

**TOWN OF GEORGETOWN  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Meeting Date:** Monday, May 13, 2024  
**Location:** 39 The Circle, Georgetown, DE 19947

Live Stream Can be Found at the Following Link:  
Website: <https://www.georgetowndel.com/live-stream.htm>

Zoom.us/join  
Zoom Meeting ID: 831 8972 9826

**Time:** 7:00 PM Regular Meeting

**TOWN COUNCIL PRESENT:**

Bill West, Mayor  
Christina Diaz-Malone, Ward One  
Anthony Neal, Ward Two  
Angela Townsend, Ward Three  
Penuel Barrett, Ward Four

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Eugene S. Dvornick Jr., Town Manager  
Stephani J. Ballard, Town Solicitor  
Ralph Holm, Chief of Police  
Diana Ramirez, Administration

**7:00 PM REGULAR MEETING**

**1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Town Manager Dvornick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. INVOCATION**

Tony Neal led the Invocation.

**3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Motion by Councilwoman Townsend, seconded by Councilwoman Diaz-Malone to adopt the agenda as presented. **Motion Carried (unanimous)**

**4. APPROVAL OF APRIL 22, 2024 TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES**

Motion by Councilman Barrett, seconded by Councilman Neal to approve the April 22, 2024 Town Council Minutes. **Motion Carried (unanimous)**

**5. COUNCILMEMBERS COMMENTS**

Councilman Barrett, Ward 4

- No Comment

Councilwoman Diaz-Malone, Ward 1

- No Comment

Councilman Neal, Ward 2

- Grateful to be here tonight

Councilwoman Townsend, Ward 3

- Thank you for being here tonight

**6. STEP THREE GRIEVANCE HEARING(S) UNDER COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT – OFFICER COUCHMAN AND OFFICER DONAHUE – GRIEVANCE RE: TOWN FOIA RESPONSE (DELIBERATIONS IN EXECUTIVE SESSION FOLLOWING HEARING)**

Town Solicitor stated Council has a package of documents from the Town and from the FOP.

Town Solicitor also provided a brief background of the grievance explaining that the grievance arose out of the Town's response to a citizen's FOIA request, and the specific documents that were provided in response to that FOIA. The only provision of the CBA alleged to have been violated was Article 2.02. The FOP also claimed that the Town violated FOIA (29 Del.C. Ch. 100).

Town Solicitor stated that the Chief of Police and Town Manager, found no violations of the contractual bargaining agreement at Step 1 or Step 2 in connection with the Town's response to a routine FOIA request, and denied the grievance, other than the Police Chief providing the remedy of removing the expired counseling.

Craig McGowan, FOP Representative, accused the Town of violating FOIA by holding the grievance hearing during an open meeting. McGowan said that the FOP had submitted its arguments in writing and would not be presenting evidence at the Step 3 hearing. No other evidence was submitted.

*Motion by Councilwoman Townsend, seconded by Councilwoman Diaz-Malone to enter into Executive Session at 7:08pm.*

*Council returned from Executive Session at 7:17pm*

A formal written decision from Town Council will be sent to FOP within 30 days according to the terms of the grievance procedure.

**7. DELDOT COASTAL CORRIDORS STUDY UPDATE**

Austin Gray and Andrew Bing, representatives from DelDOT, presented the Coastal Corridors study update:

- Excellence in transportation
- Safety statistics
- Reason for Coastal Corridors study
  - Assess current and anticipated transportation conditions
  - Maintain high quality of life
- Process of study (timeline)
- Shared traffic data

- Planning areas and goals
- Shared findings and recommendations
- Next steps
  - Newton Road Corridor Study, SR 16 Corridor Study, Milton Active Transportation Plan, US 9 Corridor Study
- Questions/Comments posed from Council

**8. DECISION ON CASE #2022-15 SUSSEX SPORTS COMPLEX SOLAR CONDITIONAL USE APPLICATION RENEWAL**

Town Manager Dvornick provided an overview of the Conditional Use application and read the conditions into the record.

No questions/comments received

Motion by Councilwoman Townsend, seconded by Councilwoman Diaz-Malone to approve Case #2022-15 Sussex Sports Complex Solar Conditional Use Application Renewal as presented.

**Vote:**

Councilwoman Diaz-Malone, Ward 1:	Yea
Councilman Neal, Ward 2:	Yea
Councilwoman Townsend, Ward 3:	Yea
Councilman Barrett, Ward 4:	Yea
Mayor West:	Yea

**Motion Carried (unanimous)**

**9. JAMES STREET INVESTIGATION**

Town Manager Dvornick provided an overview of the James Street investigation. Investigation includes drainage improvement and road rehabilitation.

After discussion with the Town Engineer, DBF, we would like to authorize up to \$20,500 of the total \$56,700 and focus first on the survey services, private utility locating, and storm drain inspection services.

- Questions/comments posed from Council

Motion by Councilwoman Townsend, seconded by Councilman Barrett to authorize up to \$20,500 for survey services, private utility locating, and storm drain inspection services on James Street.

