

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CITY OF SEAFORD MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

March 13, 2018

7:00 PM

Mayor David Genshaw called the Regular Meeting to order with the following present: Councilwoman Leanne Phillips-Lowe, Councilwoman Grace Peterson, Councilman Orlando Holland, Councilman H. William Mulvaney, III and Councilman Dan Henderson. Charles Anderson, City Manager, June Merritt, Director of Finance/HR, Berley Mears, Director of Public Works, Trisha Newcomer, ED/IT Manager, and Mike Bailey, Building Official, were also present.

Councilman Holland offered the opening prayer and Mayor Genshaw led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Genshaw solicited any changes to the agenda; there were none.

Mayor Genshaw called for a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on February 27, 2018. Councilman Holland made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 27, 2018 Council Meeting. Councilman Mulvaney seconded the motion; the motion so passed with all present voting in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Genshaw presented New Business Item #1, Bids – Demolition of Structures 2018.

Building Official Mike Bailey came forward to present the bid information. City Manager Anderson went on to explain that the City did receive three bids for demolition of structures at a total cost of \$58,000 from the lowest bidder, John Macklin & Son. This bidder has been used several times for similar contracts. The following properties will be included in the bid for demolition: 12 North Market Street Extended, 332 East Poplar Street, 223 North Arch Street and 405 East Poplar Street.

Mr. Bailey presented the first property, 12 North Market Street Extended. This property is located directly across from the Seaford High School football field and has been condemned since 2012. The property is rapidly deteriorating and does require grass cutting by the city several times a year. The second property is 332 East Poplar Street. This property has been condemned since 2013. The third property is a duplex, which includes the 223 North Arch Street and 405 East Poplar Street addresses. This property has been condemned since 2008. These properties also require grass cutting along with trash clean up by the City several times a year. In addition, they pose an issue with squatting and vandalism. Mr. Bailey explained that the budget for home demolition this year was is \$33,000; however, the City also budgeted \$100,000 for demolition of the old grocery store located at the Nylon Capital Shopping Center. The property owner has since made improvements to the property, including parking lot cleanup, new parking lot lighting, fencing in the rear loading dock, interior cleanup and a sump pump installation to keep water out of the building.

The owner is currently waiting for an engineering appraisal on the structural integrity of the building and agreed to complete the demolition if the result of the building evaluation is not favorable. Based on the current improvements, Mr. Bailey does not feel as though it is necessary for the city to pursue that demolition this budget year.

Mayor Genshaw asked what the time frame was on the engineering appraisal.

Mr. Bailey explained he has had some contact via email with the owner but that he is still currently waiting on the engineering appraisal and does not have a date for that to be completed.

Mr. Bailey requested that \$25,000 be taken from the budgeted \$100,000 for the grocery store demolition and added to the budget for the home demolitions in order to match the amount of the bid of \$58,000 from John Macklin & Son. This will leave an additional \$75,000 in budgeted funds for additional structures in the city that may need demolition.

Mayor Genshaw called for any further questions or comments from Council.

Councilwoman Philips-Lowe asked Mr. Bailey if the demolition of 12 North Market Street will include the other structures located on the property. He replied yes, all structures on the lot are included in the demolition.

Councilman Mulvaney asked what the time frame was for completion of demolition.

Mr. Bailey explained that after the bid is awarded they will have 60 days to complete the work.

City Manager Anderson added that once approval is received from Council the City will give the demolition company a notice to proceed so they can obtain their bonds and insurance documents for the contract. With that said, it is likely it will take the company the full 60 days to complete the demolition.

Councilman Henderson asked if the properties are bank owned. Mr. Bailey explained that 332 East Poplar Street and 223 North Arch Street/405 East Poplar Street are bank owned. However, 12 North Market Street is still in the owner's name, but possibly in the process of foreclosure.

Councilman Henderson asked if Mr. Bailey thought the amount of the liens will exceed the value of the lots. Mr. Bailey stated he was unsure. City Manager Anderson added that he would suggest potentially not because when a home is demolished a developer receives free impact and tap fees. These fees typically run in the \$5,000 range; this is seen as an added value if the developer is not required to pay them.

