

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

September 27, 2011

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 and Charles Anderson, Assistant City Manager, were also present.

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 no changes.

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

Mayor Butler then called Doug Butler to come forward. He recognized Doug as the outgoing President of the Delaware Fire Chiefs Association and congratulated him for his accomplishment.

Mayor Butler then called Dolores Slatcher to come forward. He stated that Dolores was named as City Manager of the Year this past Sunday at the Delaware League of Local Governments Annual Meeting. He congratulated her for her accomplishment and thanked her for her service to the City.

City Manager Slatcher then presented New Business #2, Linda Allen, President of Western Sussex Farmer's Market to give an update. Ms. Allen read a letter from the Western Sussex Farmer's Market board thanking the City Council and City Manager for their support and their donation. They had a successful year and are looking forward to next year.

City Manager Slatcher presented New Business #1, Pastor Carlton L. Cannon, Sr., President of the Seaford Child Development and Partnership, Inc. to discuss a path forward. Pastor Cannon came forward stating that the partnership between his organization and the City started 6 years ago. The organization was put together to better the community and to help keep the youth off of the streets. He stated that there were many setbacks that occurred that put the progress of his organization moving into the building behind. The first setback was the flood that occurred in 2006 and to date they still have not gained residence into the building. He stated that when he along with his supporters came forward to the City Council in 2006 with the idea for this organization, they stated that they would raise the money and resources their selves. Pastor Cannon stated that money was raised and organizations donated and are still donating to the cause. He stated that in order to gain more money and get more support he felt that they needed to have the children in the building and their operation functioning. They were never given this opportunity to have the children in the building; as it seemed like every time that they got close new rules were put in place or City codes were not met to allow them to not be able move in. Pastor Cannon stated that the last set back was the fire that recently occurred. They have now been given a notice to vacant the building. He stated that they have six years worth of materials currently in the building with no place to put them other than their own personal residences. They are currently in the process of finding another building to move their organization in order to keep their dream alive.

Pastor Cannon stated that he is concerned about east Seaford and feels that they had a great opportunity for the community with this program. Councilwoman Jones commented that she realizes that this group has had a rough six years trying to make their dream come true. She stated that she remembers being on the Council six years ago approving their awesome dream with the many supporters that came to

the meeting in support of this project. Councilwoman Jones stated that life sometimes deals you misfortunes and throws things at you that you did not anticipate. She feels that the City has done an exceedingly job to help this organization succeed with many staff hours and help with expenses. She thanked everyone for coming out tonight to support the organization.

Mr. Eugene Abbott came forward thanking the City Council, City Manager and City Staff for all that they have done. He stated that what he feels that Pastor Cannon is saying tonight is that team work is needed in order to make the dream work. Mr. Abbott feels like the work did not happen and the doors were not open to the center due to not enough support coming from the City. He stated that many people have worked for years for this dream to occur and the City is trying to take that away from them. He asked the City Council and City Manager what the path forward was from here. Mayor Butler responded that the plan is to have the building torn down and the lot will then be a vacant lot. Mr. Abbott then asked what the plan was to move forward with this group; he feels that the City should look into funds and grants for their project. Councilwoman Phillips-Lowe asked why it is the City Council's concern to make their project successful? Mr. Abbott stated because they are citizens and the City Council is responsible for the whole City. He feels that everyone, all City employees are responsible for this project.

City Manager Slatcher gave a timeline for the organization. She stated that there was a group of citizens that came forward to the City Council who wanted to take over the headstart building. The headstart program that currently housed the building paid for their own programs and building. This group believed that local people could do the same program to keep it running. The City Council supported the group's idea and agreed to allow them to have the building for \$1 lease and the group was to maintain the building. When the flood occurred in 2006, the City had to find the money to restore the damage that occurred. Senator Venables gave money and money was given through Discover Bank which was administered through the City. There were many staff hours that were taken to facilitate to get permits done. When the fire recently occurred, it was a decision that needed to be made about the future of the building. At this point in time, unless there was a true commitment, it would need to be decided if the program would be successful or not. The decision was made to tear the building down and then to be left as a vacant lot. City Manager Slatcher stated that educational opportunities are not in the City's budget and the City is not in that type of business. She stated that is not part of the City's function; that is left up to the school district.

