

## **COUNCIL MEETING**

### **September 14, 2015**

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The regular meeting of Mayor and Council was held on the above date with Council members Dias, DeBenedictis, Carrow and Fletcher present with Mayor Letterman presiding. Recording Secretary Melissa Knight, Town Foreman Hurlock, Scott Chambers, Karen Lee, Susan Outten, Charlene Monroe, Scott Crum, Brett Orth, Kristina Orth, Gary Everage, Donna Everage, Corey Everage, Sandra DeLane, John Barkley, Sr. & Family, Dwight Steinhauer, David Steinhauer, Dwight Sensing, and Jennifer from the Smyrna/Clayton Sun Times were also in attendance.

#### **1. Approve Minutes:**

*Council Meeting 08/10/15, Retirement Fund Meeting 08/27/15, and Electric Committee Meeting 09/03/15 – motion made by Mr. Carrow and seconded by Mr. Dias to approve the Council Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.*

#### **2. Treasurer's Report:**

*Motion made by Ms. DeBenedictis and seconded by Mr. Dias to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.*

#### **3. Communication:**

- Ms. DeBenedictis – 2015 Kent Distinguished Citizen is scheduled for Brooks Banta for 09/23/15 at Dover Downs; the reception at 6:00 p.m. and dinner at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Letterman asked if you would like to attend this event to please let him know tomorrow (09/15/15).

#### **4. Inspection/Enforcement:**

- Mr. Hurlock stated last month there was a citizen concern regarding property located on Main Street. Mr. Hurlock has spoken to the owners of the property to rectify the problem. Mr. Fletcher clarified it is the building that is located next to the old barber shop. Mr. Hurlock also clarified it is the building located next to the Tavern and the old Atlantic Tractor. Ms. DeBenedictis stated someone was cleaning the old ice cream building out today.

#### **5. Street:**

- Mr. Hurlock said last month we talked about the bids for East and West Street. East Street came over budget. The consulting engineer is separating the job. The job consists of a curb, sidewalk, and blacktop it is coming well under budget by doing it this way. The blacktop company will remain the same for East and West Street to keep the price down. Mr. Hurlock is hoping for the project to be completed in October as long as the weather holds up. The temperature needs to remain at 50 degrees or higher.

**6. Budget:**

- Mr. Carrow - a meeting is scheduled for 09/28/15, at 7:00 p.m. to start the 2016 Budget.

**7. Economic Development Committee:**

- Ms. DeBenedictis – a meeting is scheduled for 09/15/15, at 7:00 p.m., the location for the meeting is at the Young Bean.

**8. DEMEC:**

- Ms. DeBenedictis – The Annual DEMEC Meeting is scheduled for 09/23/15, at 5:30 p.m. at Dover Downs.

**9. Planning & Zoning:**

- Mr. Hurlock – Planning and Zoning has two (2) projects in the works. The Comprehensive Plan is still in the works and trying to get it approved, I believe the correspondence was given to Council. Linda is moving forward on this. The Planning & Zoning Committee recommended Ms. Rabb to come in and review the sign ordinance. The sign ordinance is confusing and the committee wants to make it more user-friendly to businesses. Ms. Rabb assured Mr. Hurlock this was not going to be a quick fix. There was a ruling making some signage non-enforceable.

**10. Unfinished Business:**

- Second reading and adoption of: An Act to Adopt an Ordinance Pertaining to Absentee Voting procedures for the Town of Clayton. Ms. DeBenedictis – read the ordinance.

*A motion was made by Mr. Dias to adopt the Ordinance pertaining to the Absentee Voting procedures for the Town of Clayton and seconded by Mr. Fletcher. Motion carried unanimously.*

**11. New Business:**

- Vote on the recommendation on the disconnection day from 5 business days to 10 business days.

