

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

January 11, 2012

7:00 p.m.

Mayor Edward H. Butler, Jr., called the Regular Meeting to order with the following present: Councilman J. Rhea Shannon, Councilwoman Leanne Phillips-Lowe, Councilwoman Pat A. Jones, Councilwoman Grace S. Peterson, and Councilman William G. Bennett. Dolores J. Slatcher, City Manager, Sharon Drugash, RE/PR Manager, Gary Morris, Chief of Police, Rick Garner, Director of Power and Charles Anderson, Assistant City Manager.

Councilwoman Peterson offered the opening prayer and Mayor Butler led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Butler solicited changes to the agenda. City Manager Slatcher stated there was a change to the agenda. She would like to add Mr. Brad Whaley from the Sussex County Community Development and Housing Division to discuss the Community Development Block Grant program. She stated that the public hearing has been advertised for tonight. Councilman Bennett made a motion to approve the agenda with the change; Councilwoman Phillips-Lowe seconded the motion; motion so passed with all present voting in favor.

Mayor Butler called for a motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Council meeting of December 13, 2011. Councilwoman Jones made the motion to approve the Minutes of December 13, 2011. Councilwoman Peterson seconded the motion. Motion so passed with all present voting in favor.

City Manager Slatcher welcomed John Wilson, Scout Master along with some members from Boy Scout Troop 381. She added that they have 15 members and meet at Gethsemane Church.

Mayor Butler then turned the meeting over to Chief Morris who asked Patrolman Frank Bradley to come forward. Officer Bradley was then sworn in by Mrs. Sharon Drugash.

Mayor Butler then asked Councilwoman Phillips-Lowe to come to the front to present checks to the winners of the 2011 Holiday Decorating Contest.

Third place was awarded to Deborah & Alan Kessel who live at 205 Arbutus Ave. Second place was awarded to Sharon & Robert Bonneau who live at 110 N. Delaware Ave. First place was awarded to Rebecca Peterson & Phil Burtelle who live at 402 Nylon Ave.

Councilwoman Phillips-Lowe wanted to thank everyone that participated and said again how beautiful the decorations were.

Mayor Butler closed the regular meeting and opened the Public Hearing at 7:09 p.m. He then turned the meeting over to Brad Whaley, SCCDHD.

Public Hearing #1 - Mr. Brad Whaley, Assistant Director from the Sussex County Community Development and Housing Division came forward. He explained that a public hearing is held in order to explain the guidelines of the program. The funds are from the urban development and are applied for by the different counties. He stated that there is about \$1.7 million this year for use for Kent and Sussex Counties which is down about 12%. The program uses the money for demolitions, water and sewer hook ups, small infrastructure and house rehabilitations. This program is designed for the low to moderate income range; he explained that the current guidelines are \$34,300 for a one person household and \$49,000 for a four person household. The house must be owner occupied; however, he explained that there is also another program where an owner can get a 3% loan in order to do repairs on a rental home. The house must be insured and the taxes must be current. Mr. Whaley explained that a lien is placed on the property and depending on the age of the owner is how long the lien lasts. If the person is above 62 years old, the lien is for five year and if the person is below 62 years old the lien is for ten years. Mr. Whaley stated that there are currently 37 houses that have been done for the City of Seaford and there are currently 25 people on the waiting list. He stated that the application should be submitted on or before March 2, 2012. Mr. Whaley asked for any questions, there were none.

Mayor Butler closed the Public Hearing at 7:16 p.m. and opened the regular meeting.

City Manager Slatcher presented New Business #1, Present for approval an agreement with La Liga De Futbol Sin Fronteras to provide public soccer leagues at the Seaford Sports Complex. City Manager Slatcher stated that the league would play on Saturday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. for games during the soccer season and for playoffs. The league would run from March 2012 until October 2012. The agreement lays out what the league would be responsible to pay for along with the City. The league would provide their own referees for the games. The City will provide the league with \$200.00 for trophies and/or medals for the top three team in the playoffs at the end of the season. City Manger Slatcher explained that sign-ups will go through the Recreation office and they are expecting to have about 400 participants. Councilwoman Jones made a motion to approve the agreement with La Liga De Futbol Sin Fronteras as presented. Councilwoman Peterson seconded the motion; motion so passed with all present voting in favor.

