

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
SMYRNA TOWN COUNCIL
January 16, 2018

REGULAR MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Mayor John L. Embert III at 7:00 p.m. Council members present were Alvin C. Pope, Valerie M. White, Robert C. Johnson, Anthony H. DeFeo, and William D. Pressley Sr. Councilman Peter M. Retzlaff was excused.

Also present were Assistant Town Manager Chalea Johnson, Chief Norman E. Wood, Attorney D. Barrett Edwards, and Recording Secretary Valerie L. Heritage.

Mayor Embert asked everyone to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO PUBLISHED AGENDA

Councilman Pope made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman White and carried unanimously.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Councilman Pope made the motion to approve the regular and executive session minutes of January 2, 2018 as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilman DeFeo and carried unanimously.

REPORTS

- A. Bills & financial statement** – there were none.
- B. Presiding Officer** – Mayor Embert said he had nothing at this time.
- C. Town Attorney** – Mr. Edwards said he had nothing.
- D. Police Chief** – Chief Wood said he had nothing.
- E. Town Manager** – Ms. Johnson said Mr. Stulir will return the week of the 29th; and she also wanted to thank the Public Works and Electric Departments for their work during the inclement weather.
- F. Committees** – Councilman Pressley said the Public Safety Committee will meet January 31st.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Visitors present were Jason McNatt, Bill Evans, Michael Atallian, Teresa Watts, Alma Biddle, Conrad Hebert, and Monica Jones.

Teresa Watts and Alma Biddle came forward to speak. Ms. Watts spoke about taxes on their property, 5408 DuPont Parkway. She said they had approached Council in 2011 for a reduction and it has been fulfilled; now this year the taxes have doubled. She said they are here tonight to see if Council would be willing to bring the taxes back down to where they were before. Ms. Johnson will look into this and get back with Ms. Watts and Ms. Biddle.

Monica Jones came forward to speak. Ms. Jones spoke about when she purchased a home in Sunnyside Village she didn't realize how dark it was there. After a year or so she made a call to Town Hall and to her surprise there was a new light in front of her home the next day. She wanted to thank Ms. Heritage and the Electric Crew for getting this done for her.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Discussion and possible action on third reading: Ord. No. 012-17, an ordinance to amend Chapter 2 ("Administration"), Article VI ("Disclosure of Information") of the Town Code of the Town of Smyrna to eliminate provisions covered by 29 Del. C. Ch. 100, to revise the fees the Town can charge for responding to requests for information, and to make other housekeeping changes - Councilwoman White made the motion to make this the third reading of Ord. No. 012-17, an ordinance to amend Chapter 2 ("Administration"), Article VI ("Disclosure of Information") of the Town Code of the Town of Smyrna to eliminate provisions covered by 29 Del. C. Ch. 100, to revise the fees the Town can charge for responding to requests for information, and to make other housekeeping changes, with the change 'If the actual preparation fees are less than the good faith estimate paid by the requestor, the Town shall reimburse the requestor for the excess amount paid. If the actual preparation fees are greater than the good faith estimate paid by the requestor, the requestor shall be required to pay the additional costs associated with fulfilling the request'. Motion was seconded by Councilman Pressley and carried unanimously.

B. Discussion and possible action on second reading: Ord. No. 001-18, an ordinance to amend Chapter 74 ("Vegetation"), Article III ("Trees") of the Town Code of the Town of Smyrna to clarify that new developments must comply with the tree requirements found in Article III - Councilwoman White made the motion to make this the second reading of Ord. No. 001-18, an ordinance to amend Chapter 74 ("Vegetation"), Article III ("Trees") of the Town Code of the Town of Smyrna to clarify that new developments must comply with the tree requirements found in Article III. Motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson and carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Consideration and vote on Senior Citizen Tax Exemption for 2018 - Councilwoman White made the motion that the Senior Citizen Tax Exemption for 2018 remain the same as it was last year. Motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson and carried unanimously.

B. Discussion and vote on time and place for the 2018 Town of Smyrna election - Councilwoman White made the motion to hold the Town election on April 24th, from 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., at Town Hall. Motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson and carried unanimously.

C. Discussion and possible action on Resolution authorizing the pursuit of a loan in the amount of \$1,705,275 from the Delaware Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund to provide funding for the South Main Street Utility Replacement Project - Councilman Pope made the motion to approve the Resolution authorizing the pursuit of a loan in the amount of \$1,705,275 from the Delaware Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund to provide funding for the South Main Street Utility Replacement Project. Motion was seconded by Councilman Johnson and carried unanimously.

D. Discussion and possible action on Resolution authorizing the pursuit of a loan in the amount of \$1,692,100 from the Delaware Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund to provide funding for the South Main Street Utility Replacement Project - Councilman Johnson made the motion to approve the Resolution authorizing the pursuit of a loan in the amount of \$1,692,100 from the Delaware Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund to provide funding for the South Main Street Utility Replacement Project. Motion was seconded by Councilman DeFeo and carried unanimously.

OTHER COUNCIL BUSINESS

Councilman Pressley asked how many non-union employees there are and when was the last time they had a raise. Ms. Johnson said she would get that information for him.

Councilman Johnson asked how the rate study was coming. Ms. Johnson said every time we have given them information they've come back with more information. She said she had a call with one of their managers last week.

Mayor Embert said he asked staff to do a proclamation, the gentleman could not be here this evening so we will make sure he receives this. Most of you probably have seen his name in the paper numerous occasions for at least 10, maybe 14 weeks - Mr. William Knight who played football for the Smyrna High School the last four years. This year he did break the record of total career rushing yards for the State of Delaware. Will is a two time Offensive Player of the Year, he has 1,722 receiving yards, 119 total touchdowns - including 97 rushing touch downs and a scoring total of 936 points, along with his 6,490 total career rushing yards.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Embert adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.