

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

May 26, 2015

7:00 PM

Mayor David Genshaw called the Regular Meeting to order with the following present: Councilwoman Grace S. Peterson, Councilwoman Leanne Phillips-Lowe, Councilman Dan H Henderson, Councilman Orlando Holland and Councilman H. William Mulvaney III. Dolores J. Slatcher, City Manager, and Charles Anderson, Assistant City Manager, were also present.

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

Mayor Genshaw stated that there would be an Executive Session held after the Regular Meeting.

Mayor Genshaw solicited changes to the agenda. City Manager Slatcher stated that there were none.

Mayor Genshaw called for a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of May 12, 2015. Councilwoman Peterson made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of May 12, 2015. Councilman Mulvaney seconded the motion, and the motion so passed with all present voting in favor.

Mayor Genshaw held a vote for the Vice-Mayor Position. Council voted to have Councilwoman Phillips-Lowe remain Vice-Mayor for 2015-2016.

Mayor Genshaw presented the Mayor's Right Choice Award to Michael Bogle. He commended Mr. Bogle for being a drug-free positive role model in the community, and for his achievements, which included holding a prom for the residents at the Manor House.

Mayor Genshaw called Ms. Bert Potteiger forward. Ms. Potteiger thanked Mayor and Council, as well as the community, for their support of Poppy Month.

Mayor Genshaw introduced Bill Bennett, Superintendent of Electric to present the American Public Power Association Safety Award. Mr. Bennett stated that the City of Seaford Electric Department was awarded the APPA Safety Award for their safe operations in 2014, for having 21,370 hours of work with no work-related injuries for the department. The City's Electric department is one of 25 similar departments that were also awarded.

Mayor Genshaw presented New Business # 1, to make various committee appointments. The committees and their members are as follows:

Antique Fire Restoration Committee

Mr. Bill Slatcher
Mr. Rick Marvel
Mr. Barry Calhoun

Mr. Ron Marvel
Mr. Mike Vincent
Mr. Mark O'Bier
Mr. Randy O'Bier
Mr. Wayne Rigby
Mr. Ben Peterson
Mr. John Botdorf

Economic Development Committee

Councilwoman Leanne Phillips-Lowe
Mayor David Genshaw
Mrs. Dolores Slatcher
Mr. Charles Anderson
Mrs. Trisha Newcomer

Electric Committee

Councilwoman Grace Peterson
Mrs. Dolores Slatcher
Mr. Rick Garner
Mrs. Sharon Drugash
Mr. Dave Downes
Mr. Tony Lowe
Mr. George Logan
Mr. Charles Anderson
Mr. Bill Bennett
Mrs. Veronica Hall

Housing Board Appeals

Councilwoman Grace Peterson
Councilman Dan Henderson
Councilwoman Leanne Phillips-Lowe
Councilman Orlando Holland
Councilman Bill Mulvaney

Chaired by Mayor Genshaw who does not vote

Operations Committee

Councilman Dan Henderson
Mrs. Dolores Slatcher
Mr. Charles Anderson
Ms. Judy Schwartz

Mr. Berley Mears
Mr. Frank Raskauskas
Mr. E. Scott Morgan

Planning and Zoning Commission

Mr. Rick Peterson
Mr. Wayne Sammons
Mr. Al Temple
Mr. John Leverage
Mr. Mark Gassett
Mr. Drew Libby
Mr. Matt Shaffer

Non Voting Members

Mr. Jeremy Moore
Mr. Joshua Littleton

Mayor Genshaw solicited any questions. There were none.

Mayor Genshaw then called for a motion. Councilman Henderson made a motion to accept the committee appointments as presented. Councilwoman Phillips-Lowe seconded the motion. The motion so passed with all present voting in favor.

Mayor Genshaw presented New Business # 2, the quote from Sunnyfield Contractors Inc. for the demolition of the concrete and fencing on the City owned lot in the Seaford Industrial Park. City Manager Slatcher stated that Sunnyfield Contractors gave the City a quote of \$14,700 for the cleanup, and that the funds for the project would come from the Code Demolition funds. This demolition is part of getting the lot ready to be put up for sale.

Mayor Genshaw solicited any questions. There being none, he called for a motion. Councilwoman Phillips-Lowe made a motion to accept the quote from Sunnyfield Contractors Inc. for the demolition of the concrete and fencing on the City owned lot in the Seaford Industrial Park in the amount of \$14,700, which will be funded by the Code Demolition funds for 2015, and be completed by June 30th, 2015 as presented. Councilman Holland seconded the motion. The motion so passed with all present voting in favor.

Mayor Genshaw presented New Business # 3, report from Berley Mears, Director of Public Works, with an estimate of this year's clean-up week costs. Mr. Mears stated that the estimated cost to date is about \$12,000, which is about 60% of what was budgeted for this year's clean-up week, and includes the two \$500 community grants that the City received.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Frank D. Cannon Jr. of 411 Nylon Boulevard came forward to comment on the FY '16 Budget. Mr. Cannon stated:

