

Minutes  
Town Council Meeting  
January 8, 2024

The Town Council held its monthly meeting at the Town Hall's council room on Monday, January 8, 2024. In attendance were Brian Laine, Mayor; Michael Kessinger, Dennis Mason, Darlean Walker; Brian Wills, Council Members; Pat Bowden, Fire Chief; Robyn Croft, Treasurer; and Bonita Meyers, Clerk.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by the Mayor at 7:00 pm. The attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Roll Call and Adoption of Agenda:** The clerk called the roll; all members except Mr. Parker and Mrs. Chambers were present.

Mrs. Whiting motioned to accept the presented agenda, which Mr. Kessinger seconded. The Council unanimously approved the motion through a show of hands.

**Announcements: None**

**Minutes:** Mr. Kessinger moved to dispense with the reading of the December minutes and to approve them as presented; Mr. Wills seconded; the 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 30, 2023 – \$185,895.74

Bills presented for payment as of December 30, 2023 – \$21,587.05

Mr. Wills made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented, Mrs. Whiting seconded the motion, and the Council voted unanimously in favor of accepting it.

**Committee Reports:**

**Fire Department:** Mr. Bowden expects to present the end-of-year report on fire hydrants during next month's meeting.

**Sussex Service Authority:** No report.

**Airport:** No report.

**Ballpark/Recreation:** No report.

**Budget/Finance:** No report.

**Cemetery:** No report.

**Emergency Services/Safety:** Mr. Kessinger has reported that the Blue Line Safety cameras are now operational and will begin issuing warnings for the next month. However, starting February 5th, they will begin issuing tickets.

On December 18, the new deputy started working in Wakefield. The deputy issued a dozen speeding tickets on Route 460 last week.

**Personnel:** No report.

**Planning Commission:** No report.

**Property Maintenance:** Mrs. Whiting announced that two local contractors will submit bids for the demolition work of the condemned properties by the next council meeting. The first property to be demolished will be the one on Pine St.

**Streets/Beautification:** No report.

**Utilities:** No report.

**Vehicle Maintenance:** No report.

**Zoning:** No report.

**Legal:** No report.

**Old Business:** No report.

**New Business: Security Cameras** - The Petersburg Alarm company provided three quotes for the security camera system upgrade. After discussing the options, Mrs. Whiting motioned to accept the quote for \$4,397 for the new alarm system. Mr. Kessinger seconded the motion, and the Council voted unanimously to accept the proposal.

**Sussex Chamber of Commerce annual fee** - Mr. Wills recommended postponing paying the bill until next month. He also proposed sending a letter to the Chamber to address the recent publication on their website that appeared to criticize the Town's electric rate increase. This would give them a chance to respond to the concerns raised. Mrs. Whiting seconded the action, and the Council unanimously accepted the proposal.

**Roof Leak** – Mr. Kessinger recommended obtaining quotes for fixing the leak in the roof and sealing it. Everyone agreed.

**Executive Session:** None

**Adjourn:** After concluding all the scheduled matters, the meeting ended at 7:47 p.m.

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Brain M. Laine, Mayor

*Bonita JC Meyers*  
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Bonita Meyers, Clerk