

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

April 11, 2023

7:00 P.M.

Mayor Genshaw called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following present: Councilman James King, Councilman Orlando Holland, Councilman Dan Henderson, and Councilman Jose Santos. City Manager Charles Anderson and City Solicitor Dan Griffith were also present.

Mayor Genshaw offered the opening prayer and then led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Genshaw then solicited any changes to the agenda; there were none. He then called for a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on March 28, 2023. Councilman Holland made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on March 28, 2023. Councilman King seconded the motion. Mayor Genshaw then asked for a vote; all present voted in favor, and the motion so passed.

Public Comment

Mayor Genshaw inquired if there were any requests for Public Comments.

Ms. Susan Michel of 308 N Bradford Street and Ms. Christine Cathcart of 312 N Bradford Street came forward to present their public comments. Mrs. Michel began by expressing her concern for a neighboring resident on Bradford Street, which both she and Ms. Cathcart have reported to the city on several occasions. Mrs. Michel noted the residents have untagged vehicles parked in the driveway and back yard, as well as trash around the outside of the home.

Mrs. Michel also reported that a vehicle arrives at the home around 4:30 a.m. every morning and honks its horn while picking up residents of the home.

Mrs. Michel stated she feels the majority of the residents on Bradford Street take pride in their properties, and this resident should be responsible for doing the same.

Ms. Cathcart added there are a large number of people living in the home, and typically eight or nine vehicles are parked at the residence every day.

Mayor Genshaw thanked both residents for presenting the information and stated City Staff would follow up on the reported issues as soon as possible.

Mr. Dan Cannon of 411 Nylon Boulevard came forward and presented the following public comment:

I must confess the number 4400 has captured my attention along with a 3% factor. But to get started, tonight M&CC is set to consider yet another change to Seaford's Charter, this one to allow non-persons (called "artificial entities") the right to vote in Seaford elections. Mayor Genshaw called for this change to allow voting rights "for a dozen" or so non-resident owners of property titled with business names. However, to me, consideration of "artificial entity" enfranchisement is

really a case of sadly MISPLACED PRIORITIES-devoting attention, time and effort to reach a goal of seemingly very limited importance. This is especially true because there is a much larger evidence-based problem confronting our municipal elections. In Seaford's last municipal election on April 16, 2022, only 600 voters participated. I use the words "ONLY 600" because there were ~5000 citizens eligible to vote. A more poignant way to characterize this is that more than **4400** eligible voters did not vote in last year's election. **4400!**

My limited math skills were barely tested to realize that the potential payoff for solving the problem of getting 4400 more eligible voters to vote is over 350 times greater than the payoff for enfranchising perhaps "a dozen" new "artificial entity" voters.

Therefore, why are we focusing all this time, attention, and effort to identify a few new potential voters when it would be far more productively spent getting **4400** more eligible voters to the polls this Saturday (4/15/23) and every election thereafter?

Mayor and City Council should drop the potential can of worms giving "artificial entities" the vote and **prioritize solving a real major problem: GETTING ALL THE CURRENTLY ELIGIBLE VOTERS OUT TO VOTE!** And the 3% factor? Bad news from the federal government: For the most favorable terms of borrowing MILLIONS, the "effort" factor that would be required from Seaford sewer/water customers has been raised to 3%. **This 3% effort requirement means that now M&CC would have to almost double the current \$75.91/month water/ sewer rates to qualify for the most favorable terms!** Thank you.

Michael M. Bradley came forward and presented the following public comment:

First of all, I'm hoping you will give business owners that own their properties, maintain them, pay taxes, and are in good standing with the City, an opportunity to vote in city elections. As I've ventured around talking to friends and business owners, this has come up in discussion, and decisions made here affect them and their livelihood. They employ people, and attract customers to our town; which I feel enhances growth. I was a little taken aback when I read, we should spend extra effort on the 4,000 that don't show up at the polls. That has been one of the main goals of my campaign, as I'm sure it has been with my counterparts. We've tried our best to touch on those 4000. In closing, I would like to say, in a world of negativity it has been a pleasure to run with such fine gentleman.

Mayor Genshaw confirmed there was no one else present for public comment.

New Business

Mayor Genshaw presented New Business Item #1: Present for approval a request from Berley Mears, Director of Public Works, to purchase a soda ash metering pump for the 534 Water Treatment facility as an expedited purchase with funding provided by Water Capital Reserves.

City Manager Charles Anderson explained this request is to replace the soda ash feed system at the 534 Water Treatment Facility. The treatment facility was built in 1993 and is 30 years old. He noted that while Staff has kept that equipment operational during that time, it is now beyond repair, and needs to be replaced. City Manager Anderson explained that this treatment facility is a critical well for domestic water production in the city; especially with the decommissioning of the Dulaney Street Well, which was taken out of service due to contamination. The Director of Public Works, Berley Mears, recommends the City order the pump now, as there is a 10 to 12-week lead time. Director Mears would like to get the pump in place before the summer season when water production typically increases. The cost of the new pump feed system is \$17,548.00 plus freight. City Manager Anderson noted Director Mears requested this purchase be taken out of Water Capital Reserves.