Pastor Cannon stated that before the flood in 2006, they were ready to go into the building; however, they were told they were not able to move into to the building due to more permits that were needed. Charles Anderson, Assistant City Manager came forward stating that when the group came forward, they stated that they planned to do the same occupancy as the previous headstart program. If that were to happen, they would not have to go through the process as they would be "grandfathered" in considering it would be the same usage of the building. However, when the organization submitted a letter, different uses were listed such as having daycare for up to 40 children. Since different uses were referenced, they would need to get the necessary approvals and permits. Pastor Cannon stated that he did not know that would be an issue which caused them to not be able to move into the building when they were ready. He then stated that it took them more time to satisfy the state's needs for them to get approval. Pastor Cannon feels that his organization deserves a chance to have their dream come true.

City Manager Slatcher presented New Business #3, Request from Scott Coulbourn, Supt. of Parks and Recreation to purchase a storage shed for equipment from the Football Reserves. Scott has priced sheds and the one that he found that was the most fitted for his use will cost \$5,058.00 which includes delivery and setting. It has a one 3' foot entry door on the side and a 7 x 9 overhead door which will be very helpful for the equipment. He is requesting for the money to come out of the football account. The location of the shed would be near the first base side of field #2.

Councilwoman Jones made a motion to approve the request to purchase the equipment shed in the amount of \$5,058.00 and for the money to come out of the football reserves account. Councilman Bennett seconded the motion; motion passed with all present voting in favor.

City Manager Slatcher presented New Business #4, Present zoning letter from Adkins Management. City Manager Slatcher stated that this letter was for the back 9 holes, a letter was recently approved for the main course. This was requested for the ABC commission and is for information purposes only.

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

- Nanticoke Senior Center Dedication, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.
- Seaford Police Night Out, September 29<sup>th</sup> @ 5 p.m.
- SCAT Dinner meeting, October 5<sup>th</sup> at Irish Eyes in Lewes
- Nanticoke Cancer Walk, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. followed by a ceremony in Gateway Park at 7:30 p.m.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Councilwoman Peterson reported WWTF is back to their normal operations. The tree limbs that were being stored on Spruce Street from the storm have been cleaned up. The hydrants are currently being flushed. Pink lights will be put up in Gateway Park on Thursday for the month of October. The last movie in the park was recently held for the season and had a good turnout. She stated that Josh is updating the code book and working on empty houses. She added that the contractor started paving Rosetree Lane today.

Councilwoman Jones reported that youth tackle football starts this Saturday. The Kiwanis Club will be having an auction this Saturday at the Middle School starting at 9 a.m. The flag football program is in their 3<sup>rd</sup> week as well as hockey. She added that there are 14 flag football teams, 7 tackle teams and 35 girls playing field hockey. She reported that the Parks department is busy doing work orders and keeping up with the grass.

Councilwoman Phillips-Lowe thanked Dolores for all of her hard work.

Councilman Shannon reminded everyone that the Night Out is this Thursday from 5 to 8 p.m. He added that this is Stan Hardesty, Dispatch Administrator last week due to retirement.

Councilman Bennett reported that the Electric Department has been doing routine maintenance and Rick is working on projects. The fire department had their convention last weekend and the Ladies Auxiliary placed 2<sup>nd</sup> for best appearance and the men placed 3<sup>rd</sup> for best appearance. He added that the antique fire truck was taken up and placed 3<sup>rd</sup> best.

City Manager Slatcher stated that Charles will be in charge starting on Saturday morning since she will be out of town on vacation.

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

Mayor Butler adjourned the Regular meeting at 7:47 p.m.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dolores J. Slatcher, City Manager