Councilman Henderson also noted that he would be willing to bet that those properties have tax liens and wonders how that will affect the likelihood of it being redeveloped. He then went on to ask if the City did have good budget performance and the surplus demolition funds were available; would the City have time to procure more bids and get additional nuisance properties demolished before the end of the fiscal year.

Mr. Bailey stated that he did believe he would have time to fit additional demolition projects in. City Manager Anderson added that the payments on the demolitions need be paid by the end of the fiscal year.

June Merritt, Director of Finance/HR, went on to explain that if the work is not completed by June 30th it will roll into the next fiscal year.

City Manager Anderson explained that since it is possible that these additional budgeted funds will be available, he and Mr. Bailey discussed revisiting the issue in April, which would give them enough time to issue another bid and have additional properties completed by the end of the fiscal year. He added that the bid package doesn't require much change from one project to another.

Councilman Henderson noted that 411 East King Street was already budgeted for demolition and asked if Mr. Bailey had any figures on the cost for that project. Mr. Bailey explained that it was just added to the budget and he was unsure of the figures, but that it was just one of the properties in discussion for demolition.

City Manager Anderson went on to explain that typically Mr. Bailey and his staff go out and do an evaluation of properties during budget time and put together a list of properties that may require demolition; then they revisit that list and reevaluate the properties before contract documents are issued to see if the situation has changed and demolition is no longer needed.

With no further questions, Mayor Genshaw called for a motion. Councilwoman Peterson made a motion to approve the bids for demolition of structures be awarded to John Macklin and Son in the amount of \$58,000 to be paid from the FY'18 Code Department demolition budget. Councilwoman Phillips-Lowe seconded the motion; the motion so passed with all present voting in favor.

Mayor Genshaw presented New Business Item #2, Bids - Porter Street Storm Drain Improvements.

Berley Mears, Director of Public Works, came forward to present information on bids for the Porter Street storm drain improvements. Mr. Mears explained that this is a project that has been in planning for some time. Funding has been received through the CTF (Community Transportation Fund) from Representative Daniel Short for the project. The total cost of the improvements will be covered by the funds from CTF if the lowest bidder is awarded the contract. There were two bids, one from Mitten Construction and the other from OnSite Construction. Mitten Construction came in under budget at \$41,898.00, while OnSite Construction came in over budget at \$64,275.20. After evaluating both bids it was decided to recommend Mitten Construction to complete the improvements, as it was determined that they are more than capable of handling the project and are able to do so under the budgeted amount.

Mayor Genshaw called for any questions or comments from Council.

Councilman Henderson asked how the engineering was paid and where that money came from.

City Manager Anderson replied that funds from the professional services budget were used.

With no further questions, Mayor Genshaw called for a motion. Councilman Mulvaney made a motion to award the Porter Street Storm Drain Improvements bid to Mitten Construction in the amount of \$41,898.0,0 with funding for the project provided by CTF Agreement # 17-P-Program-6. Councilman Holland seconded the motion; the motion so passed with all present voting in favor.

Mayor Genshaw presented New Business Item #3, Request for Proposals - City-wide Reassessment.

June Merritt, Director of Finance/HR, came forward to present information on the 2018 Request for Proposals for a City-wide property tax reassessment. She went on to explain that on February 21st, 2018 the City received proposals for the reassessment of all properties located within the corporate City limits of Seaford. Only one proposal was received from the current vendor, Property Tax Assessments Delaware Valuation, Inc., or PTA/DELVAL, Inc. This vendor provided the City with two pricing options based on the fact that they are the City's current vendor and that up to date records have been kept since the last assessment 10 years ago. Proposal A would be a full reassessment of every property within City limits with a price per parcel of \$68.50 and a maximum price of \$205,500.00. Since records have been maintained and kept up to date since the last assessment, Proposal B would entail a visual review of each property and only those with significant changes from the existing records would receive a full re-measure and corrections in the tax records. This Proposal would cost \$43.50 per parcel with a maximum price of \$130,500.00. Since the records have been kept up to date, the City does not feel it is necessary to do a full reassessment. Therefore, it is recommended that Proposal B be awarded.

