

Minutes

Town Council Meeting

January 09, 2023

The Town Council held its monthly meeting on Monday, January 09, 2023, in the council room of the Town Hall. Those joining the assembly were: Brian Laine, Mayor; Oscar E. Parker, III, Council President; Michael Kessinger, Dennis Mason, Darlene Whiting, Frances Chambers, Council Members; Pat Bowden, Fire Chief; David West, SSA Representative; Robyn Croft, Treasurer; Bonita Meyers, Clerk.

Call to order: The mayor called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm leading all those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call and Adoption of Agenda: The clerk called the roll; all members were present except Brian Wills.

Mrs. Whiting moved to adopt the agenda as presented, Mr. Mason seconded, and Council voted unanimously by raised hands to accept the motion.

Announcements: Sussex County Chamber of Commerce President Jesse Hellyer addressed the Council. He thanked the Council for their continued support through membership and gave a brief overview of the Chambers' growth over the past couple of years. The Chambers' next event will be on Thursday, March 23, at the 4H Center to honor all businesses that are 50 years old or greater. Mr. Hellyer asked Council to consider hosting at least one event this year. April, June, or September are the recommended times.

Minutes: Mr. Parker moved to dispense with the reading of the August minutes and to approve them as presented; Mrs. Chambers seconded; Council voted unanimously to accept the motion.

Treasurer's Report: Mrs. Croft presented the treasurer's report as follows:

Balance on hand in the General Fund as of December 31, 2022- \$295,253.76

Bills introduced for payment as of December 31, 2022- \$62,389.00

Mr. Kessinger made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented, Mr. Parker seconded the move, and Council voted unanimously by raised hands in favor of the action.

Citizen Statements: None

Committee Reports:

Fire Department: Chief Bowden reported that they were just about finished checking the hydrants

Sussex Service Authority: None

Airport: The mayor announced that the tower's cost for an LED light would be around \$21,000 but would last seventeen to eighteen years.

Ballpark/Recreation: Mr. Parker stated the new scoreboard should arrive in the next 30 days. Mr. Kessinger requested a new breaker and outlet be added to the concession stand while the electrical work is being done for the scoreboard.

Budget/Finance: None

Cemetery: None

Emergency Services/Safety: None

Personnel: None

Planning Commission: None

Property Maintenance: None

Streets/Beautification: The mayor announced that he was working on clearing the sidewalks on E Main Street.

Utilities: Mr. Chambers stated he had two items to mention. First, there are several hotspots where the vegetation is in danger of growing into the power lines. He recommends having them cleared before the spring growing season. Second, he requested to have the white maintenance shed, where the brush truck is stored, inventoried, and converted into an electrical utility storage area.

Mr. Kessinger asked if the poles had been numbered yet. After Mr. Chambers' denial, Mr. Kessinger suggested we move forward with possibly having the maintenance staff number the poles so we begin charging pole attachment fees instead of franchise fees.

The mayor recommended putting the job of clearing the hotspots out for bids; all voted in favor of the recommendation. Mr. Chambers agreed to procure the offers.

Vehicle Maintenance:

Zoning: None

Legal: The mayor announced he was following the process laid out by Town Attorney Mark Popovich for code enforcement of the dilapidated building.

Old Business: None

New Business: Mr. Kessinger recommended increasing the spending limit on cash-back credit cards and using them monthly to pay all bills. By the end of the year, the Town could earn a substantial income just for paying the bills.

Executive Session: None

Adjourn: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Brain M. Laine, Mayor

Bonita JC Meyers

Bonita Meyers, Clerk