

COUNCIL MEETING

December 14, 2015

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, Scott Chambers, Jeff Hurlock, Jerry Dorsey, Cordell Carr, Les Bartlett, William and Sandy Brooks, Tom Horn, Al Hill, Bernard Davenport, Robert Botsford, and John and Nicole Treadwell were also in attendance.

1. Approve Minutes:

Council Meeting 11/09/15, Budget Committee Meeting 11/17/15, Economic Development Meeting 11/24/15 – Ms. DeBenedictis stated the Budget Committee Meeting minutes need to be corrected regarding the amount of money received from the County was not in the amount of \$43,000 but in the amount of \$47,659. Mayor Letterman, correction noted. Mr. Carrow and Mayor Letterman we need this in a motion. Ms. DeBenedictis made a motion with the correction stated to accept the minutes in written form, seconded by Mr. Dias. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Income and Expense Report:

- Mayor Letterman – Income and expense report everyone has a copy of this report. Any questions or comments regarding this report. This is basically the old Treasurer's Report but with the new computer system this is much more detailed report.

Motion made by Mr. Carrow and seconded by Mr. Fletcher to approve the Income and Expense Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Communications:

- Ms. DeBenedictis - Read the letter that was received from the Clayton Fire Company. The President of the Clayton Fire Company No. 1, Inc. requesting the annual donation from the Town of Clayton and to allow the town crew to respond to the day time alarms. (Please contact the town hall for a copy of the letter the Fire Company presented to Council)

4. Chief of Police:

- Chief Hill stated the Clayton PD participated with the shop with cop program this year along with the Smyrna PD. We also brought in Kenton PD and Cheswold PD do to the number of children (28). Mr. Carrow asked if the police officers come in on their time off. Chief Hill responded the police officers volunteer their time. Mr. Carrow stated the police officers need to be commended for volunteering and they also take money from their own pockets to help these children.

5. Town Foreman:

- Mr. Hurlock – The Town of Clayton received an e-mail regarding the Asset Management Grant that we applied for. The amount of the grant received is in the amount of \$100,000 to map the sewer system and maintenance program. We are hoping the Water Asset Grant would follow. I have signed the paperwork to the grant money in motion. Mayor Letterman asked about the gas line that is going in throughout the town. What are the improvements they are doing, how much longer, and the care of reseeding? Mr. Hurlock stated he is not sure how long the project is going to take. Mr. Hurlock is frustrated with the appearance in front of our building and anything done on Main Street falls on the state inspector. I would like to sod in the spring. The town street I believe are complete and it is just tying into Main Street. The gas company is installing a new main and tying to the houses. Mayor Letterman asked if Mr. Hurlock has any conversation with the gas company. Mr. Hurlock replied he has not communicated with them. He asked Gary to talk to them regarding the way they were leaving the yards. Mayor Letterman asked for Mr. Hurlock to get in touch with Gas Company to find out what they are going to do with the way the yards are being left with the seeding and bumpy. Mr. Hurlock will also contact the state inspector.

6. Electric:

- Ms. DeBenedictis - I have nothing to report. Mr. Hurlock would like to report. Old Country Farm the project is near completion and the tie in will be during the Christmas break. Mr. Carrow asked if the Town of Clayton will give proper notice. Mr. Hurlock said he give two (2) day notice.

7. Street:

- Mr. Fletcher stated the East Street project has finally started. I do have a question for Mr. Hurlock. What is the progress on the cross walk on Clayton Avenue. Mr. Hurlock responded stating we are still waiting for DelDOT to generate a purchase order. I did make a call a couple weeks ago. We need to wait to receive the purchase order.

8. Water & Sewer:

- Mr. Fletcher stated the lift station on Dickerson Street has been rebuilt and Mr. Hurlock has already stated the Asset Management Grant was approved for the sewer lines.

9. Personnel:

- Mr. Carrow stated a personnel meeting is scheduled for January 6, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. The agenda topics are handbook changes.

10. Police:

- Mr. Dias stated he wanted to thank the police department for the round up last week there were 29 arrests and the assist the other night for the murder of the two

women. Mayor Letterman stated if we cut the police force; we wouldn't be able to do that. Mr. Dias stated we are the safest town in the State of Delaware.

11. Budget:

- Mr. Carrow stated the Budget Committee has met several times and we have drafted the 2016 Budget and that will be brought up in the proper order of business.

12. Economic Development Committee:

- Ms. DeBenedictis – There will be no meeting this month because of the Holidays.

13. DEMEC:

- Ms. DeBenedictis – the annual Christmas luncheon was held last week; it was very nice. The DEMEC meeting minutes will be on-line in the future.