Mayor Genshaw asked if Mrs. Merritt thought there was any specific reason why there was only one bid received. Mrs. Merritt explained that during the proposal process there were questions in regards to the different licensing requirements. The City had requested a General Real Estate Licensed Appraiser in the proposal and they were not willing to make an addendum to allow any lower levels of licensing. Mrs. Merritt stated that this could have been the reason for only receiving the single response.

Mayor Genshaw verified with Mrs. Merritt that the last time this was done was 10 years ago at a cost of about \$100,000. She confirmed and stated that the cost was actually around \$140,000 and that the FY '18 budget does actually include \$200,000 for this project.

Mayor Genshaw called for any further questions or comments from Council; there were none.

Mayor Genshaw then called for a motion. Councilman Holland made a motion to award the 2018 City-wide property tax reassessment RFP to Property Tax Assessments Delaware Valuation, Inc (PTA/DELVAL, Inc.) in the amount of \$130,500.00 with funding coming from the FY '18 administrative professional services budget. Councilwoman Peterson seconded the motion; the motion so passed with all present voting in favor.

Mayor Genshaw presented New Business Item #4, Letter of request from the Western Sussex County F.O.P. Lodge #9 of Seaford to host the first annual "Guns and Hoses Softball Tournament" at the Seaford Sports Complex, to include the serving of alcoholic beverages by 16 Mile Brewery.

Officers Frank Bradley and Tyler Justice came forward to present information on the 1st annual "Guns and Hoses Softball Tournament" at the Seaford Sports Complex. Officer Bradley explained that the F.O.P. Lodge is a non-profit organization that sponsors scholarships, helps families in need and donates free child identity kits to local residents. On June 9th and 10th, 2018 they will be holding a first responders softball tournament. The purpose of this tournament is to raise money and build public relations with the community. The hope is to have between 18-20 teams participating. Officer Bradley went on to say that even without any advertising there has been an overwhelming amount of people asking to help with the event. Adams Radio Group has offered to come out and broadcast and 16 Mile Brewery has offer to come out and set up their mobile bar and donate a portion of their earnings to the F.O.P. Lodge. Officer Justice continued by stating that the big ask would be for the ability to serve alcohol on the property. He went on to explain that the fire department's annual tournament typically has alcohol, but it is served on a bring-your-own basis. The goal with the F.O.P. tournament is to have licensed bartenders serving directly from the mobile bar. He also added that in years past they have not responded to any issues during the fire department's tournament, and hope that by taking all necessary precautions they will have the same outcome with the F.O.P. tournament.

Mayor Genshaw called for any questions or comments from Council.

Councilman Henderson stated that he believes this is a great opportunity for the City and the community but believes there is more work to be done. There is currently no alcohol consumption allowed in any park in the City and officers are called upon to arrest those with open containers in those parks. He hopes to see the event move forward but he believes that something needs to be done about the policy for alcohol in our parks. He went on to explain that this puts the police officers in a bad position where they have to enforce a law that they are asking the City for a concession on. He believes a commitment needs to be made to make a change to the policy. Finally, Councilman Henderson stated that he believes this event should be an F.O.P event and not a City of Seaford sponsored event when there is alcohol being served.

Officer Justice confirmed that the event is specifically for the F.O.P. as a separate entity from the City of Seaford.

Councilman Henderson noted that while it is not posted at the softball fields, it is posted at the Jay's Nest, Nutter Park and Soroptimist Park that there is no alcohol permitted, and that it is widely known that this is the policy for the parks in the City of Seaford. The City just needs something to address that it would be allowed by permit only, etc.

Councilwoman Peterson added that she was unaware that there was alcohol at the tournament held by the Fire Department and that at first glance she was against request from the F.O.P.; however it is only fair that the F.O.P be granted the same allowances as the Fire Department.

Councilwoman Peterson agreed that something needs to be done about the current policies regarding alcohol in the City's parks, and that it is on the City and Council to make the difference.

Councilwoman Phillips-Lowe stated she understands that 16 Mile Brewery will be monitoring the consumption of alcohol, but asked if the F.O.P. Lodge has any plans to do any monitoring as well.