*A motion was made by Ms. DeBenedictis to approve extending the disconnection day from 5 business days to 10 business days and seconded by Mr. Dias. Motion carried unanimously.*

- Recognition award to Cory Everage & John Barkley – Mr. Letterman presented the recognition award to Cory Everage and John Barkley. Mr. Everage and Mr. Barkley attended the Delaware Division All-Star World Series and made it to the semi-finals in Easley, South Carolina, where they were defeated.
- Kenton Mennonite Church – Dwight Steinhauer stated he would like to continue distributing their “Living Waters” pamphlet. Mr. Steinhauer read the letter he

presented to the Town of Clayton and it reads the following “We are requesting permission to continue distributing our “Living Waters” evangelistic pamphlet in the Town of Clayton and communities within the town limits. Our typical method of distribution involves a group of approximately 12 – 24 people fanning out across an area of town on a Sunday afternoon. We generally secure the pamphlet near the front door without knocking, unless someone is present at the door. We aim to avoid residents who clearly display “No Soliciting” signs and vacant properties. The communities receive our “Living Waters” pamphlet about once a year. The “Living Waters” pamphlet has an inspirational Christian message encouraging people to live up-building lives. There is a contact name, phone number, and/or address clearly printed on the back of our literature identifying who we are.” Council did not take any action.

- Parade and Assemblies License – Clayton Elementary School Halloween Parade

***A motion was made by Mr. Carrow to accept the Parade and Assemblies License for the Clayton Elementary School Halloween Parade, seconded by Mr. Dias. Motion carried unanimously.***

- Parade and Assemblies License – Clayton Fire Company Fire Prevention

***A motion was made by Ms. DeBenedictis to accept the Parade and Assemblies License for the Clayton Fire Company Fire Prevention and seconded by Mr. Fletcher. Motion carried unanimously.***

- Request to be put on the Town Council Agenda – Charlene Monroe Electric Bill Concern – Ms. Monroe stated she lives in the Old Country Farms; since we moved in we have always questioned our electric bill. Public works have been out several times to check the meter. We have one of the smallest houses in the development. Our neighbors live in a house that is twice the size of our house. The neighbors bill average \$300 a month and ours are averaging \$400. We called and spoke to Melissa and she said that the reason why your bill is so high is the 8,000 gallons of water last month. That is impossible; I did not use that much water. The meter was read, and there is definitely something wrong. Mr. Letterman stated public works did go out and test the electric meter and it is coming back with no problems. If you are using 8,000 gallons of water we can test the meter that is no issue. I would look the house over, you would be surprised of how much a running toilet would use. Ms. Monroe said, “I have checked that and this is not the issue.” What I would suggest is have Mr. Hurlock’s guys come out and check the water meter. I think she misread it, I believe she was reading the meter reading and not the usage again that is not my position. Mr. Letterman, I hear this many times of neighbors comparing their bills. We have found you can not go by each other bills, unless you can have the exact number of people taking a bath and the exact length of time and how much air conditioning you are using. Mr. Hurlock said he could test the water meter. My understanding, the water meter has not been requested to be tested. Mayor

Letterman stated that he would be willing to go over her utility bill with her. If that is something that would help you. Ms. Monroe said surprising enough I did sit down with the neighbors and compared what they have plugged in, etc. Mayor Letterman said surprising enough I would like to sit down with your neighbors and review their bills maybe their meters are not running accurately. Mr. Hurlock commented that could be the problem. Mayor Letterman advised Ms. Monroe to call Ms. Muncey to schedule a time to review her bill.

**12. Adjournment:**

*Motion made by Mr. Dias and seconded by Mr. Carrow to adjourn.*

*Motion carried unanimously.*

Recording Secretary,

Melissa Knight

***Public Forum***  
***September 14, 2015***

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Charlene Monroe – I live in Old Country Farm and ever since I moved in our bills have not been right. Mayor Letterman said “Ms. Monroe you are on the agenda for the Council Meeting and will be able to speak then.

Karen Lee – I live in Providence Crossing, on the electric bill we pay into the green energy, and I would like to have more information about this fund. I thought this fund was for residents that want to go green. Mayor Letterman said, “State law requires this.” If you would like to contact the office and speak with Ms. Muncey, she will be able to give you more information. The other concern I have is the basketball nets. There is a basketball net on Smyrna Creek in front of an abandoned house. I do not know whom the police would site for this.

Scott Crum – I have a question about the electric bill; why the Town of Clayton pays a third party. Is there any chance in the future to get away from the third party? Can the Town pay the provider directly or choose another provider? Mayor Letterman said, “No.”