Mayor Genshaw Solicited any questions from Council. Councilman Henderson noted the request does not identify a vendor and inquired if the cost is under the required bid threshold.

City Manager Anderson explained it is under the threshold that would require it to go out for bid, so the city would just need to request quotes from several vendors.

With no further questions, Mayor Genshaw called for a motion. Councilman King made a motion to approve the request from Berley Mears, Director of Public Works, to purchase a soda ash metering pump for the 534 Water Treatment facility as an expedited purchase with funding provided by Water Capital Reserves as presented. Councilman Santos seconded the motion.

Mayor Genshaw then asked for a roll call vote:

Councilman Henderson voted yes;

Councilman Santos voted yes;

Councilman King voted yes;

Councilman Holland voted yes.

The motion so passed.

Mayor Genshaw presented New Business Item #2: Bids –Clean Up Week

City Manager Anderson explained the City received three (3) bids for Clean Up Week services. The low bidder was Waste Industries, who submitted a price of \$190.00 per pull, with a total base bid of \$23,700.00. City Manager Anderson reminded Council that this is only an estimated figure since the volume of material collected during the week-long event is unknown.

Mayor Genshaw solicited any questions from Council; there were none. He then called for a motion. Councilman King made a motion to award the bid for Cleanup Week to Waste Industries for \$190.00 per pull, for a total base bid of \$23,700.00, as presented. Councilman Holland seconded the motion.

Mayor Genshaw then asked for a roll call vote:

Councilman Henderson voted yes;

Councilman Santos voted yes;
Councilman King voted yes;
Councilman Holland voted yes.
The motion so passed.

Mayor Genshaw presented New Business Item #3: Present for approval a proposal to repair the radiator of Antique Fire Engine #1.

City Manager Anderson began by noting that Mr. Rick Marvel was present this evening to assist with any questions that Council might have concerning the repair request for the antique fire engine. City Manager Anderson went on to explain that over the last few years, the Antique Fire Truck Committee had been working on the engine when a problem with the existing radiator was discovered. Mr. Marvel removed the radiator and transported it to Pennsylvania for repair. However, the vendor did not have the necessary parts and recommended a company out of England that could supply the radiator core needed to fix the issue. The new estimate for the repairs is \$9,500.00. It is recommended that the cost for repairs be approved in order to get that piece of equipment back on the road for City-sponsored events.

Mayor Genshaw solicited any questions from Council. Councilman King asked City Manager Anderson to talk a little bit about the history of the Fire Engine to help everyone understand its significance to the City. City Manager Anderson explained the engine was the first mechanical piece of equipment that the Seaford Volunteer Fire Department owned. It is a 1919 Seagrave Engine and a very special piece of Seaford history. According to Vice Mayor Henderson, the engine has not participated in city-sponsored events for approximately three years, and the city would like to get it on the road again.

Mayor Genshaw solicited questions from Council; there were none. He then called for a motion. Councilman Henderson made a motion to approve the proposal to repair the radiator of Antique Fire Engine #1, as presented. Councilman King seconded the motion.

Mayor Genshaw then asked for a roll call vote:
Councilman Henderson voted yes;
Councilman Santos voted yes;
Councilman King voted yes;
Councilman Holland voted yes.
The motion so passed.

Old Business

Old Business #1: Present for approval draft changes to Section 7 of the City of Seaford Charter that would permit artificial domestic entities, including but not limited to corporations, partnerships, trusts, and limited liability companies, in the State of Delaware the ability to vote in Municipal elections.

The City of Seaford Solicitor Dan Griffith reminded those present that the proposed charter change request was presented at the March 14, 2023, Council Meeting to address questions about draft language. He noted some good questions raised, and it was agreed that the language would require some changes and additions.

Solicitor Griffith noted Fenwick Island currently has a similar provision in their Charter, and he did meet with their City Solicitor this week to get his interpretation of the language. He and City Staff also reviewed other portions of Seaford's Charter, specifically the provisions in place for annexations, which currently allows artificial entities to participate in the Special Election process.

Solicitor Griffith stated one of the questions raised at the March 14, Council Meeting was whether these businesses and artificial entities should be in good standing to be permitted to vote in Municipal Elections. Solicitor Griffith noted the proposed language was adjusted to include a provision that states:

"An artificial entity shall be a domestic entity in the State of Delaware and be in good standing".

Solicitor Griffith stated there were also questions raised concerning whether one individual who owns multiple businesses under different entities would be granted multiple votes for each entity. He noted the City Solicitor for Fenwick Island made it very clear that it is a one person, one vote system, regardless of the number of entities a business owner has. This provision eliminates the risk that one person owning multiple businesses will be able to vote multiple times.