Officer Justice stated that there will be a tournament official that will make all of the final decisions regarding issues that arise concerning alcohol consumption.

Councilwoman Phillips-Lowe commented that she asks because she knows that the F.O.P. Lodge would like to encourage families to attend and there should be a sensitivity to younger people attending the event.

Officer Bradley added that Fire Chief Wilson helped explain the rules set forth for every team at the Fire Department's tournament so that the F.O.P. could put those same rules into place at their own event. Even something as simple as not using a trash receptacle, the tournament official will have the ability to remove the person from the tournament.

Fire Chief Jack Wilson stood to add that he strongly supports what the F.O.P. Lodge is doing with the tournament and that he understands that the agreement regarding alcohol goes well beyond his 10 years of running the Fire Department tournament. He also stated that the rules put in place for the Fire Department's tournament were in an effort to avoid any future issues and that the members always do their best to stay disciplined. He stated that he does not know how far back the agreement goes with Council but the tournament has been around for 37 years and there has been alcohol there all 37 years.

Councilman Holland asked if the alcohol would be solely for the participants or for anyone who attends. Officer Bradley explained that anyone 21 years of age or older who attends will be allowed to purchase alcohol and will be subject to the same rules as the players, and it does state that in the rules and regulations created for the tournament. Councilman Holland verified that that means there will be no coolers permitted, just the alcohol served by 16 Mile Brewery. Officer Bradley confirmed.

Mayor Genshaw added that while the City of Seaford will not be connected with the tournament, that the participants represent the City. He stated that he has been to the Fire Department tournament for several years and feels it is a fabulous event and the participants monitor themselves and are respectful to each other. He also thanked the officers for bringing the event to Seaford as opposed to taking it somewhere else, and added that this event is a great opportunity for the City of Seaford.

Councilman Henderson added that while he did not have any additional questions for the officers he would like to urge the City to take some action to look into the ordinance and see what can be done about making it consistent for everyone.

With no other questions or comments, Mayor Genshaw called for a motion. Councilwoman Phillips-Lowe made a motion to approve the request from the Western Sussex County F.O.P. Lodge #9, in Seaford to host the 1st Annual "Guns and Hoses Softball Tournament" at the Seaford Sports Complex, to include the serving of alcoholic beverages by 16 Mile Brewery. Councilman Henderson seconded the motion; the motion so passed with all present voting in favor.

Mayor Genshaw presented New Business Item #5, Present for approval an engineering agreement with George, Miles & Buhr to perform a cursory general structural condition survey of the former Manlove Auto building located at 424 North Front Street.

Trisha Newcomer, ED/IT Manager, came forward to present background information related to the item. She stated that she and Mayor Genshaw have sat with various state agencies, local schools and Habitat for Humanity to discuss Front Street as it relates to the Downtown Development District; specifically, the Manlove Auto building located at 424 North Front Street. This property is heavy commercial, and with Habitat for Humanity looking to improve several homes in that area, a discussion began on what could be done to revitalize the entire neighborhood. After much discussion it was agreed to ask Council to do a cursory survey of the building to determine its viability. Pending approval from the property owner, the first step would involve having our City engineer give a cost proposal to do a cursory condition survey. GMB has agreed to give the City an estimate that would show the interior of each section and its integrity and then produce a report that can be presented to show that the building is still viable or if it would require demolition. The hope is to come back to the group discussion with a viable use for the property, which would be a great opportunity for the area. Judy Schwartz from GMB is recommending they could complete all of the work for \$1,750, which would be taken from the administrative professional services budget.

Mayor Genshaw asked for any questions or comments from Council

Councilwoman Phillips-Lowe asked if Mrs. Newcomer had any feel on whether or not the property owner would allow the process to go forward. Mrs. Newcomer stated that she has not had any contact with the property owner and wanted to ensure that the project was something that would go through before making that contact. She also mentioned that there were a few liens on the property, which may pose a challenge in the future.

Councilman Henderson asked if the property is currently marketed for sale. Mrs. Newcomer stated that she did not believe so.

Councilwoman Peterson asked where the property owner currently resides. Mrs. Newcomer stated she believes he lives in Lewes, Delaware.