City Manager Slatcher presented New Business #2, Present for approval a proposal from Tennis ExPress to provide tennis activities at the three courts at Hoopers Landing. They will provide on-site supervision of Hooper's Landing courts. The site will be staffed by Tennis ExPress for a minimum of 4 hours every day starting after May 1st and ending after Labor Day weekend. The anticipated hours will be 8 a.m. until

noon but are subject to change. City Manager Slatcher added that the City will be responsible for maintenance and upkeep of the tennis courts at Hooper's Landing. Councilman Bennett made a motion to approve the proposal from Tennis ExPress to provide tennis activities at the three courts at Hoopers Landing. Councilwoman Phillips-Lowe seconded the motion; motion so passed with all present voting in favor.

City Manager Slatcher presented New Business #3, Present for approval an engineering agreement for the extension of Davis Drive in the Seaford Industrial Park. City Manager Slatcher explained that the Economic Development Committee reviewed the request to provide easier access to the former Century Windows Building. After they reviewed the request and with a jobs creation of 55 new jobs, it is recommended to extend the road. Two proposals were provided by engineering firms for the design of Davis Drive extension. One is from George, Miles and Burh and the other from Daft McCune Walker, Inc. The lowest proposal was submitted by George, Miles and Burh in the amount of \$9,459. Staff is recommending approving the proposal from George, Miles and Burh in the amount of \$9,459 to extend the road with the costs coming from the Realty Transfer Tax Reserve. Councilman Bennett made a motion to approve the engineering agreement with George, Miles and Burh in the amount of \$9,459 to extend Davis Drive with the money coming from the Realty Transfer Tax Reserve account. Councilwoman Peterson seconded the motion; motion so passed with all present voting in favor.

Old Business #1 – Present for second reading and adoption the amendment to Chapter 6, Municipal Code relating to “Electricity” for Parallel Generation and Renewable Energy. With there being no questions, Mayor Butler called for a motion. Councilman Bennett made a motion to approve the amendment to Chapter 6, Municipal Code relating to “Electricity” for Parallel Generation and Renewable Energy. Councilwoman Phillips-Lowe seconded the motion; motion so passed with all present voting in favor.

REMINDER OF MEETINGS & SETTING OF NEW MEETINGS:

- MLK Breakfast at Heritage Shores at 8 a.m. on January 16th
- Police Department Awards Ceremony at Nanticoke Senior Center, January 26th at 6 p.m.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

♦ Councilwoman Peterson stated that Trisha is updating the website. As of January 1st, leaves now need to be bagged. The Washington Street project is underway and they are currently working on Poplar Street. Gateway Construction has started the demolition of 306 Front Street and the entrances in Stoneybrook are currently being graded.

- ♦ Councilwoman Jones thanked the City for being a gold sponsor for the MLK Celebration.
- ♦ Councilwoman Phillips-Lowe stated business was as usual.
- ♦ Councilman Shannon reported that dispatcher testing was done this past Saturday with about 50 applicants taking the test. The department is preparing for their awards ceremony and the new Sergeants SUV has come in.
- ♦ Councilman Bennett reported that the Electric Department is working out at Stoneybrook and new lights in Martin Farms. He stated that the fire department had 517 fire alarms and 2,446 ambulance runs last year. The new officers will be sworn in tomorrow night at their meeting.

Mayor Butler called for a motion to close the regular meeting. A motion was made by Councilwoman Jones to close the regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Peterson and so carried with all present voting in favor at 7:34 p.m.

By: _____
Dolores J. Slatcher, City Manager

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