik to adopt the agenda. The motion carried unanimously 5/0.

4. **APPROVAL** of the Town Council Minutes

A motion was made by Council Member Maly, seconded by Council Member Twardzik, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 14, 2020. The motion carried unanimously 5/0.

A motion was made by Council Member Twardzik, seconded by Council Member Reynolds, to approve the minutes of the Workshop held on January 25, 2020. The motion carried unanimously 5/0.

5. **COMMUNICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

- A. Mayor Curran read the monthly report from the Millville Volunteer Fire Department. He introduced Fire Chief Guy Rickards who was in attendance to present the Millville Volunteer Fire Department's grant request for 2020. Chief Rickards said the grant money would be used to purchase a needed fourth ambulance. They currently have three ambulances and no spare. In the past they have had to borrow ambulances from their neighbors when one of theirs was out for service.

Council Member Twardzik asked Chief Rickards how many full-time EMT's they have on staff. Chief Rickards replied fifteen, and they are all paid. Volunteers are down in all areas. They are doing some public relations work to attract new volunteers. Council Member Reynolds asked about the new Beebe Emergency Room and how it will affect the Millville ambulance service. Chief Rickards stated they have already told Beebe that the ambulances are needed in the district and cannot miss calls. He said they have put Beebe on notice that there will be no transports between the new ER and Beebe Hospital in Lewes.

Chief Rickards also noted that the yearly ambulance subscription is now \$75 a year.

- B. Mayor Curran read a letter from the Bare Family who was in attendance to present the model of their little free library for the park. It will be installed in the park and hold both adult and children's books. *A motion was made by Mayor Curran, seconded by Council Member Twardzik, to allow placement of the small library in the park. The motion carried unanimously 5/0.*
- C. Mayor Curran read a letter of resignation from the Board of Adjustment by John Reddington.
- D. Mayor Curran also thanked the Ocean View Historical Society for providing Council with their annual report.

6. **REPORTS**

- A. **Financial (Dawn Parks)**
Report received and filed.
- B. **Public Safety (Ken McLaughlin)**
Report received and filed.
Mayor Curran congratulated Chief McLaughlin for being selected the safest community in the State of Delaware again.
- C. **Planning, Zoning and Development (Ken Cimino)**
Report received and filed.
- D. **Town Manager (Carol Houck)**
Report received and filed.
- E. **Town Council**
Mayor Curran commented on a tax decrease story which he said was floating around. He said the last tax increase was good for two years because of the many capital projects ahead of the Town. Never was an automatic decrease planned after two years. Mayor Curran stated there will be no tax increase this year. Town Council looks at the

budget every year and decides on a year to year basis whether there will be a tax increase or not.

7. **CITIZENS' PRIVILEGE ON AGENDA ITEMS**

John Reddington, October Glory Avenue, thanked the Town for improving the vision statement in the Comprehensive Plan.

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Introduction of Ordinance(s)

Council Member Maly introduced an Ordinance to amend the Ocean View Code, Chapter 68, Animals, by adding thereto Prohibitions against Nuisances and Harboring or Feeding Non-domesticated Dogs or Feral Cats within the Town Limits of Ocean View.

B. Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Voting on Grant Award from the Emergency Services Enhancement Fund.

Town Council was being asked to vote on a request by the Millville Volunteer Fire Department for a grant request of \$80,000.

Council Member Reynolds suggested that the Town pay itself out of the ESEF fund because we provide emergency police services to Millville. He also indicated he thought that Millville should pay Ocean View for the services we provide them. He said the police could use the money towards new vehicles and equipment. Mayor Curran explained that could not happen in this budget year. Mrs. Houck said this is a sensitive matter and needs time for review. It cannot not happen in this budget year.

Chief McLaughlin remarked that the Millville Fire Dept is not a part of the Town of Millville, one has nothing to do with the other. Council Member Twardzik questioned if Sussex County gives a grant to Ocean View to help the state police. Chief McLaughlin confirmed that we receive \$25,000 a year from the county. He also noted that unless they are asked to, they do not respond to all calls outside the town limits. Mayor Curran suggested we open communications with the Town of Millville. Chief McLaughlin noted that once the new emergency room is open it will change things for Millville, they will have additional issues they don't have now.

A motion was made by Mayor Curran, seconded by Council Member Twardzik, to approve the grant request. The motion carried unanimously 5/0.

C. Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Voting on a Municipal-wide Discount Ambulance Subscription Service Agreement.

A motion was made by Mayor Curran, seconded by Council Member Maly, to approve the three-year ambulance subscription agreement. The motion carried unanimously 5/0.

D. Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Voting on a recommendation to amend the FY20 Capital Program in order to pave the gravel parking lot at 32 West Avenue.

Mrs. Houck explained the recommendation to Council. She said the paved lot would be more user friendly to the handicap for all our seasonal events. Council Member White asked how many spaces there would be and how many would be handicap assessable. Mrs. Houck said there would be six handicap spaces and the balance would be regular striped parking spaces.

A motion was made by Mayor Curran, seconded by Council Member Twardzik, to approve funds to pave the gravel lot. The motion carried unanimously 5/0.

E. Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Voting on the Appointment of Bill Olsen to the Board of Assessment.

A motion was made by Mayor Curran, seconded by Council Member Maly, to approve the appointment of Bill Olsen to the Board of Assessment. The motion carried unanimously 5/0.

9. CITIZENS' PRIVILEGE

Mr. Dick Jennison, Ogre Drive, questioned what the status was of Ogre Drive is now that the glass has be found. The road has not been accepted and will not be until repairs are made. Mayor Curran said we will hold his bond until the roadway is fixed to our code. Mr. Jennison also thanked Mrs. Houck for the news on the dimmer lights which could be installed at some point.

Elaine Cziraky, Ogre Drive, thanked Chief McLaughlin for all his help with her situation. She also questioned about the sentence concerning a deed and wording in her seller's agreement she signed at purchase regarding the roadway.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mayor Curran, seconded by Council Member Reynolds, to go into executive session at 8:39pm. The motion carried unanimously 5/0.

A motion was made by Mayor Curran, seconded by Council Member Maly, to come out of executive session at 9:15pm. The motion carried unanimously 5/0.

Mr. Schrader stated the executive session was held with the five members of Council, Mrs. Houck, Mrs. Parks, Mr. Cimino, Chief McLaughlin and himself all present. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss possible land acquisition. No motions were made, and no votes were taken.

11. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Council Member Reynolds, seconded by Council Member Twardzik, to adjourn the meeting at 9:17pm. The motion carried unanimously 5/0.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna M. Schwartz, CMC,
Town Clerk