Solicitor Griffith thanked Vice Mayor Henderson for making note of the existing language in the city's Charter, which states businesses are currently permitted to vote in Special Elections for annexations. Under this provision, businesses may vote by Power of Attorney, corporate resolution, or by affidavit. The proposed charter change was adjusted to include these three methods as well.

Solicitor Griffith reminded Council that if this provision is approved, these changes will go before the General Assembly, where they can bring forward any questions. However, if the State of Delaware allows businesses to vote in municipal elections, it is anticipated the General Assembly would approve Seaford's proposal.

Mayor Genshaw solicited any questions from Council. Councilman King asked Solicitor Griffith for clarity on the language, which states, *"artificial entity, including but not limited to corporations, partnerships, trusts, and limited liability companies..."*. Councilman King noted the type of entity seems almost limitless based on that wording. Solicitor Griffith explained when referring to artificial entities, it is any organization that owns property in the City of Seaford, regardless of the structure of that organization.

Councilman King then asked Solicitor Griffith for confirmation that a business registered as an LLC would have the ability to give an individual authorization to vote on behalf of that organization.

Solicitor Griffith confirmed and explained the entity would be required to use one of the three methods previously mentioned.

Councilman King asked how someone would be selected as the authorized representative if multiple owners exist within a single LLC. Solicitor Griffith explained a corporation or LLC typically has a Managing Member, and their operating agreement states who would be authorized to act in the best interest of the company.

Councilman King then asked if business owners who don't hold property rights because they rent their business would be allowed to vote in municipal elections. Solicitor Griffith stated when a municipality decides who is going to have the authority to vote in elections, there must always be a line drawn somewhere. In this case, you have to live in the city, or you must have invested in the city by owning property; whether it be as a private citizen or a company. He noted this is typically where the line is drawn in other charters with this provision.

Councilman Santos expressed his lingering concerns with the proposed changes, stating when you have to draw the line to who gets to vote, it should be based on the concept of "We The People, For The People". He stated his belief that the proposed changes give unequal representation and influence, which could stifle marginalized voices and interests. He also noted that based on the existing citizenship requirements for voting, the city would, in essence, be granting citizenship status to corporations. Additionally, the current system allows individuals to vote only after they have reached the age of 18; however, any entity, regardless of the length of time they have been in business, could be allowed to have a vote.

Solicitor Griffith pointed out there is a provision in the language that requires the person voting on behalf of the entity to be a citizen.

Councilman Henderson noted that non-resident, sole proprietors who own property in the city are already allowed to vote as Non-Resident Property Owners. He explained he does not feel a person should be penalized based on the way they choose to structure their business.

Councilman King asked if a business owner who resides outside of the State of Delaware but owns a property rental business in Seaford would have the ability to assign an authorized agent to vote on their behalf. Solicitor Griffith confirmed.

City Manager Anderson stated this right already exists with many sole proprietors who registered as Non-Resident Property Owners; however, they typically just vote by absentee ballot.

Councilman King asked if these Non-Resident Property Owners are able to assign someone to vote for them in their absence. City Manager Anderson asked if Councilman King was specifically referring to landlords who own residential properties. Councilman King confirmed. City Manager Anderson then explained there is no distinction between residential versus commercial zoning in this case.

City Manager Anderson went on to explain that City Staff had gone through the City's database and identified approximately 236 entities that would potentially be able to vote if the proposed changes were approved. He noted some of these business owners have residential properties under several different entities; however, they would still only receive one vote.

Councilman Henderson asked if non-profits and churches would qualify to vote under this proposed change. Solicitor Griffith explained non-profits are considered artificial entities and would have the right to vote in the same way as an LLC or an LP.

Solicitor Griffith reminded Council that based on the current Charter these entities are already permitted to vote in Special Elections for annexation, so there is already a process in place for this kind of voting.

Councilman Santos asked if churches are given the ability to vote, is it possible they could now be required to pay taxes. Solicitor Griffith explained churches have a federal exemption allowing them to be exempt from taxation.

Councilman Santos noted large corporations with property in Seaford could also own properties in several other neighboring municipalities. If more municipalities were to get on board with this change, it could increase the corporation's influence and decision-making power in the area.

Councilman King noted many business owners don't own the property they operate their business from. Many chose to rent because of property value depreciation or possible tax benefits of renting versus owning. However, these business owners also have a stake in our community and it would be wrong not to give them the option to participate in our election.

Solicitor Griffith reminded Council of the practical difficulties associated with allowing business lessees to vote. He noted that in his litigation experience, there are often disputes about whether or not a lease is valid, or whether or not a lease has been terminated. This puts the city in the position of having to determine whether or not a lessee of that property is authorized the vote.

Councilman King asked how the process for voter eligibility for residential lessees is currently maintained for Municipal Elections. City Manager Anderson explained the voter registration list is now established through the State's database. At the deadline for registration for the City's election, the City Clerk reaches out to the Department of Elections and requests the database. So if a resident has identification that shows they reside within the corporate limits of Seaford they would be able to vote.

