

DARLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL & UTILITY BOARD MINUTES

January 7, 2021

Call to Order

President Kim Carpenter, opened the meeting with four (4) council members present, Mrs. Cohee was not able to attend. President Carpenter was joined by Clerk Treasurer Michelle Cash, Attorney Ethan Myers, Wastewater Mike McKinney and Troy McKinney, Electric – Brian Mullen and Jason Gates, Town Marshall Dave Long, Park Maintenance Bob Cash, Code Enforcement Officer Mike Smith.

President Carpenter opened the meeting with the pledge followed Mrs. Suiter with the prayer.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Suiter made a motion to approve the December 7, 2020, seconded by Ms. Parker. Motion Approved (4-0)

Money Matters

Motion to approve the payroll and appropriation, by Ms. Parker, seconded by Mr. Riddell. Motion Approved (4-0)

New Business

Next under new business was appointment of Liaison Officers, the following council members were appointed:

DFI – Kim Carpenter/Marilyn Cohee
Park – Noelle Suiter
Police Department – Nicole Parker
Town Hall – Nick Riddell
Elec/ MVH Department – Nick Riddell
Waste Water Department – Kim Carpenter

Old Business

Attorney Ethan Myers reported that the next step was to find a company that would tear down the properties and a price the town can afford. After putting it out to bid twice the bids came back to high for the town to pay. Mr. Cash will be giving the address to a company he thought might be able to give a reasonable estimate. Attorney Myers stressed to the board that recouping this money on the properties will be extremely hard and the town may never be able to collect.

Staff & Elected Official Report

Attorney Report – Mr. Myers presented the town with a copy of his letter engagement letter for 2021. The council will review the letter and discuss it at the February meeting.

Wastewater Report – No discharges violations for the month of December, 2020. Mr. Troy McKinney reported to the council that the system to use chlorine tablets instead of liquid gas will have to be put on hold for now because the plant is dealing with a pump that is acting up and will require a service that will be extremely expensive to repair. Clerk Treasurer Cash informed the council and waste water that the operating balance to start off 2021 was only \$66,857.22 and would like to provide a spreadsheet to the plant guys to review and maybe look into lowering some of the expenses it takes to repair or run the plant, Clerk Cash feels like the plant needs to offer a 3–5-year plan of expenses or maintenance that will need replaced in the future. After much discussion the council agreed that the waste water plant needs a 3–5-year plan for maintenance to better prepare when the need arrives. Mrs. Cash will provide copies of

bills that come in to be paid to have Troy and Mike approve and maybe do some comparisons with other companies to drive cost down.

Electric Report – Utility Linesmen Brian Mullen and Jason Gates are working on shop clean up and inventory. Clerk Cash reported the operating balance for electric and stressed that the electric company as well need a 3–5-year plan of future expenses that we need to prepare for. One suggestion from Mr. Gates was to put a meter fee on each meter to maintain the cost for replacement. The council tabled that and will discuss this at the February meeting. Clerk Cash would like to do a spreadsheet for them as well and have them review and see if we can lower cost on any supplies, materials or services. President Carpenter stressed that we don't want to get into a situation where we are constantly raising fees and now one can afford to live in Darlington due to the utilities. The board agrees but also realizes they will need to find a balance in replacement vs maintenance.

Darlington Police Department Report - Town Marshal Dave Long reported that the pandemic is creating some crime in town. Marshall Long reported that at some point the council will need to visit the issues with the police vehicle. Mr. Long report that emergency management has free radios again, and he will contact them for the town. Ms. Parker wanted to know why Marshall Long and Deputy Rivers couldn't continue to clock in, even though they are on a contractual service in 2021 with the town. Attorney Ethan Myers said that is the hours on the time card are not consistent with the hours used to configure the contract then the town would be going over the salary ordinance and paying the officers to much. Ms. Parker made a motion to amend the salary ordinance and remove the contract and put Marshall Long and Deputy Rivers back to hourly pay by punching the time clock and they were to not exceed the 32 hours every two week unless an emergency has happened then they are to report to the board. Motion was seconded by Mr. Riddell. Motion Approved (4-0). President Carpenter asked that a monthly schedule, incident reports/activity logs and the First Net Hot Spot report from the vehicle brought to the council at there monthly meetings. The council requested more patrolling during week. No January schedules.

Park – Bob Cash –Mr. Cash buying some tarps for the diamonds and he has received the net in for Diamond one.

Code Enforcement Officers – Mr. Smith - nothing

Clerk Treasurer presented the Utility Board with the December Monthly Report. Mrs. Cash presented the 2021 Animal Welfare League Control Contract with a motion to approve made by Mrs. Suitor, seconded by Mrs. Carpenter, motion approved (4-0). Mrs. Cash asked that the council sign 2021 Nepotism Policy concerning new hires.

Council Members Report

Marilyn Cohee – Not Present

Noelle Suiter – Nothing

Nick Riddell – Nothing


Nicole Parker – Nothing

Kim Carpenter – Nothing

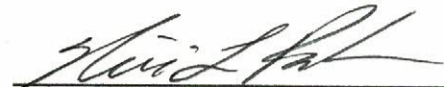
Public Comment – None

Town Board and Utility Meeting will be on February 4, 2021 – 5:00 p.m. –Darlington Community Center.

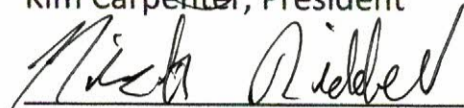
Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Parker seconded by Mrs. Suiter. Motion Approved (4-0).



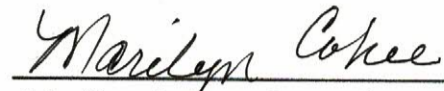
Kim Carpenter, President



Nicole Parker, Vice President



Nick Riddell Council Member



Marilyn Cohee, Council Member

Noelle Suiter, Council Member

Attest: 

Michelle R. Cash, Clerk-Treasurer