Councilman Henderson asked if the plan was to evaluate the entire structure. He noted that there are some areas on the north end that may not be structurally sound. Mrs. Newcomer stated that they had evaluated the original Sanborn maps to try to gauge the original footprint. However, if the approval is given, then GMB can see what can be done to improve the corner of the property as you enter downtown.

Mayor Genshaw stated that it was exciting to see such a diverse group of stakeholders with exciting ideas who want to contribute to Seaford, and the City wanted to be a part of that as well. He noted that this is a critical section for the residents of that area and for the view of the City.

Councilwoman Peterson asked who owns the old Sure Sun property. City Manager Anderson explained that he believes it was sold in foreclosure to an entity out of Lewes, Delaware and that so far, the entity has been non-responsive.

Mrs. Newcomer stated that she believes that if the process moves forward that the property owners would eventually come forward for discussions.

Mayor Genshaw also noted that instead of waiting for something to come about the City would like to be proactive and start the process.

With no other questions, Mayor Genshaw called for a motion. Councilman Henderson made a motion to approve the engineering proposal from George, Miles and Buhr (GMB) dated February 21st, 2018 to perform a cursory structural condition survey of the Manlove Auto building at 424 North Front Street, with funding coming from the FY '18 administrative professional services budget. Councilwoman Phillips-Lowe seconded the motion; the motion so passed with all present voting in favor.

Mayor Genshaw presented New Business Item #6, Mr. Jamie Nutter, Esquire with the law firm of Parkowski, Gureke & Swazey, PA to present information related to the impact of the opioid crisis.

Mr. Nutter came forward and noted that a lot has changed since his previous visit in February. Mr. Nutter stated that within the past 2 to 3 weeks the President has announced that the United States will likely file litigation against the opioid manufacturers, and the Department of Justice has indicated that it will file statements of interest in support of local governments and counties for filing against the opioid manufacturers. He noted that a study done by Harvard University indicated a direct correlation between the payments to doctors from opioid manufacturers and the amount of prescriptions written by those doctors for the opioids. Another congressional report shows that opioid manufacturers have spent millions of dollars lobbying for or against laws that would either promote the enhanced use of opioids or blunt the impact of any regulatory reforms. As indicated at the last visit, there is a mountain of on-going litigation that is just starting against the manufacturers. Parkowski, Gureke & Swazey, PA is based out of Dover with offices in Wilmington and Rehoboth. They are working jointly with Mark J. Bern Partners, a firm out of New York, who is currently representing plaintiffs in substantial litigations, such as the Flint water crisis, and sued on behalf of more than 10,000 9/11 first responders. In addition, the firm is working with attorney Diane Coffey of Margolis Edelstein out of Wilmington, Delaware. Ms. Coffey is a former Deputy Attorney General and a long-time prosecutor with extensive trial experience. The litigation Parkowski, Gureke & Swazey, PA has currently been retained to bring on behalf of Dover and Kent County is against all parties in the chain of distribution of opioids. Mr. Nutter went on to explain that opioids are derived from opium which is a highly addictive, and if misused, highly debilitating, naturally occurring substance. Opioids include naturally occurring, partially synthetic and fully synthetic drugs like fentanyl. Again, the parties that litigation would be brought against would be all

of those in the chain of distribution, particularly Perdue Pharma, who manufactures OxyContin, and distributors such as Cardinal Health, McKesson and AmerisourceBergen. This list would also include dispensers, which includes pharmacies and prescribers. Mr. Nutter went on to explain that studies done by the CDC in 2016 show that statistically Delaware had a higher than national average rate of overdose deaths. In addition, Delaware saw a 105% increase in 2016 in ER admission for overdoses, with more than 300 of those in Sussex County. In 2017, the amount of opioid prescriptions issued in Delaware totaled 860,000; that is more than 50 pills per Delaware resident and 440 pills per user. Delaware is #1 in its prescribing rate in the nation for long acting doses and #1 for high dose prescribing rates.

Councilman Mulvaney asked if it was 50 pills per prescription. Mr. Nutter corrected that it was actually 50 pills per Delaware resident.

