

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

August 14, 2012

7:00 p.m.

Mayor William G. Bennett called the Regular Meeting to order with the following present: Councilman J. Rhea Shannon, Councilwoman Pat A. Jones, Councilwoman Grace S. Peterson, Councilwoman Leanne Phillips-Lowe and Councilman David Genshaw. Charles Anderson, Assistant City Manager and Rick Garner, Director of Power, were also present.

Councilwoman Jones offered the opening prayer. Mayor Bennett led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Bennett solicited changes to the agenda. Assistant City Manager Anderson stated there were none.

Mayor Bennett called for a motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Council meeting of July 24, 2012. Councilman Genshaw made the motion to approve the Minutes of the July 24, 2012 Regular Council meeting. Councilwoman Jones seconded the motion. Motion so passed, with all present voting in favor.

Mayor Bennett then asked for any correspondence. Assistant City Manager Anderson stated there was none.

Assistant City Manager Anderson presented New Business #1, present for approval the Fiber Use License Agreement with Nanticoke Health Services. He stated there were three locations to be added. They are the Women's Health Center on Herring Run Road, Women's Health Center II on Bridgeville Highway and the Family Practice on Middleford Road. He stated the City currently has two fiber optic loops and we use those for communications between lift stations, water towers and things like that. We have excess capacity in the existing cable and the hospital has used some of this excess fiber for their communications since 1996 or so under a prior agreement. They now want to add communication facilities to these new sites.

Mr. Garner wanted to add that they revised the existing agreement to better serve potential customers in the future.

Assistant City Manager Anderson also stated that the agreement will generate revenue for the City, which is an added benefit.

Mayor Bennett asked for questions from Council.

Councilwoman Peterson asked who installs the fiber optic cable. Assistant City Manager Anderson stated the Electric department installs what is called dark fiber. We run the connectivity between the points that they request and then the hospital is responsible for the head in equipment, which lights the fiber and transmits their data. He also stated if a pole were to be hit and taken down, the City would be responsible for fixing it. He did add

that the agreement states that the repair of electric service to our customers is priority then we will restore fiber service, in the event of an outage.

Councilwoman Jones asked how effective fiber optic is and is it a system that goes down and requires a lot of attention. Assistant City Manager Anderson stated that the advantage is it's more secure because it's not a wireless transmission of data. Mr. Garner stated the last time we had any problems with the fiber optic lines was during the hurricane close to two years ago.

Councilwoman Jones then asked if they have a backup system or generator if the system goes down.

Mr. Garner stated the hospital maintains what they call a redundant loop. They can transmit both ways on their loop.

Councilwoman Jones then asked how the fiber optic lease generates revenue. Mr. Garner stated there is an annual fee based on the length of fiber that is leased. Assistant City Manager stated there is also a minimum term of contract. This ensures the City will recover its investment in the facility.

Councilman Genshaw asked if there were other fiber optic customers. Assistant City Manager Anderson stated that Nanticoke Hospital is presently the only customer.

Councilwoman Phillips-Lowe asked if they are adding six more fibers.

Mr. Garner stated yes they are adding small lengths. He stated in the original installation the City installed a total of 96 fibers and the hospital paid for the installation of 24 of those fibers. He stated this is a lease agreement to add the additional and does not affect the original agreement.

Mayor Bennett called for a motion. Councilwoman Jones made a motion to approve the Fiber Use License Agreements with Nanticoke Health Services for the Family Practice, Women's Health Center and Women's Health Center II. Councilwoman Peterson seconded the motion. Motion so passed, with all present voting in favor.

Assistant City Manager Anderson presented New Business #2, present for approval the 911 readdressing for Seaford Apartments to name the loop within the complex, Grayson Court. He stated we are going through our database of addresses and identifying places that are not properly addressed or need additional addressing in accordance with E911 system. He stated the property owner requested the name of Grayson Court. The name was submitted to the County to determine if it meets the requirements, but ultimately the City Council has the authority to apply the name.

Councilwoman Jones asked if there was a problem that prompted this change. Assistant City Manager Anderson stated that there wasn't a problem, but the City and County are

picking a lot of this kind of thing up. It was noticed when a remodel occurred and we added some addresses and we had to submit the new building locations for addressing.

Councilwoman Peterson asked why they chose Grayson Court. Assistant City Manager Anderson stated we think Mr. Grayson was a partner in the development originally.

Mayor Bennett called for a motion. Councilwoman Phillips-Lowe made a motion to approve the 911 readdressing for Seaford Apartments loop inside the complex to be Grayson Court as approved by the Sussex County Addressing Department. Councilman Genshaw seconded the motion, motion so passed with all present voting in favor.

Assistant City Manager Anderson presented New Business #3, information for restructuring the electric department. He stated when the Superintendent of Electric job was advertised and we did not receive any qualified applicants that lived within the Seaford School District and there was not an internal candidate. It was agreed that the Electric Department would operate with the Director of Power and a coordinator. He stated the City would hire a groundsman. The job ad will be posted internally and then be advertised externally. He also stated the Director of Power will relocate to the Utility Building.

#### **REMINDER OF MEETINGS & SETTING OF NEW MEETINGS:**

- I.G. Burton ribbon cutting and mixer, August 16<sup>th</sup>, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- Downtown Seaford Association picnic, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m.
- Yacht Club mixer, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Mayor Bennett reported that on July 26<sup>th</sup> the City was given a birdhouse from the Seaford Junior Tech Academy as part of a project, Nourishing the Nanticoke. The City of Seaford was given a plaque from the Senior League World Series, thanking us for our support. The City gave honorary citizenship certificates to all the participants of the World Series. He also reported that he presented a proclamation to some residents for the "Spirit of '45".

Councilwoman Peterson reported that the contractor finished tree trimming on Sussex Avenue. They are now working on Hickory Lane, Elm Drive and Oak Road. The line crew is working on tree trimming and tree removal. The line crew is also working at Stoneybrook. There were two power outages, July 29<sup>th</sup> and August 10<sup>th</sup>. She stated lightning hit a transformer.

Councilwoman Jones reported there are some office changes at City Hall. The 15<sup>th</sup> edition of the AFRAM festival was a success. The turnout was as well as could be expected with the weather. There were over fifty entries in the parade and there were several vendors. She wanted to thank the City and everyone for their contributions. She also reported that there

was one incident at AFRAM that required paramedics, who were on site. A 15 year old girl passed out and was holding a child. She stated it was determined she had not eaten and both were doing fine.

Councilwoman Phillips-Lowe reported that the Economic Development department has been busy with the Senior League World Series. Certificates were given to all teams that participated. Trisha has also been working with Downtown Delaware for a grant. The IT department is working to improve the Recreation website. The Code department has had an increase in violations. They issued 17 building permits. The Public Works department held interviews. She also reported the WWTF currently has a bid out for a new front end loader.

Councilman Shannon reported the Police Department has been busy with drug busts. He wanted to commend them for a job well done.

Councilman Genshaw reported that the Parks department has had a shortage of manpower and they are trying to get caught up. The firemen's softball tournament is being held at the Sports Complex this weekend. There is currently a bid out for the Recreation building roof replacement. He also wanted to report that the Recreation department is working with the Boys and Girls Club to try to blend our programs to increase participation. Lastly, he reported that Scott has been working on utilizing the website and electronic communication for notifications.

There being no other business, Mayor Bennett called for a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Peterson made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Phillips-Lowe seconded the motion. Motion so passed with all present voting in favor.

Mayor Bennett adjourned the Regular meeting at 7:32 p.m.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Charles D. Anderson, Assistant City Manager

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