Councilman King argued that he has received a registration list in the past, during campaigns, and in a lot of cases, the resident's information was not accurate, and they no longer lived at that address. City Manager Anderson stated there is an element of personal responsibility when it comes to voting, and a system of honor by the voter to maintain accurate information.

Councilman Santos asked for more clarity on the report Council received showing all of the eligible entities. He noted there are 208 entities listed on the report, with some entities receiving one vote and some with multiple votes. City Manager Anderson explained the City Clerk compiled the list; and the information Councilman Santos is referencing shows the number of artificial entities associated with a business owner's name, not the number of votes they would receive.

Councilman Santos explained he does not want this proposed change to lead to a decision being made that prioritizes business interests above the community.

Councilman Santos then asked Solicitor Griffith if he could now protect the integrity of Seaford elections with these new proposed changes. Solicitor Griffith stated he stands by his previous answer, in that he cannot guarantee there won't be any voter fraud in this instance any more than he can prevent individual voter fraud. Additionally, this provision doesn't provide any less protection than the provisions the city has in place for individuals voting.

Mayor Genshaw solicited any additional questions from Council; there were none.

Resident Dan Cannon of 411 Nylon Boulevard requested Mayor Genshaw allow him to ask one additional question. Mayor Genshaw declined the request. He then called for a motion. Councilman Henderson made a motion to approve the draft changes to Section 7 of the City of Seaford Charter that would permit artificial domestic entities, including but not limited to corporations, partnerships, trusts, and limited liability companies, in the State of Delaware the ability to vote in Municipal elections, as presented. Councilman Holland seconded the motion.

Mayor Genshaw then asked for a roll call vote:

Councilman Henderson voted yes;

Councilman Holland voted yes;

Councilman King voted no and gave the following statement explaining his decision:

"I am not in favor of this proposed charter change. I'm very concerned with the language used, and I have major concerns with how it is written. I feel that this new process would be hard to manage. This charter would allow and empower partnerships trusts, and companies the power and ability to appoint someone to represent them; but unfortunately, small business owners, who do not own their property cannot participate in any election. Once again, I feel that this process is extremely hard to manage and could open the doors to voter fraud. With all the problems the city had with the last election, I don't like adding additional confusion, or the potential voter fraud, and definitely don't believe in giving the bulk of registries more power. With that, my answer is I'm against it, no".

Councilman Santos voted no and gave the following statement explaining his decision:

"Mr. Mayor I'm going to vote no, because this is we the people, for the people".

Mayor Genshaw explained that in the event of a tie, the vote then comes to the Mayor.

Mayor Genshaw voted yes; the motion so passed.

Councilman King asked to go on record that Mayor Genshaw was responsible for bringing this proposal to Council and subsequently made the tie-breaking vote.

Reminder Of Meetings & Setting New Meetings:

CITY OF SEAFORD

Municipal Election – Saturday April 15, 2023

The City of Seaford Municipal Election will be held on Saturday, April 15, 2023 in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 414 High Street, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. E.S.T. and 3:00 p.m. E.S.T.

Two (2) Council Members will be elected for a (3) year term.

All candidates must have filed by 5:00 p.m., E.S.T., Friday, February 24, 2023. Registration can be completed at City Hall, 414 High Street, Seaford, DE. Registration hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. or by appointment if you cannot register during these normal business hours. Any candidate who withdraws his/her name must do so in writing. Any candidate who withdraws his/her name after 5:00 p.m., E.S.T., February 24, 2023 will still appear on the official ballot for election.

To be eligible to vote, anyone eighteen (18) years of age or older who is a bona fide City of Seaford resident and US Citizen **must have been registered at the State of Delaware Department of Elections by 5:00 p.m., E.S.T. on Friday March 24, 2023.**

Nonresident property owners must be owner of record for a period of six (6) months immediately preceding the date of the Annual Municipal Election (October 16, 2022) and shall have one vote **provided he or she is registered on the “Books of Registered Voters” maintained at the City Hall by 5:00 E.S.T. on Friday, March 24, 2023. Registration hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. or by appointment if you cannot register during these normal business hours.**

All voters will need to show proof of residency which may be a State of Delaware driver's license, a State of Delaware identification card, a federal or state tax return with address, a City of Seaford utility bill or real estate property tax bill, or other acceptable proof of residency or ownership.

- ❖ **Councilman Jose Santos has filed for reelection.**
- ❖ **Mike Bradley has filed for Councilman.**
- ❖ **Councilman Dan Henderson has filed for reelection.**

Councilman Santos reported on Administration & IT.

MEETINGS:

- Attended Danny Short's coffee meeting.
- Attended the chamber luncheon.
- Attended the City Council meeting.
- Attended Staff Meeting.
- Attended the Citizens police academy graduation station meeting at Seaford PD.
- Attended the Riverfest meeting.
- Attended the monthly code department meeting.

