

**TOWN OF MORNINGSIDE
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2023**

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:00pm pm by Mayor Bennard Cann.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Mayor Wade.

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Cann – Present

Vice Mayor Wade – Present

Council Member Anthony - Present

Council Member Fowler – Present

Council Member Mullins – Present

Police Dept – Cpl. Szmidt – Present

Town Admin – Karen Rooker – Present

Public Works - Michael Johnson - Absent

Code Enforcement- Regina Foster - Absent

MVFD – Chief O'Brien – Present

INTRODUCTION/ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

- **Ordinance 2024-001 Approval, Adoption, and Appropriation of the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget.**
- Mayor Cann read the ordinance into the record.

Motion by Council Member Mullins, second by Vice mayor Wade to approve, adopt and appropriate the FY2024 budget. Roll call: Fowler – yea; Anthony – yea; Mullins – yea; Wade – yea. Motion carried.

INTRODUCTIONS - None

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion was made by Council Member Mullins, seconded by Council Member Anthony to approve the minutes for the Swearing-In Ceremony Meeting of May 15, 2023, the Regular Meeting of May 16, 2023, Budget Work Session of May 24, 2023, Work Session of May 25 for Speed Camera Vendors, Work Session of June 13, 2023, and the Work Session for the Woodland Rd Project on June 15, 2023. No further discussion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

MISCELLANEOUS/OPEN FORUM - None

REPORT OF OFFICERS/BOARDS/COMMITTEES

- **Admin** – Clerk-Treasurer Rooker provided a written & oral report.
- **Code** – Mayor Cann read the report provided by Regina Foster.

- **Public Works** – No report. Discussion ensued regarding replacing Mr. Adams.
- **Police Dept** – Sgt Szmidt read the report provided by Chief Stevenson along with an oral report.
- **MVFD** – Chief O'Brien gave an oral report.
- **Council Member Fowler** – Movie & Skate Night was a success. Ended up costing \$40.
- **Council Member Anthony** – Spoke of Stratus, a cleaning company that gave a proposal to clean Town Hall. Is looking for 2-3 more proposals before presenting to the Council for a decision.
- **Council Member Mullins** – Will have an estimate in July regarding the striping & crosswalk painting. Advised all to continue to be vigilant regarding their surroundings; stay safe.
- **Vice Mayor Wade** – No report.
- **Mayor Cann** – Was part of M Griffiths scholarship committee. Also part of the Bd of Education committee to build out our district's schools. Meets with PW & PD monthly for updates.
- **Council Member Anthony spoke again.** This time about the sand bags that the County provided for our 29 homes in the flood-plain. Got over 120 bags (4 per address). The Mayor has asked the County to identify said houses so we can distribute the bags.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

RECREATION COUNCIL COMMITTEE/JULY 4

- Susan Mullins stated that we need more parade participants.
- Received donations from Jiffy's & Wegmans.
- Everything will be free for the first go-round, after that there will be a cost.
- Most games will be free.
- Ryon's Towing will provide the vehicle for the Whack-A-Wreck game.
- The Mayor has reached out to Joint Base Andres, but has not gotten a positive response.
- Need flyers to pass out at the parade letting people know of the events in the park.
- Council Members Mullins & Anthony along with Public Works will work on the golf cart pick-up and return.
- There will be no rentals on July 2.

SQUARE

- Clerk-Treasurer Rooker has been working on getting the terminals ordered for over a week. Will continue to try, not sure they will be here for July 4.
- CashApp was mentioned as an option but it is not FDIC insured.
- Maybe look into PayPal as a backup, using the friends & family option to avoid fees.

ACC TELECOM

- The system has now been upgraded to announce that “these calls are recorded” for all incoming calls on 2300,2301,7400.
- Still need to announce for all outgoing calls.
- Thought it would only take half an hour to complete, but it took an hour, so the cost was \$160 not \$80.

SUITLAND ROAD EMAIL FOR SPEED CAMERAS

- Council Member Mullins read an email that he and some others had received from Sitestream regarding their pricing for the speed cameras on Suitland Rd.
- He is very adamant that the Council vote on this ASAP so we will be ready to go once DPIE oks the permit.
- Mayor Cann stated that there are 2 new companies that have shown interest in being the speed camera providers.
- The Mayor suggested a special meeting to go over everything, including the new vendors, before the Council makes a decision,
- Council Member Fowler requested print outs of all of the offers.
- Mayor Cann will forward them to all.

COMMUNICATIONS CALENDAR – FYI.

NEW BUSINESS

MARY McHALE PLAQUE

- To honor Mary McHale, it was suggested that we dedicate the information bulletin board on the front of the building to her for her many years of service to the Town.
- The plaque will be ordered from Crown Trophy in Waldorf and once it is ready, we will set a dedication date.

WEBSITE UPGRADE

- The Council was provided with an update from REVIZE to put with the others so a decision can be made in the near future.

WOODLAND RD TREE TRIMMING

- Council Member Anthony will contact Morningside Tree Service regarding the tree trimming on Woodland Rd from the bend to the Fire Department at a cost of \$1900.00.
- He asked the Council to add cutting the grass in the creek side of the road in the same area so it would be done for the July 4 parade for an additional cost of up to \$300.00.

Motion by Council Member Anthony, second by Council Member Fowler to have Morningside Tree Service trim the trees (up to 15 ft) and cut the grass on Woodland Rd from the bend to the Fire Department at a cost not to exceed \$2,200.00. No further discussion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

LED SIGNS/VFW

- The Council was presented the contract from Todd Pounds for the easement to place 1 of the 3 LED signs on the VFW property.
- The names of the entities need to be corrected/updated.
- Vice Mayor Wade has spoken with the owners of Suitland Beer & Wine and they have agreed to let us put the 3rd sign on their property. We just need the correct name of the owner/business so we can present them with a contract.

Motion by Council Member Fowler, second by Council Member Mullins to approve the easement contracts (with corrections) to both the VFW and Suitland Beer & Wine to allow us to put our LED signs on their respective properties. No further discussion. 3 yeas, 1 abstention. Motion carried.

PAY BILLS

Motion by Council Member Mullins, seconded by Council Member Fowler to pay the bills for May 17, 2023 through June 20, 2023 in the amount of \$74,394.90. No further discussion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

OPEN FORUM – There was no one signed up to speak.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen D Rooker
Clerk-Treasurer