The well is running dry. That is, the Money well in Seaford is running dry. The Mayor and members of the City Council are beginning to "Get It". City Manager Slatcher and her administrative staff "Don't get it". The initial budget proposal the City Manager gave to the Mayor and Council was \$75,000 more than projected revenues- a deficit budget. City Manager's wish list includes a 1.5% pay raise for regular employees after two consecutive years of 3% (or in her case 3.5% per year) raises. She asked our elected representatives to dip deeply into savings, reserves, to cover the shortfall/ deficit- a terrible idea. To their credit, Mayor and City council told our City Manager to come back with a wish list of cuts to her wish list, some of those being, eliminating painting City Hall, cutting the number of people going to a Nashville conference, seeking volunteers to maintain the athletic fields, amount to nickels and dimes of remedy. Assistant City Manager Charles Anderson offered an increase in the already sky high electric rate to cover the "deficit". Neither the City Manager nor the Assistant City Manager seem to be able to figure out the kinds of real cuts necessary to stop their Cadillac spending spiral on a Chevrolet budget, they just "Don't Get It". But as City Council candidates, both Mrs. Peterson and Mr. Holland clearly identified personnel expenses (more than \$7.25 million in FY '15) as the key area where costs could be contained and/or reduced. Mayor Genshaw has brought up offering early retirement to reduce costs. Councilman Henderson has said that the proposed 1.5% pay increase should be axed. Both Mayor Genshaw and Mr. Henderson seem to "Get it".

Mayor Genshaw then informed Mr. Cannon that his allotted three minutes were up. He thanked him for his comments and said that they would be taken into consideration.

REMINDER OF MEETINGS & SETTING NEW MEETINGS

- SCAT Dinner Meeting, Rookery North, Milford, June 3rd at 6 p.m.
- PHI & Excelon Annual Meeting, Clarion, Ocean City, June 4th at 3 p.m.
- Sussex County Prayer Breakfast, Crossroad Community Church, June 9th at 6:45 a.m.
- FY '16 Budget Meeting, City Hall Council Chambers, June 1st at 6:30 p.m.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilwoman Phillips-Lowe reported in the Police Department, the hiring process is still continuing for the Dispatch position, and they are currently in the background investigation phase. The Department will be conducting its taser re-certifications this week, all spring firearms qualifications have been completed, and the Department is exploring hiring options to fill a vacancy left by Cpl. Bachman's resignation. There was no report for the Fire Department.

Councilman Mulvaney reported that Assistant City Manager Charles Anderson attended several meetings, including the solar farm project pre-bid meeting. He published the

minutes for the solar farm project pre-bid meeting and the HVAC maintenance bid documents, and processed the submittals for the Parks building project. June Merritt, Director of Finance/HR, also attended several meetings, including FOP negotiations, DEMEC Joint Community Briefing for Electric Wholesale Rates, solar project pre-bid meeting, webinar for upcoming software enhancements and Annual User Conference for Edmunds & Associates, and the loan closing with Fulton Bank for the Route 20 Sewer Extension project. Mrs. Merritt also assisted with FOIA requests, worked on a financial good standing ordinance for Mr. Bahar, and stated that all other business has been routine, including financial management, payroll and benefits, purchasing, billing and customer service. Utility bills were due May 22nd and disconnects are scheduled for June 8th.

Councilman Holland reported that the Parks and Recreation Department has been working on getting the pool facility up and running for this season, and spring grass cutting has begun. The Department also worked on the final details and coordination for Seaford's 150th Anniversary Celebration event held May 22nd – May 24th. Natalie Wilson, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, would like to thank everyone for their many hours of hard work to make the event possible. The Recreation Department is also taking registrations for an upcoming bus trip on June 14th to see Orioles vs. Yankees at Camden Yards. The deadline for registration is June 1st.

Councilman Henderson reported that in Information Technology, Trisha Newcomer, ED/IT Manager, dealt with a SCADA PC issue. For Economic Development, Mrs. Newcomer assisted in preparations for the Chamber of Commerce mixer on May 21st, and also participated and assisted in preparations for the City's 150th Anniversary events. In Public Works, the Route 20 Sewer Extension project is in progress. The Department installed a meter pit for water service to High Street Bridge for irrigation, cleaned key sewers, participated in clean-up week, and fixed water leaks at North Street Ext. and Williams Pond Park irrigation. Berley Mears, Director of Public Works, also attended several meetings. At the Waste Water Treatment Facility, plant performance is excellent. Leachate treatment is going well, but has decreased with drier weather. The Department is handling routine maintenance issues, while compost sales have picked up and FOG program inspections are ongoing. There was no report for the Code Department.

Councilwoman Peterson reported that Rick Garner, Electrical Engineer, has been coordinating and attending meetings for the Police Department generator project, the Parks building project, and working on the Seaford Solar Facility project. Mr. Garner also finished the SCADA map updates and worked on the engineering database. Bill Bennett, Superintendent of Electric, reported that the Electric Department has been installing the new logo banners on High Street and Riverwalk, hung flags for Memorial Day, replaced a transformer in Seaford Meadows, changed a bad pole on Market Street, completed the monthly substation checks, and had employees assist with clean-up week.

With no further comments, Mayor Genshaw called for a motion to close the Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council and move to Executive Session. Councilwoman Phillips-Lowe made the motion

to close the Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council. Councilwoman Peterson seconded the motion, and the motion so passed with all present voting in favor. Mayor Genshaw closed the Regular Meeting at 7:22 p.m. and opened the Executive Session.

Mayor Genshaw closed the Executive Session at 8:10 p.m. and reopened the Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council. Councilman Mulvaney made a motion to close the Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council. Councilwoman Peterson seconded the motion, and the motion so passed with all present voting in favor. Mayor Genshaw closed the Regular Meeting at 8:10 p.m.


Dolores J. Slatcher, City Manager

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