OTHER WORK:

- Prepared the Council agenda and reviewed Executive Session materials.
- Attended the SCAT Breakfast meeting.
- Walked through the Seaford Community Pool to look at proposed improvements.
- Attended the Operations Committee meeting.
- Attended the SVSC Lift Station renovation progress meeting.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY REPORT:

- Fiber work with Assurance
- Work with security camera installs and configuration.
- Routine calls for technical assistance.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR COUNCIL:

- Attend contract negotiation meetings for IBEW Local 126 and review contract documents.
- Prepare for FY'24 Budget.
- Attend Operation Committee meeting.
- Attend health insurance renewal meeting with Integra.
- Prepare for contract negotiations with Teamsters Local 326 and Police Department.
- All other business is routine – financial management, payroll & benefits, purchasing, billing, customer service, etc.

Councilman Henderson reported on Police & Fire.

**Seaford Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.
SVFD Fire Chief John Wilson's report:**

Fire Statistics

Month / Year	Calls to date	Call per day
Total 2023	266 calls	2.6
March 2023	80 calls	2.5
April 2023	22 Calls *	2.2

*Call per day so far in month

EMS Statistics

	Month / Year	Calls to date	Call per day	*Call per in month
day so far	Total 2023	1086 calls	10.8	
	March 2023	342 calls	11.0	
Total	April 2023	95 calls*	9.5	

Department Responses

Month / Year	Calls to date	Call per day
Total 2023	1352 calls	13.5

Other Statistics

Response	FIRE/Year	EMS /Year	Total/YEAR 2023
In City	129	590	719
Out of City	77	358	435
Assist	28	43	71
Total	243	991	

- All Fire responses are not up to date until QA of reports at end of month.

Statistic	DATE	FIRE	EMS	Total Year
Hours in Service	March 2023	66.1	584.01	1360.07
Personnel in Service	March 2023	810	698	4240
Total Personnel Hours	March 2023	187.03	698.0	1751.98
Miles Traveled	March 2023	637.7	2288	9245.3

Significant Incidents

- 03/27/23; (Out of City) Motor Vehicle Crash with Entrapment – Middleford Road
- 4/01/23; (Assist 72 and 78) Severe Storm responses – Tornado in Bridgeville and Greenwood
- 4/02/23; (Out of City) Motor Vehicle Crash involving Motorcycle- Baker Road
- 4/07/23: (Assist 72) Motor Vehicle Crash with Entrapment- Atlanta Road and Federalsburg Highway

Apparatus Status

- Rescue 87 is Out of Service – DOT Inspection

# Usage	Gallons Used	Total Fuel Cost	Gross Cost	Net Cost	Unleaded	Diesel
63 times	1040.65	3706.04	3706.04	3489.32	36 times used	28 times used

Fuel Usage

Training

- Last Training:

- Wednesday, April 5, 2023, at Station 87 Block 1 of Delaware State Fire Schools – Rope Rescue 1 (25 members present)
- Next Training:
 - Wednesday, April 19, and May 13 at 1900 hours, Station 87, DSFS Rope Rescue 1 Class
 - Saturday, April 22, 2023, at 0800, Scheduled Live Fire Burn on Neal School Road

	CLASS COUNT	TOTAL CLASS HOURS	COUNT OF PEOPLE	TOTAL MAN HOURS
DSFS Core Classes	1	36:00	1	36:00
EMS	12	81:30	35	207:30
Fire Officer Training	6	57:30	21	115:30
Firefighter Training	29	56:45	104	206:45
Inservice Department Training	4	11:20	56	160:00
Special Operations Training	2	33:05	3	63:05
GRAND TOTALS:	54	276:10	220	788:50

Emergency Medical Services

- Ambulance B87 back from repairs at Wayside Body Shop after repairs from collision with Caroline County ambulance
- Ambulance A87 repairs completed on Rear suspension by Blue Hen Spring Work
- All three ambulances currently at the fire station and in working order
- Still hiring Full Time and Part Time
- Phoenix Award April 21st at Del Tech Georgetown
 - Phoenix Awards are presented by County EMS to crews who have successfully save a person life through use of CPR. The person who was saved by EMS usually is in attendance to present award.
 - We have a couple past employees and current part time and full time that will be awarded for their efforts.
 - Thomas Jefferson III,
 - Elmo Peek
 - Ashley Taylor
 - Samantha Lewis
 - Logan Cleversy
 - Hunter Blake

News and Events

- Started the New Ladder Truck Specification Process, hiring a consultant to assist with spec. Hoping for a June / July bid proposal