Mr. Nutter continued that the nature of the claims will include Delaware Consumer Fraud, violations of both Delaware and federal regulations, common law conspiracy, misrepresentation, and abatement of a public nuisance. The areas of damages would be the assessments of costs related to health care spending, criminal justice impacts, public service expenditures, loss of productivity, as well as additional resources needed for the City going forward. The firm of Parkowski, Gureke & Swazey, PA does believe that there is a real correlation between the aggressive marketing by the manufacturers and the amount of prescriptions issued. With that large quantity of prescriptions issued, we are seeing more people become addicted and/or transitioning to illegal substances like fentanyl when they can no longer obtain or afford their prescription substances. This type of litigation has been likened to tobacco litigation but differs in that it is a ground-up case. Cities and counties are taking the lead with state involvement as well. Forty-one states' Attorney Generals have filed suit or are investigating. In addition, there is a federal consolidated action. The firm of Parkowski, Gureke & Swazey, PA is willing to move forward on behalf of any city or county in Delaware that believes it is in the best interest of their citizens to do so.

Councilman Holland asked Fire Chief Jack Wilson how many calls of this nature his department receives.

Chief Wilson responded that they receive approximately 8-15 related calls per week and that it really is taxing to the emergency system.

Mayor Genshaw presented New Business Item #7, Present for approval a proposal to allow the Mayor to execute a retainer agreement with special council, with approval of the City Solicitor.

City Solicitor Dan Griffith came forward to present information. Mr. Griffith stated that most of his questions for the special council were not related to the merit of the pursuits, but rather what the upsides were if the City was to move forward, and subsequently the potential downsides. Pursuant to the retainer agreement, the city would receive 75% of the gross recovery from the lawsuit, and would be responsible for any costs incurred by Mr. Nutter's firm and its partner firms. Mr. Griffith went on to explain that in the event that the legal costs exceed the total recovery amount, the retainer does state that the City will never have to pay out any more in legal fees than what it has actually recovered. All legal fees will be paid from the recovery funds. The second concern would

be the possible struggle to establish liability on the part of the entities and companies. Once that is proven, the other possible issue would be proving damages and the cost associated with it. One of the provisions in the retainer is that the City would be responsible for quantifying damages. Mr. Griffith expressed his concern that there might be some expenditure of resources required by the City in order to accurately quantify those damages. For example, if the City sues Perdue Pharma, the City would need to quantify what that company cost the City in terms of damages from the opioid crisis. This might be difficult to accomplish and would require shutting down certain departments and expending resources while these figures are compiled. Mr. Nutter explained that one of the firms that his practice is partnering with has experts that can create an economic model based on the population of the City to quantify those damages without causing a large burden on the City. Mr. Griffith stated that based on the answers from Mr. Nutter, the suit does not seem to have any real economic downfall for the City and would be a worthwhile endeavor.

Mayor Genshaw asked for any questions or comments from Council; there were none.

With no other questions, Mayor Genshaw then called for a motion. Councilwoman Phillips-Lowe made a motion to retain the law firm of Parkowski, Gureke & Swazey, PA, Mark J. Bern & Partners, LLP and other such attorney and firms they may engage as special counsel to the City of Seaford on the contingent basis that there be no cost incurred by the City of Seaford, with all costs to be advanced by the retained legal counsel; and move to authorize the Mayor of the City of Seaford to execute a retainer agreement for said special counsel upon review and approval of the City Solicitor for the purpose of representing and advancing the interests of the City of Seaford, Delaware in pursuit of legal process and justice through litigation against various manufacturers and distributors of opioid pharmaceuticals that have and continue to have a deleterious and devastating effect on the residents of Sussex County, Delaware. Councilman Holland seconded the motion; the motion so passed with all present voting in favor.

Mayor Genshaw presented New Business Item #8, Present for approval a proposal from Under/Comm to relocate the City fiber optic network out of the Power Plant property.

