

COUNCIL MEETING

February 8, 2016

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, Shae Chasanov, Jeff Hurlock, Chief Hill, Timothy Dziubinsky, Jr., Davinne Kennedy, Kim Keeler, Alvin Miller, Jennifer Keeler, and Doug Bartsch were also in attendance.

1. Approve Minutes:

Personnel Committee Meeting January 6th and 26th, Council Meeting January 11th, Economic Development Committee Meeting January 26th, Police Committee Meeting February 1st – Mrs. DeBenedictis made a motion to accept the minutes in written form, seconded by Mr. Dias. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Income and Expense Report:

Motion made by Mr. Carrow to accept the Income and Expense Report in its written form, seconded by Mr. Fletcher. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Communications:

- Ms. DeBenedictis read the communications – On December 14, 2015, the Town of Clayton received a letter congratulating our firm for qualify for the premium discount workers compensation renewal. The town passed the safety survey. The Clayton Fire Company submitted a Parade and Assemblies Application for their 125th celebration on May 14, 2016 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The Historical Society submitted a Parade and Assemblies Application for the Railroad Days on June 11, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

4. Street:

- Mr. Fletcher stated that public works did a fantastic job removing the snow during the blizzard. Mayor Letterman stated that the public works had to remove snow several times due to residents continuing to throw and/or blow snow back into the streets, which is against our town ordinance.

5. Water & Sewer:

- Mr. Fletcher stated the water leak on Rodney Street has been repaired. Mr. Hurlock stated there was actually two (2) leaks on Rodney Street. Mr. Hurlock advised Council that the water treatment plant filtration system is at the end of its life span. The estimated cost to have this removed is \$100,000. The life span for the filtration system for the Town of Clayton is about 9 to 10 years with the number of residents that currently reside in Clayton.

6. Equipment:

- Mr. Hurlock stated the dump truck will need to be replaced. The backhoe doesn't work when it is real cold outside. Mr. Hurlock advised Council that the town really needs to think about getting public works equipment out of the weather.

7. Personnel:

- Mr. Carrow informed Council the Council handbook is a working process and it will take some time to complete.

8. Police:

- Mr. Dias read a letter that was submitted to the editor of the Smyrna Clayton Sun Times. The letter was published on February 3, 2016.
It reads as follows:

Police officer demonstrated kindness

I just wanted to tell someone about an act of kindness that I saw on Sunday following the blizzard. I was outside of my home on Route 300 shoveling the driveway in the afternoon. I was close to the street at the time, and saw a man walking along my side of the street heading west. A Clayton police car heading in the same direction slowed up as they were both passing me. The police officer rolled down his window and asked the man if everything was all right. Did his car break down?

The man replied that he was just trying to get to work at the Walmart Distribution Center. The officer said "Well, hop in. Let me take you the rest of the way." The man gladly did, since it was still half-mile to the building.

Now I know that this seems trivial to some, but to me, I think any act of kindness is noteworthy in this anticop climate. By the way, did I mention that the officer was white and the man walking was black? They didn't seem to notice. There was no sign of anything other than one man helping another one out on a cold and windy day.

Bravo to the officer for showing compassion to a fellow human, and to the gentleman walking who saw nothing but a helping hand from that officer. They both acted like fellow humans, not combatants. And I'm glad I witnessed it.

*Roslyn Rieth
Smyrna*

9. Economic Development:

- Ms. DeBenedictis stated at the January meeting the committee is coming up with ideas. The Economic Development Committee is going to help with the Railroad Days. The Vegetable Market that is currently located in Smyrna is looking for a new location. The next scheduled meeting will be held February 23, 2016 at the Young Bean at 7:00 p.m.

10. DEMEC:

- Ms. DeBenedictis stated that DEMEC will not have a meeting this month. She wanted to know if Mr. Hurlock received the email regarding the surplus meters. Mr. Hurlock responded yes, and he was not interested. Ms. DeBenedictis received an invitation to a meeting in Philadelphia and would like Ms. Muncey to attend. Mayor Letterman asked Ms. DeBenedictis to give Council the details of this meeting, when, where, and time. Ms. DeBenedictis would also like to attend the Delmarva Power PHI Wholesale Business Meeting in Ocean City, Thursday, May 26th. This meeting is open to all Council members. Mayor Letterman would like Ms. DeBenedictis to have this invitation given to Council as well.

11. Planning & Zoning:

- Mr. Hurlock stated a Planning & Zoning Meeting is scheduled on February 23, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. The Town of Clayton has received a subdivision application to split one large piece of property. Then it would go to Council for approval. The Town of Clayton does not have a minor subdivision ordinance. This application does not have to go to the State of Delaware.

12. New Business:

- Resolution adopting Kent County All Hazards Plan

Ms. DeBenedictis read the resolution:

A motion was made by Ms. DeBenedictis to accept the resolution for the Kent County All Hazards Plan, seconded by Mr. Dias. Motion carried unanimously.

- Renewing Chamber of Commerce – Mayor Letterman didn't see any benefit to the Town of Clayton for being a member to the Chamber of Commerce. This is a good organization for a business. He wanted to know what the other Council members thought. Everyone was in an agreement.

Motion was made by Mr. Fletcher to not renew the Chamber of Commerce membership; no benefit to the Town of Clayton, seconded by Mr. Dias. Motion carried unanimously.

13. Adjournment:

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

Recording Secretary,

Melissa Knight

Public Forum
February 8, 2016

Kim Keeler – Has some concerns regarding the increase in the trash collection fees and the new police fees that went into effect. Ms. Keeler stated that in 2010 the trash collection fee was \$190,000 and now its \$276,000. She also wanted to know if residents are able to opt out of the trash service. She was told that she could not opt out of the trash service. Mayor Letterman did advise Ms. Keeler the information that she received in opting out is correct. She thinks that it's ridiculous. The other concern regarding the public safety fee, she would like to know what the fee is going towards. Chief Hill responded that he would be very happy to talk to her after the meeting regarding the fee.

Mayor Letterman asked Timothy if he would like to introduce himself. Timothy Dziubinsky, Jr. – My name is Timothy from the Pack 135 Smyrna, Delaware. He attended the meeting to observe how the Council Meetings are conducted and how the public concerns are addressed. He is working on his community citizenship within the community.