Seaford Police Department

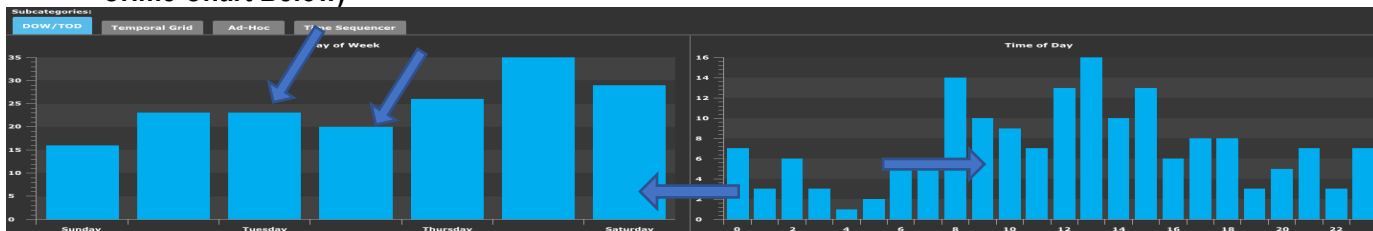
Police Activity during period of Sunday, March 27, 2023 – Sunday, April 09, 2023 as reported by
Chief Marshal Craft, Jr.:

INCIDENTS	2023 YTD	2022	2021	2020	2019
TOTAL COMPLAINTS	2,938	9,593	10,686	10,141	13,865
All crimes	1,392	6,164	6,107	5,803	6,619
Burglary	41 (22 TFV)	197	133	175	123
Robbery	8	8	14	9	12
Sex Offenses	4	18	30	39	32
Drug Crimes	117	444	416	199	249
Overdose	6	31	26	26	25
All Traffic (E-Tickets)	1,865 (495)	8,168 (2,105)	8,098 / (2,021)	7,770/ (1,448)	7,819 (1,782)
All DUI	26	79	71	44	42
All Crashes	177	656	620	533	584
False Alarms	104	546	521	426	494

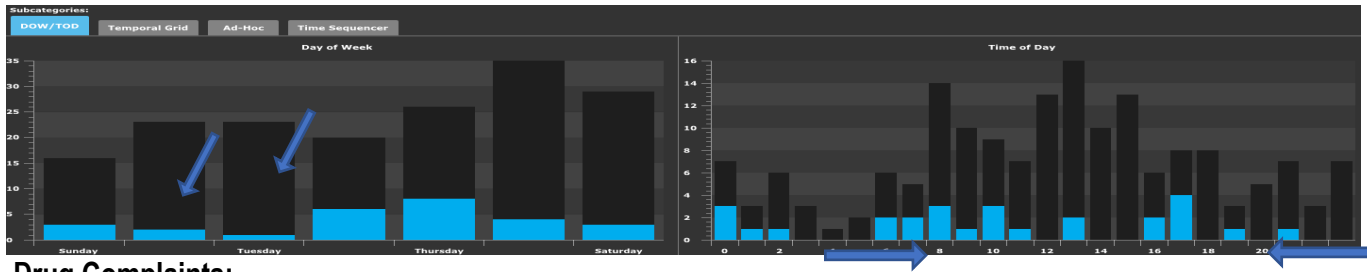
Note. SPD has not been dispatched to medical events since October 2019, which reduced the assigned complaints.

Criminal

- All crimes: **172** (defendants: **18** adults & **1** Juvenile)
 - Felony: **9**
 - Misdemeanor: **51**
 - Violations: **9**
 - Civil: **1**
 - Other: **102**
- **78% Clearance Rate** (overall= **24** PA and **14** PI) Friday & Saturday from 0800-0200. (See Crime Chart Below)



Additional Crime Data below: There were a total of **27 complaints** consisting of Aggravated Assault, Assault, Forgery, Larceny, Homicide, Robbery and vehicle theft: (**7** Felony and **20** Misdemeanors); Excludes Shoplifting: (**41% clearance rate**): **12** PA, **4** PI, **6** A/A, **1** J/A, **4** E/C, and **0** U/F. Most incidents occurred on Wednesday & Thursday from 0600-1900.



Drug Complaints:

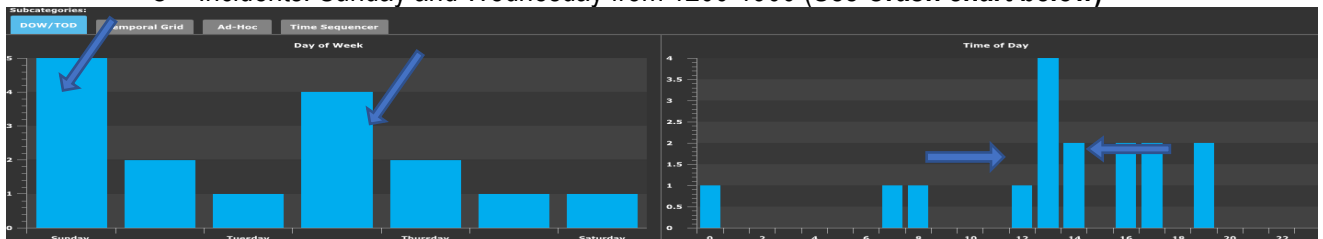
- Drug Crimes: 16
 - Adult Arrest: 13
 - Juvenile Arrest: 0
 - Pending Active: 1
 - Pending Inactive: 0
 - Prosecution declined: 2
- Search Warrant(s): 2 - Vehicle
- Overdose: 0