Trisha Newcomer, ED/IT Manager, came forward to present information for the request. Mrs. Newcomer stated that as Council is aware, the City settled on the sale of the power plant and that the City's fiber loop runs through that property. The fiber loop would need to be removed and relocated as it services the City's and the hospital's communication networks. The plan would be to pull the east loop up towards Market Street then come in to be terminated at City Hall. The remainder of the fibers on the west loop would then run up Pine Street, King Street then come back around Arch Street to complete that loop as well. The IT and Management staff met with the hospital to discuss concerns about network loss during the transition. Mrs. Newcomer stated that she believes the work can be completed without any outages for the hospital. The plan would be to do a test run after the hospital's administrative business hours and ensure that they would still be able to function while the transition takes place. It is requested to have Under/Comm complete this work as they have previously completed 90% of the City's fiber work throughout the years. Under/Comm has given the City a quote of \$12,666.40 to complete the job, with a time frame of approximately 8 days. Mrs. Newcomer added that the City will verify with Under/Comm that the

hospital will not be affected in that time period. If approved by Council, the goal would be to have the work completed within the next 30 days.

Mayor Genshaw asked for any questions or comments from Council.

Councilman Holland asked Mrs. Newcomer where the funds to pay for the work would be coming from. Mrs. Newcomer stated that it would come from the Electric Department's professional services budget. City Manager Anderson said that the initial plan was to take the funds from the Electric Department's professional services budget, however after speaking with the Finance Director it was actually decided to use funds from the sale of the Power Plant property.

With no other questions, Mayor Genshaw then called for a motion. Councilwoman Peterson made a motion to approve Under/Comm to complete the relocation of the fiber optic cables from the Power Plant for an amount of \$12,666.40, with funding coming from the proceeds of the sale of the Power Plant. Councilman Mulvaney seconded the motion; the motion so passed with all voting in favor.

OLD BUSINESS:

- None

REMINDER OF MEETINGS & SETTING NEW MEETINGS

- Electric Committee Meeting; March 20, 2018, 4:00 City Hall Council Chambers
- SVN Real Estate Forum Meeting; March 23, 2018, 7:00 Salisbury University, Salisbury, MD.

CITY OF SEAFORD Municipal Election – April 21, 2018

The City of Seaford Municipal Election will be held on Saturday, April 21, 2018 in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 414 High Street, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. E.S.T. and 3:00 p.m. E.S.T.

One (1) Mayor will be elected for a (2) year term and

Two (2) Council Members will be elected for a (3) year term.

All candidates must have filed by 5:00 p.m., E.S.T., February 23, 2018.

Registration can be completed at City Hall, 414 High Street. Registration hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. or by appointment if you cannot register during these normal business hours. Any candidate who withdraws his/her

name must do so in writing. Any candidate who withdraws his/her name after 5:00 p.m., E.S.T., February 23, 2018 will still appear on the official ballot for election.

Anyone eighteen (18) years of age or older who is a bona fide resident to be eligible to vote **must have been registered at the Seaford City Hall by 5:00 p.m., E.S.T., March 23, 2018.** A nonresident property owner to be eligible to vote must be owner of record for a period of six (6) months immediately preceding the date of the Annual Municipal Election (October 21, 2017) and shall have one vote **provided he or she is registered on the “Books of Registered Voters” maintained at the City Hall. Registration hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. or by appointment if you cannot register during these normal business hours.**

The City of Seaford has independent registration procedures for the Annual Municipal Election. To vote, you must meet the eligibility requirements and be registered on the “Books of Registered Voters” maintained at City Hall.

A person shall be required to register only one time. You are urged to check your registration if you did not vote in the last municipal election. If you have moved out of the City after your original registration, you will need to check your registry to assure you are an eligible voter.

All voters will need to show proof of residency which may be a State of Delaware driver’s license, a State of Delaware identification card, a federal or state tax return with address, a City of Seaford utility bill or real estate property tax bill, or other acceptable proof of residency or ownership.

