

**MINUTES OF THE MILLVILLE  
TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP  
May 24, 2016 @ 7:00 PM**

In attendance were Mayor Bob Gordon, Deputy Mayor Steve Maneri, Treasurer Susan Brewer, Secretary Valerie Faden, Council Member Steve Small, Town Manager Debbie Botchie, and Town Executive Assistant Matt Amerling.

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Gordon called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

Mayor Gordon led the pledge of allegiance.

**3. OLD BUSINESS**

**A.** Discuss and possible vote on the construction contract between the Town of Millville and Harkins Contracting Company in the amount of \$1,107,871.00 to construct an addition to the current Town Hall facility. *Synopsis:* Harkins Contracting Company was awarded the bid for the construction of new facility on December 22, 2015. Town Solicitor previously reviewed the contract with the Town Council at the May 10, 2016, Town Council meeting.

Town Manager Debbie Botchie stated since the May 10, 2016, Town Council meeting, which she was unable to attend, Ms. Botchie had reviewed the meeting minutes as well as spoke to the Mayor and Town Solicitor Seth Thompson, and reviewed the contract with Harkins. Ms. Botchie stated her thanks to Mr. Drew Lyons, of GMB, for attending tonight, as well as Mr. Strauss and Mr. Swift, of Harkins. Ms. Botchie stated Mr. Thompson had said he reviewed the contract and thinks it is “one hundred (100) percent” good.

Mayor Bob Gordon motioned to approve the construction contract between the Town of Millville and Harkins Contracting Company in the amount of \$1,107,871.00 to construct an addition to the current Town Hall facility. Deputy Mayor Steve Maneri seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

**A.** Discuss and possible vote on Ordinance 17-03. *Synopsis:* Ordinance 17-03 is an ordinance to create a new chapter in the Town of Millville Code, entitled “Animals”, as well as amending the law pertaining to dogs running at large.

Deputy Mayor Maneri stated the main reason for this ordinance was because the Town is growing – especially now with the park acquisition – and the Town is starting to see more dogs as people move here full-time. Mr. Maneri stated when he looked through the Town’s Code, there really are no ordinances for dogs, so he feels the Town should have one. Mr. Maneri further stated this ordinance really is just so dogs be required to be leashed when out in public. Mr. Maneri stated his thanks to Town Executive Assistant Matt Amerling and Town Manager Debbie Botchie for writing up this ordinance. Ms. Botchie stated her thanks

to Mr. Amerling, who wrote this ordinance. Council Member Valerie Faden asked what will be the penalty for someone who breaks the ordinance. Ms. Botchie stated this falls under the Town's general one-thousand dollars (\$1000.00) per day and if necessary, a dog's owner would have to be arrested, have them go into the Delaware Criminal Justice Information System (DELJIS), and have them summoned to go to court. Mr. Amerling stated he spoke with Town Solicitor Seth Thompson, who told Mr. Amerling there is a State law having to do with dogs running loose, and there is a penalty under State law. Ms. Botchie asked Mr. Amerling if the Town had to put the State law in the Town's Code. Mr. Amerling stated Mr. Thompson said the Town did not have to reference the State law and it will still apply and be available to the Town if someone is looking to have a dangerous dog seized. Ms. Faden asked who would enforce this ordinance if someone were breaking the law. Mr. Amerling stated he believed it would either be Sussex County's Animal Control or the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) to come get the animal. Mr. Amerling further stated either the complainant or a Town official could call one of these organizations to report a loose dog.

Council Member Susan Brewer motioned to approve Ordinance 17-03. Ms. Faden seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

## **5. PROPERTY OWNERS/AUDIENCE COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS**

Ms. Sally Griffin, of Huntington Street, stated the State has an office of animal welfare and it isn't the SPCA that takes care of these matters anymore, but animal welfare office has officers in each county in the state.

Mr. Richard Shoobridge, of Tybee Street, stated he would like to see cats added to the ordinance because they eat birds and other small animals, scratch up trees, and can get trapped in garages and sheds. Ms. Botchie stated cats are "a whole different ballgame" because they aren't accustomed to being placed on leashes most of the time, but there is a possibility for cats to be placed in the Code at a later date and the Town can look into it. Ms. Griffin stated while cats can eat animals, they are a different matter because there are different groups of cats, some of which have been spayed or neutered and had their shots, so cats are an entire different tier and there are community programs to help with keeping the cat population in line. Mr. Amerling stated he had been to a training course where a representative from the State Animal Control office had confirmed that they did not capture cats like they did dogs, but there were several community programs to help temporarily trap cats, get them spayed or neutered, and then released again. Ms. Griffin stated the SPCA will also spay or neuter cats for a reduced cost.

## **6. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING – TOWN COUNCIL MTG., JUNE 14, 2016**

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Brewer motioned to adjourn at 7:16 p.m. Ms. Faden seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,  
Matt Amerling, Town Executive Assistant