Traffic:

- Contacts/Citations: 233 traffic contacts resulting in 52 citations and 8 warnings
- DUI: 3 (2-Alcohol & 1-drug related) *0 - Crash related
- Crashes: 16
 - Fatal: 0
 - Injury: 2 (N/B Sussex Hwy & Herring Run and S/B Sussex Hwy & Herring Run)
 - Non-Reportable: 10
 - Reportable: 4
 - Additional Information: Driver Inattention – the primary cause of accidents)

Hit & Run: 6 (Private Prop x3; S/B Sussex Hwy & Norman Eskridge; N/B Sussex Hwy & Herring Run and W/B Stein Hwy & Arch)

- Bicycle: 0
- Motorcycle: 0
- Pedestrian: 0
- Alcohol/drug-related crash: 0 (DUI related)
- Incidents: Sunday and Wednesday from 1200-1900 (See Crash chart below)



Significant Events: All suspects/defendants are considered innocent until proven guilty.

- 03/28/23, SPD conducted a traffic stop on a subject riding a bicycle without a light. Upon contact with the defendant (Robert Brittingham), it was discovered that he had thrown two full bags of heroin on the ground next to the officer's patrol vehicle. The defendant was arrested, arraigned, and released, #71-23-2596.
- 03/29/23, SPD dispatched to Woodland Mills Apartment complex for a reported shooting. Upon arrival, SPD observed a wheelchair-bound victim who had been shot multiple times. The officer(s) immediately began first aid, but the victim was pronounced deceased. This is an active investigation, #71-23-2598.
- 03/31/23, SPD dispatched to Nylon Ave for a subject passed out behind the wheel (driver/defendant Isaiah Reid). Investigation revealed the defendant was passed out behind the wheel of his vehicle while it was running in gear, he was intoxicated and in possession of 2.8 grams of heroin. The defendant was arrested for related charges and released to a responsible party on an unsecured bond, #71-23-2661.
- 04/03/23, SPD dispatched to Chandler Heights II for a reported fight in progress. Investigation revealed a large crowd had fled into apartment #821 and this type of activity has been an ongoing problem/concern. SPD is working with the apartment management to address same, 71-23-2768.
- 04/06/23, SPD investigated 12 complaints related to 'Theft from vehicles' in the areas of Elm Dr., NW Ivy Dr., Hall Street, Arbutus Ave., S. Elm St., Magnolia Dr., Bradford, and Porter Streets. Numerous complaints related to this incident.
- 04/07/23, SPD dispatched to Chandler Heights I Apartments for a reported Robbery 1st/Theft of a vehicle. Investigation revealed the victim had been speaking with a subject online and arranged to meet at Chandler Heights Apts. Upon arrival, the victim met with the other party and was asked to wait while he walked away. Shortly thereafter, Four male suspects approached the victim, a handgun was displayed, the victim was robbed and his vehicle was stolen. The case is pending active, #71-23-2870.
- 04/09/23, SPD conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for a speeding violation. The driver was Tavion Richards and the passenger was Kiarah Floyd. The officer detected an odor of marijuana and both subjects were acting nervous. Further investigation revealed that Floyd had a concealed 9mm firearm in her pants along with a baggie of marijuana. Floyd advised that Richards gave her the weapon and marijuana to conceal upon being stopped. Both subjects were arrested for CCDW, PDWBPP, Tampering with Evidence, Conspiracy 2nd, possession of Marijuana, and another related charge (s). Richards was committed to SCI in default of a cash bond and Floyd was ROR, #71-23-2924.
- 04/09/23, SPD dispatched to the Sunrise Motel for a Forgery/Theft of a credit card complaint. Investigation revealed that Defendant Adam Blades had stolen the victim's credit card and charged two rooms at the Sunrise Motel. While on the scene, the defendant arrives and was taken into custody without incident and the credit card was recovered. The defendant was charged with Forgery 2nd, Theft by false pretense, RSP, and possession of drug paraphernalia. The defendant was arrested, arraigned and ROR, 71-23-2932.

Admin:

- Attended Director, Staff, Liaison, and Council meetings as scheduled - Chief

- 03/31/23: SCAT meeting (Sussex County Association of Towns) - Chief
- 04/04/23: SPD Seasonal Police CADET interviews - Chief & D. Chief
- 04/05/23: Constituent Coffee with Representative Short-Chief
- 04/05/23: Prescription Opioid Settlement ZOOM meeting – Chief

Event:

- 03/30/23: Talent Show at Fred Douglas, after hours, - SRO Det. Wingate
- 04/07/23: Good Friday Prayer March (Traffic Control) - Patrol / Sgt. Laurion Shift

Training/Other:

- 03/28/23: Active Assailant Symposium - Chief and D. Chief
- 03/28/23: CGIC -Collecting DNA from Firearms roundtable - Det. James and Det. Nanola
-

Total Criminal Arrests:

Arrest YTD	2023 Total	2023 Adult	2023 Juv	2022 Total	2022 Adult	2022 Juv	2021 Total	2021 Adult	2021 Juv	2020 Total	2020 Adult	2020 Juv	2019 Total	2019 Adult	2019 Juv
Total	146	128	18	630	571	59	586	511	75	499	428	71	653	577	76

Councilman Holland reported on Code & Parks and Recreation.

