

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

April 26, 2011

7:00 PM

Mayor Edward H. Butler, Jr., called the Regular Meeting to order with the following present: Councilwoman Grace S. Peterson, Councilwoman Pat A. Jones, Councilwoman Leann Phillips-Lowe, Councilman J. Rhea Shannon and Councilman William G. Bennett. Dolores J. Slatcher, City Manager, Gary Morris, Chief of Police, Rick Garner, Director of Power, and Larry McMullen, Superintendent of Electric, were also present.

Councilwoman Jones 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 that there were none.

Mayor Butler stated that there would be an Executive Session after the Regular Meeting for the purpose of discussing personnel.

Mayor Butler called for a motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 12, 2011. Councilman Shannon made the motion to approve the minutes of April 12, 2011. Councilman Bennett seconded the motion. The motion so passed with all present voting in favor.

Mayor Butler stated that he and the Council members were able to view the new bucket truck in the City Hall parking lot prior to the Council Meeting.

Judge William Mulvaney administered the Oath of Office to Councilwoman Pat A. Jones. Judge William Mulvaney then administered the Oath of Office to Councilman J. Rhea Shannon.

Mayor Butler appointed the department Council Liaisons for the year. He stated that they will remain the same as last year:

- Councilwoman Peterson – Operations
- Councilwoman Jones – Parks and Recreation
- Councilwoman Phillips-Lowe – Administration
- Councilman Shannon – Police
- Councilman Bennett – Electric and Fire

Mayor Butler read a proclamation declaring May as "Poppy Month." Bertha Potteiger came forward on behalf of the American Legion. She accepted the proclamation and read a poem about the poppy.

Rick Garner, Director of Power, came forward to present the safety award that was received by the Electric Department. The Utility Safety Award of Excellence was given by the American Public

Power Association for safe operating practices in 2010. Larry McMullen, Superintendent of Electric, accepted the award on behalf of the Electric Department.

City Manager Slatcher asked Gary Morris, Chief of Police, to come forward. Chief Morris commended the Electric Department on their award. He then thanked the Mayor for a proclamation that he had given at the 911 Center for Telecommunicators Week. He thanked the City for their recognition of the work that the dispatchers at the 911 Center do. Chief Morris introduced the new dispatcher, Cody Shockley. He explained that the applicants for the dispatcher position completed a written test. The highest scorers from the written test received oral interviews, followed by background investigations. He said that Mr. Shockley has prior police and dispatch experience, and has just completed his Emergency Medical Dispatch Training. Mayor and Council welcomed him and wished him luck.

Mayor Butler asked if there was any correspondence. City Manager Slatcher stated that there was none.

New Business # 1 – City Manager Slatcher presented New Business # 1, bids for Clean-up Week. She said that the City received four bids, the lowest of which was Allied Waste in the amount of \$80 per pull, with a total base bid of \$24,800. She explained that the bids were higher this year because the tonnage fee has increased at the Delaware Solid Waste Authority. Mayor Butler called for a motion. Councilwoman Peterson made the motion to award the bid for Clean-up Week to the low bidder, Allied Waste, in the amount of \$80 per pull. Councilwoman Phillips-Lowe seconded the motion. The motion so passed with all present voting in favor.

New Business # 2 – City Manager Slatcher presented New Business # 2, present Utility Dedication Agreement from the Moose Lodge for the public water main installed by them. She said that the agreement would need to be accepted, although it was dated March 7, 2011. Mayor Butler called for a motion. Councilwoman Jones made the motion to approve the Utility Dedication Agreement with the Seaford Lodge #1728 (Moose Lodge) as presented. Councilman Bennett seconded the motion. The motion so passed with all present voting in favor.

