

MILFORD CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
October 10, 2016

A Meeting of Milford City Council was held in the Joseph Ronnie Rogers Council Chambers at Milford City Hall on Monday, October 10, 2016.

PRESIDING: Mayor Bryan Shupe

IN ATTENDANCE: Councilpersons Christopher Mergner, Arthur Campbell, Lisa Peel, James Burk, Owen Brooks Jr., Douglas Morrow, James Starling Sr. and Katrina Wilson

City Manager Eric Norenberg, Police Chief Kenneth Brown and City Clerk/Recorder Terri Hudson

COUNSEL: City Solicitor David Rutt, Esquire

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Shupe called the Council Meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

The Pledge of Allegiance followed the invocation given by Councilmember Starling including an acknowledgment to Samuel Wylie, the first City of Milford Parks and Recreation Director hired in the early 1970's, who passed away.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Motion to approve the September 12, September 17 and September 26, 2016 Council Meeting minutes made by Councilmember Burk, seconded by Councilmember Morrow. Motion carried.

RECOGNITION

No special guests.

MONTHLY POLICE REPORT

Police Committee Chairman Burk presented the monthly report on behalf of Chief Brown noting the officers were extremely busy in September. Councilmember Peel moved to accept, seconded by Councilmember Campbell. Motion carried.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Norenberg referenced his report in the packet and referred to the retreat summary asking anyone with any questions to contact him.

He is scheduling a meeting with Councilwoman Peel to develop a process and approach to strategic planning as a result of the work that occurred at the Council retreat.

The City Manager also noted that based on the new state contract will save the City approximately \$2,000 (more than 40%) in bottled water by switching to a new vendor.

Councilmember Brooks moved to accept the City Manager Report, seconded by Councilmember Starling. Motion carried.

MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT

Finance Committee Chairman Morrow reported that through the second month of Fiscal Year 2016-2017 with 17% of the fiscal year having passed, 25% of revenues have been received and 16% of the operating budget expended.

He explained that the revenues are up as a result of the additional property taxes that have been paid.

Councilmember Burk moved to accept the August Finance Report as presented, seconded by Councilman Brooks. Motion carried.

City Manager Norenberg then updated Council on the tax collections that were due September 30, 2016. As of this past Friday, the customer service staff was continuing to open envelopes and post payments that had been postmarked prior to that due date.

Once that is complete, he will provide Council with a report showing the current delinquencies and payment plans currently underway. A new letter will then be drafted and sent to any delinquent property owners.

Councilman Campbell noted that a number of property owners are making installment tax payments through the county as a result of the school tax increase. He recommends the City consider that as well. Mr. Norenberg is unfamiliar with those requests though that was allowed for delinquent property owners to get caught up and have any penalties waived.

COMMITTEE & WARD REPORTS

Community Affairs Committee

Chairwoman Peel reported the Community Affairs Committee met to discuss changing our zoning code to allow chickens and the purchase of new holiday decorations.

She further explained that a meeting was held earlier during which time the committee decided a conditional use would be added to the zoning code which would permit chickens. The Planning Coordinator is working on some additional language that would limit the number permitted, the minimum acreage, required setbacks, etc. This would require public hearings before the Planning Commission and City Council in addition to mandatory registration with the Department of Agriculture.

Chairwoman Peel then asked Council how much input they would like in holiday decorations. Public Works Director Mark Whitfield attended the meeting and reminded the Committee that \$15,000 had been budgeted for the decoration project. The committee felt that instead of continually repairing/replacing the mechanical figurines that also create storage issues, they would purchase something more sustainable like window candles, door wreaths and additional lighting of trees.

It was also recommended that the light post banners throughout the downtown areas be changed out for the holidays.

Chairwoman Peel asked if Council would like to have input in the matter or do they prefer the Committee making these choices. The Councilmembers were comfortable with the Committee making the decisions.

Councilmember Wilson noted that the banners were purchased by DMI and not by the City. Chairwoman Peel agreed and their plans are to work with DMI on the replacements.

Councilmember Mergner confirmed the big tree in front of City Hall is lit adding that the lighting of that tree during the holidays would be a nice event.

Mayor Shupe stated that he, the City Clerk and City Manager have discussed restoring that event back to the downtown though it was not officially discussed during the Committee meeting. It used to be a tradition in the downtown but had not been done for a couple of decades. Councilmembers Mergner and Wilson agreed it would be a nice welcome to the holiday season.