Code Department Report- No report submitted.

Parks & Recreation

Accomplished week of 3/27

<u>Parks – Made repairs in the Jays Nest to prep for Spring/Summer season</u>
<u>Parks – Prep for Easter Egg Hunt (tables, chairs, etc.) and for football field rental</u>
<u>Parks – Placed Autism Awareness sign at Kiwanis</u>
<u>Parks – Continued sanding/painting picnic tables for Spring/Summer season</u>
<u>Rec. – Reached out to umpires and referees for softball and soccer, hoping to begin both sports the week of April 10th</u>
<u>Rec. – Received soccer jerseys – sorted for distribution – began working on soccer schedule</u>

Parks&Rec. – Hosted annual Easter Egg Hunt with over 150+ kids in attendance on 4/2

Parks&Rec. – Prep for Light It Up Blue event on 4/3 in Gateway Park

Accomplished week of 4/3

Parks – Met with Archi's irrigation to go over new irrigation in Gateway Park

Parks – Filled in Soroptimist Park with topsoil – will seed over the next few weeks

Parks – Began turning/working on irrigation at City Hall

Parks – Began weekly grass cutting

Rec. – Completed and distributed soccer schedules to coaches – games to begin 4/12

Rec. – Worked on softball schedule – Men's League to begin 4/17

Parks&Rec. – Hosted annual Light It Up Blue event in Gateway Park on 4/3

Parks&Rec. – Hosted monthly Riverfest Committee meeting on 4/6 (Date is Saturday, July 8, 2023)

Councilman King reported on Public Works & WWTF.

Past two weeks:

Public Works:

- Pulled and capped off bagged hydrant on Shipley and Harrington St
- Replaced hydrant on Cedar and Poplar with new Stortz hydrant
- Worked on soda ash pump at 534 water pump station
- Board up doors on a house on E. Ivy Dr.
- Installed thermal yield sign on the road on S. Market St.
- Installed no truck sign on Oak Rd
- Paving contractor paved parking lot at the Meadery
- Started spraying for weeds around town
- Working with contractor to base coat pave Mearfield phase 3.
- Talking with Asphalt contractor to set a mobilization date for the three paving projects
- Held multiple meetings in person and on-line
- Continued working on budget preparation and evaluations
- Performed all routine tasks; swept, L & L, big piles, read meters, re-reads, disconnects, hung pink tags, collected State water samples, supplied barricades for various events, etc.

WWTF & COMPOST

- Plant is looking good.
- Blend tank cleaned on 3/21/23.
- BFP filtrate has been exhibiting higher recycle loads to WWTF this winter; mostly TSS but also BOD and NH3. Will be looking into polymer changes for TSS and do some closer looking at blend tank changes during the week to see if we can figure out what changes in this tank day to day.
- Dewatering was different on 4/3, requiring almost double the polymer, Dave thought this new lot of polymers looked weird as well. Having rep come to run jars next week and see if we are still using the best product and/or if we got a weird/bad batch.
- Performed annual inspection at Simmons and Rapa– no major concerns.
- Leachate is going well; loads were reduced this week due to strength. Is at high NH3 levels so limiting based on load target.
- RAS pump #3 install: Mounting and piping is complete. Some electrical and VFD programming to complete and it will be ready for testing.
- Completed March DMR and septage report.
- Ray Hill is on vacation week of 4/10.

Upcoming two weeks:

Public Works

- Spraying weeds
- Work on property clean ups
- Work on replacing more fire hydrants
- Shipley St. water services
- Work on 120water lead inventory
- Work on more water meter issues
- Work with contractor on sewer and water installations on Shipley Street
- Repair cleanouts on smoke testing list.
- Continue all routine tasks.

WWTF & COMPOST

- Keep the plant up and running with no violations
- Perform maintenance as needed
- Perform work at lift stations as needed
- Rotate WWTF staff positions and work out details for weekend staff and lift station weekend checks.

Mayor Genshaw then called for a motion to close the Regular Council Meeting and enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Negotiations - Contract discussions. Councilman Holland made a motion to close the Regular Council Meeting and enter Executive Session. Councilman Santos seconded the motion; the motion so passed with all voting in favor. The Regular Council Meeting closed at 8:08 p.m.

Mayor Genshaw reopened the Regular Council meeting at 8:45 p.m. Mayor Genshaw then called for a motion to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting. Councilman Dan Henderson made a motion to close the Regular Council Meeting. Councilman Santos seconded the motion; the motion so passed with all voting in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Charles D. Anderson, City Manager

/ASH