New Business # 3 – City Manager Slatcher presented New Business # 3, present information on the renewal of the health and life insurances employee benefits. She said that Mr. Kris Smith from Integra had presented renewal rates at the last Council Meeting, and had made the recommendation to renew using option 6a with Unimerica. A decision was not made at that time because the City was in the process of pricing other insurance options through Short Insurance. She stated that a premium-based plan with Blue Cross was not financially a good choice for the City at this time, and the recommendation is to renew through Integra. Mayor Butler called for a motion. Councilwoman Phillips-Lowe made the motion to accept the recommendation from the Integra Administration Group to renew health benefits using Option 6a with Unimerica. Councilwoman Peterson seconded the motion. The motion so passed with all present voting in favor.

New Business # 4 – City Manager Slatcher presented New Business # 4, request to set tax appeal for May 24, 2011. She said that it is the recommendation of Sharon Drugash, PR/RE Manager to

schedule the property tax appeals for the May 24, 2011 Council Meeting. Tax appeals will be heard from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m., with the Regular Meeting beginning immediately afterward. If no one is present to appeal at 7 p.m., the Regular Meeting will begin, but will need to be held should anyone come in to appeal. Mayor Butler called for a motion. Councilwoman Jones made the motion to set real estate property tax appeal for Tuesday, May 24, 2011 between the hours of 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. Councilwoman Peterson seconded the motion. The motion so passed with all present voting in favor.

Old Business # 1 – City Manager Slatcher presented Old Business # 1, report the results of the Municipal Election held on Saturday, April 16, 2011. She reported that there were 181 ballots cast, 7 of which were absentee ballots. Councilwoman Pat A. Jones received 123 votes, Douglass Lambert received 59 votes, and Councilman J. Rhea Shannon received 147 votes. Mayor Butler called for a motion. Councilman Bennett made the motion to accept the Certificate of Election results for the Municipal Election held on April 16, 2011 as submitted from the Board of Elections. Councilwoman Phillips-Lowe seconded the motion. The motion so passed with all present voting in favor.

### Reminder of Meetings

- DE League of Local Governments – April 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at Sheraton in Dover
- Mayor and Council Budget Workshops – May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m.
- Nanticoke Little League Opening Day – May 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:45 a.m. in Williams Pond Park
- Nanticoke River Yacht Club – May 7<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. at the Marina in Blades
- Administrative Professionals Breakfast – April 27<sup>th</sup> at 8 a.m. in Council Chambers

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilwoman Peterson reported that the parking lot at Seaford Apartments is almost ready to be paved. She said that the Seaford Enhancement Team will be meeting on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. She also stated that Clean-up Week fliers have been printed, and some have been distributed throughout the city.

Councilwoman Jones reported that the National Day of Prayer is on May 5<sup>th</sup>. She also reported that trees had been planted in Soroptomist Park. City Manager Slatcher added that trees had also been planted on Nylon Boulevard, at the library, the school district, and at the Ross Mansion. She said that there were 400 trees planted throughout the city. The trees were planted by contract through the State of Delaware using a federal grant. Councilwoman Jones reported that the Parks Department has been busy cutting grass, and that they have irrigation systems up and running. She said that Softball season kicks off May 9<sup>th</sup> for the Recreation Department. She also said that the Easter Egg Hunt at the Ross Mansion was a success, with over 120 children in attendance.

Councilwoman Phillips-Lowe reported that the Budget Workshops are coming up. She added that the Administrative Professionals Breakfast is on April 27<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Shannon reported that everything was running smoothly at the Police Department.

Councilman Bennett reported that the Electric Department has been working on updating an underground circuit at Greenside Manor. He said that they have also been busy with tree trimming and routine maintenance.

Councilwoman Jones said that Seaford Federal Credit Union will be holding their annual meeting on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6 p.m. She said that current and prospective members are invited to attend.

With no further comments, Mayor Butler called for a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council and move to an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel. Councilwoman Phillips-Lowe so moved. Councilwoman Peterson seconded the motion and the motion so carried with all present voting in favor. Mayor Butler closed the Regular Meeting at 7:38 p.m.

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Dolores Slatcher, City Manager

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