Mayor Letterman took a moment to recognize Smyrna High School football coach for their outstanding year. This is the eighth Division Conference and Coach Judy's 2nd year. Mayor Letterman read the recognition to Council, Coach Judy, and the public it reads as:

The Smyrna High School Football Recognition

WHEREAS, we recognize that participation in organized athletics helps build character and teaches wholesome sense of good sportsmanship among our youth; and

WHEREAS, the Smyrna High School football team demonstrated their nature ability, an outstanding spirit of dedication, enthusiasm, and hard work; and

WHEREAS, the Smyrna High School football team won Division I State Football Championship in competition with Salesianum High School;

NOW THEREFORE, Town of Clayton commends the Smyrna High School football team for its pursuit of excellence and for the prestige it has brought the students of Smyrna High School and the citizens of the Smyrna/Clayton area. In addition, the Council Members of the Town of Clayton expresses its congratulations and best wishes to each member of the Smyrna High School football team in all future endeavors.

The recognition was signed by all members of Council.

Coach Judy stated it was a great season and was a lot of fun coaching these young men. The kids work relentlessly towards their goals.

Mr. Carrow wanted to recognize Coach Judy for his accomplishment of Coach of the Year for the State of Delaware. Coach Judy said the coach of the year is for the online 302 Sports program. Mr. Carrow stated reflection of the kids. It's the reflection of the coach and the kids and their dedication. I was in amazement of the support. A statement that I have heard over and over is how Salesianum is a school; Smyrna/Clayton is a

community. You could see that in the stadium; how Smyrna/Clayton communities really show their support. Ms. DeBenedictis stated she was pleased to hear the Special Olympics did the half-time.

14. New Business:

- To adopt the 2016 Budget – Mayor Letterman turned this agenda item over to the Budget Committee Chairperson Mr. Carrow. (If you are interested in a copy of the 2016 Budget; please contact the town hall.)

A motion was made by Mr. Carrow to accept the Budget committee's recommendation to approve the 2016 Budget with the exception of removing the \$25.00 minimum electric charge. This will affect a handful of customers. This recommendation comes from the Town's Electrical Engineer. This is due to how future solar customers will affect electric revenue, seconded Mr. Dias. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Carrow stated the PPAC rate will be reduced from .0022 to .0007 this is a recommendation for the Town's Electrical Engineer.

- Discuss and vote on Parades and Assemblies License - Mayor Letterman stated it has been our past experience that every time a parade or an event comes up that the item is placed on the agenda for approval from Council. I believe Mr. Fletcher has a motion to address these events. The agenda item was turned over to Mr. Fletcher.

A motion was made by Mr. Fletcher to give approval for all traditional, annual, and bi-annual parades; 4th of July, Memorial Day, Christmas and Halloween parade and approval of observance of Halloween Trick or Treating to be held on the 31st of October every year regardless of the day of the week from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 pm. rain or shine. Chief of Police will sign approval for all above parades or events for the interest of public safety, seconded Mr. Carrow. Motion carried unanimously.

15. Adjournment:

Motion made by Mr. Carrow and seconded by Mr. Dias to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Recording Secretary,

Melissa Knight

Public Forum
December 14, 2015

Tom Horn – I was in here at the last meeting. I spoke about my three favorite things; they are transparency, accountability, and honesty. So tonight I would just like to mention accountability. Thirteen some months ago, if you all remember (Council) we had a little problem. Mention no names. I checked back in all the minutes unless some minutes weren't posted or the meetings weren't posted. I was promised a personnel meeting to get something straighten out. If the freshman –Councilman has any questions what it is about I will be happy to discuss. My emails didn't get evaporated. I will gladly forward the email that was sent to my Council members when I was at the helm. That is my one comment, I would like for you to know. In leaving, I would like to talk about transparency. I have talked to several other people by the way. It is something else that people still call me Mayor – Kenny Brenner, Stan Green, and Bruce Ennis. I am questioning some things about the budget. I was so votively opposed of the budget. I was totally put on the spot and embarrassed about it. That my opinion didn't count, because it wasn't a tie. Gentleman in the audience, couple of questions, I'm not going to stay because I don't want to hear how they are going to spin the budget today. I know that you have to increase the budget; it has to be increased. I fought for this for years and Jeff knows for years I have fought to slowly increase the budget. I would just like for one of these gentleman to ask - In our budget we were to make an \$8,000 payment to the Impact Fees. If the budget was passed then the payments should have been paid back to the Impact Fees. I was also against across the board raises to employees. I don't think one person, two, or three that cause problems or has troubles during a year should sit back and get raises for the employees that bust there behind. Thank you and Best of Holidays however you celebrate it.

Sandy DeLane – When Jeff and I came home today, my neighbors found leaves and dumped them in my front yard. I don't have any trees in my yards. The neighbors got the lawn mower to cut up the leaves. The wind don't blow like that. I'm out there trying to pick up leaves.