**Vote:**

Councilwoman Diaz-Malone, Ward 1:	Yea
Councilman Neal, Ward 2:	Yea
Councilwoman Townsend, Ward 3:	Yea
Councilman Barrett, Ward 4:	Yea

Mayor West: Yea  
**Motion Carried (unanimous)**

#### 10. BULLET PROOF GLASS REPLACEMENT (LOBBY)

Town Manager presented a request for \$19,000 to upgrade the bulletproof glass at the current administrative building.

Motion by Councilwoman Diaz-Malone, seconded by Councilman Neal to approve the request for \$19,000 to upgrade the bulletproof glass in the lobby at 37 The Circle.

**Vote:**

Councilwoman Diaz-Malone, Ward 1: Yea  
Councilman Neal, Ward 2: Yea  
Councilwoman Townsend, Ward 3: Yea  
Councilman Barrett, Ward 4: Yea  
Mayor West: Yea

**Motion Carried (unanimous)**

#### 11. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

##### A. TOWN MANAGER – GENE DVORNICK

**Project Updates**

- Sussex County Family Court Facility
  - Exterior metal framing work
    - Southeast and west elevations
  - Interior framing
    - 3<sup>rd</sup> floor – 85%, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor – 25%
    - 1<sup>st</sup> Floor layout
  - Exterior Masonry Work
    - Flashing, brick ties, scaffolding
  - High roof installation
  - Mechanical ductwork & piping
    - Continues on 3<sup>rd</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> floor
- Advanced Metering Infrastructure
  - Meter installation started April 15
  - 1,105 meters
  - Training on May 21, 2024
- Kimmey Street & Pepper Street
  - Pre-construction meeting being scheduled
- Pump Station Rehabilitation
  - Split into 3 projects
  - Each bid separately
- Community Reinvestment Fund Submission – FY 2025
  - Parson Lane Trailhead/Parking Area
  - Richard Allen School Playground
- Outdoor Recreation, Parks & Trails Grant Pre Application

- Parson Lane Trailhead/Parking Area
- Richard Allen School Playground

**ARPA Encumbrances**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Obligated</b>	<b>Vendor</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>TC Approved</b>
Biolac	\$171,875.00	Parkson Corporation	Biolac Repairs/Nozzles/Biofuser Replacement, Barge Purchase	September 8, 2021
SCI Elevated Storage	\$88,500.00	Davis, Bowen & Friedel Inc	Preliminary Engineering	September 22, 2021
PS Rehabilitation	\$51,000.00	Beacon Engineering	Preliminary Engineering	September 22, 2021
Pooled Lawyer	\$16,332.50	Barnes & Thornberg	Lawyer	October 13, 2021
Flygt Pump (Wastewater)	\$15,427.00	Xylem	Submersible Pump (Cedar Lane)	October 27, 2021
Springboard Collaborative	\$500,000.00	Sub-recipient	Pallet Shelters	May 9, 2022
AMI Proposal	\$31,000.00	Davis, Bowen & Friedel Inc	Engineering Services	July 25, 2022
Main Station Upgrade	\$57,500.00	Davis, Bowen & Friedel Inc	Engineering Services	October 24, 2022
AMI Equipment Purchase	\$500,000.00	Core & Main	Initial Equipment Purchase	June 12, 2023
<b>Total Encumbered</b>	<b>\$1,431,634.50</b>			

**General Items**

- Upcoming Events
  - Planning Commission: Wednesday, May 15, 6:00 PM, Town Hall
  - Delaware League of Local Governments: Thursday, May 23, 5:30 PM, Dover
  - Town Offices Closed: Monday, May 27 in observation of Memorial Day
  - Town Council Meeting: Tuesday, May 28, 6:30 PM, Town Hall
- Legislative Update
  - Bill Tracking
- Questions/Comments posed from Council

**12. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Sandra Hazard, 107 Cedar Street

- Expressed concerns with the Springboard Collaborative Pallet Village

Sunny Gyani, 22512 Springfield Lane

- Welcome new Council
- Keep thinking about affordable housing

Linda Dennis, 4 Huckleberry Drive

- Thank you to Angela Townsend for your service to the Town during your time on Council
- Requested data from Springboard Collaborative

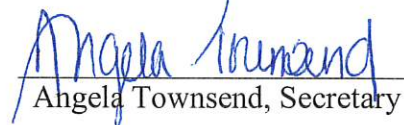
Adam Buczkowski, 200 South Bedford Street

- Responded to the question asked at the last Council meeting “Where were all you people before? Why are you coming now?”.
- Stated the lack of governance in this Town led people to take time out of their day to attend the Council meeting to express their concerns.
- Stated there is no longer affordable housing in Sussex County
- Pricing a lot of people that have built this community out of this community

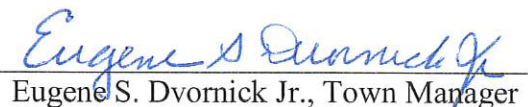
### 13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilwoman Townsend, seconded by Councilman Neal to adjourn at 8:00pm.  
**Motion Carried (unanimous)**

APPROVED: )

  
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Angela Townsend, Secretary

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Eugene S. Dvornick Jr., Town Manager

*\*These minutes are a summary of the meeting. Complete audio and visual recordings are available upon request\**