CANDIDATES FILED:

Mayor David Genshaw has filed for re-election as Mayor

Alfred Lee Cannon has filed for Mayor

Matthew MacCoy has filed for Council

Patricia Jones has filed for Council

Councilman Orlando Holland has filed for re-election for Council

Shane Beard has filed for Council

James King has filed for Council

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilwoman Peterson reported on the Code Department and Parks and Recreation. Mike Bailey, Building Official, reported that he attended a pre-construction meeting with DeIDOT for the new Royal Farms store. The Code Department worked on routine jobs and have issued 45 permits in 2018. The Manor House has finalized the placement of the fencing along Memorial Drive. Also,

Mr. Bailey attended the 2018 Planning Session. Katie Hickey, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, reported that Parks employees Bobby and Gerry attended an irrigation conference in Milford on March 8th giving them more information on our systems. The Parks department is prepping the softball, football and soccer fields. The two part-time employees started working on March 12th for the Parks Department, and Ms. Hickey attended the 2018 Planning Session on March 9th.

Councilman Mulvaney reported on Wastewater Treatment and Public Works. The Wastewater Treatment Facility's performance remains good. No wastewater was received from Proximity Malt in the past two weeks, and the facility is temporarily out of compost as a contractor purchased a bay last week. The hope is to have additional compost ready by April. In Public Works, the department attended the two-day Delaware Rural Water Conference. Director Berley Mears worked on the asset management base maps with GMB and early planning of the Sussex County Unified Sewer District design. Finally, within the next two weeks the hot mix patching of Middleford Road and Phillips Street will be completed.

Councilman Henderson reported that Bill Bennett, Director of Electric, continued to support AUI (contractor) on site at the Pine Street substation. In addition, Mr. Bennett attended and passed the last class for the Key Accounts examination. He will need to complete a Customer Action Plan within one year to achieve his certification with DEMEC. Phase 3 of the LED street light replacement initiative continues and the final new GOABS was installed on Norman Eskridge Highway. Mr. Bennett laid out the switching procedure and was on site for de-energizing the old Pine Street substation. This was completed in order for the contractor to install the steel structure to feed breaker 7240, and the City's personnel placed grounds on the transmission line. In the coming weeks, Electric Department personnel will assist in the rerouting of the fiber optic lines from the Power Plant site, and demolition of the Central substation will continue.

Councilwoman Phillips-Lowe reported on the Police and Fire Departments. She began by explaining that the EMT report was not viewed in time to present at the council meeting that evening and will be presented at the next council meeting. Seaford Volunteer Fire Department reported that in the month of February there were 49 alarms, with 24 of those within city limits. During February the department had residential and commercial solar panel awareness and rapid intervention training. In addition, the department approved the purchase of its self-contained breathing apparatus and the purchase of a new command vehicle to replace the previous vehicle that was damaged in a collision.

The Police Department reported:

911 Calls: 758

Police: 1106

Fire: 50

EMS: 276

A and C Squads recovered 10 bags of heroin, five (5) suboxone strips, four (4) grams of crack cocaine, along with 39.2 grams of marijuana. Patrol Officer James along with Pfc. Justice attended three (3) days of training on Commercial Vehicle Interdiction at the Delaware State Police Training

Academy. On March 7, 2018, Sgt. Horn along with S/Cpl. Mills attended a ground fighting class at the DSP Academy. Criminal Investigation Division is working on several criminal investigations. On March 6, 2018, 14 members of the department attended a four-hour block of training entitled Proactive Criminal Enforcement held at the SPD. This class was also attended by officers from Millsboro PD, Georgetown PD, Ocean View PD, Bridgeville PD, and the Delaware State Police. Finally, CID is working on a robbery case that occurred on Saturday, March 10 at 6:04 a.m. at Walgreens pharmacy. No injuries were incurred.

Councilman Holland reported on the Administration and ED/IT Departments. City staff met with Ross Business Park business owner regarding potential expansion plans and attended various other meetings, including preparation of the Council agenda, participation in the AMI project call and the Annual Staff Planning Session. The IT Department worked on PC repairs, OS installs, and software transfers. In Administration, they prepared a recommendation to Council for the tax reassessment, worked on AMI project report formatting, and worked on the FY '19 Budget. All other business is routine.

Mayor Genshaw called for a motion to close the regular Council Meeting. Councilwoman Peterson made a motion to close the regular Council Meeting. Councilman Holland seconded the motion; the motion so passed with all present voting in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Charles D. Anderson, City Manager

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