

**MINUTES OF THE MILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP
September 24, 2019 (7:00 p.m.)**

In attendance were Mayor Steve Maneri, Treasurer Peter Michel, Secretary Ronald Belinko, Council Member Sharon Brienza, Council Member Barbara Ryer, Town Manager Debbie Botchie, and Town Clerk Matt Amerling.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Mayor Maneri led the pledge of allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

All Council members were present.

4. PRESENTATIONS

A. New Website page regarding Town projects – Town Manager & Town Clerk

Town Manager Debbie Botchie stated there is a new page added to the Town website (<https://millville.delaware.gov/>), and it's a dropdown menu along the top of the home page, called "Town Projects." Ms. Botchie stated, going forward, every new application the Town gets for a site plan or subdivision will be put in this project dropdown, so residents, property owners and visitors will be able to go to this tab. Ms. Botchie stated going forward, applicants will be giving us electronic plans so the Town may put them up on the website. Ms. Botchie stated one of the projects is for Beaches Community Car Wash, and what the public can find is items such as the site plan, the comment letter from the Town engineer, agendas, minutes, etc. Ms. Botchie stated this is also exciting for staff as it's easier to go to the page and look at the items rather than pulling the physical file. Secretary Ronald Belinko asked if this will be accessible to the entire public. Town Clerk Matt Amerling stated this is on the Town's website, open and free to the public. Mr. Amerling stated the Town is putting up projects which have not been approved for their final yet, so there will be more transparency for the public before Planning & Zoning (P&Z) meetings and Town Council meetings, so the public may see what P&Z and/or Council basically sees. Mr. Amerling stated under every project, there will be a brief synopsis about what the project entails. Mr. Amerling stated because the Beaches Car Wash in particular was a conditional use, there are easy links to both the P&Z meeting minutes and the Council meeting minutes where the use was recommended and approved. Mr. Amerling further stated at the bottom of every project page will be a blurb providing the Town phone number, a link for the Town's email address, as well as a link to the meeting minutes page, and the events page for upcoming meetings. Mr. Amerling stated not all items on the page will not be available at once as items are uploaded as soon as they come in or are completed. Mr. Amerling stated also on the website, for the hard-of-hearing or deaf residents and visitors, there is a "listen feature" to have a voice speak out every headline and sentence on the page. Mayor Maneri asked what Town projects are currently on the website. Mr. Amerling stated right now, there is the car wash, Millville Square, and Southern Landing, but we will add more projects to

the dropdown list as they come in for review. Mr. Belinko stated he would like to thank Ms. Botchie and particularly Mr. Amerling for putting this together and making a very accessible, more transparent website. Council Member Sharon Brienza stated she loves it and it's very timely since most things are done electronically now; and it's great to have a lot of information there. Ms. Brienza stated her thanks to Ms. Botchie and Mr. Amerling for doing this.

Mr. Dennis Hartline, of Blue Heron Drive, asked if the Town may do something similar to this with draft ordinances. Mr. Amerling stated the Town can take that under consideration. Mr. Hartline stated this is excellent. Mr. Amerling stated after a project – such as Beaches Car Wash – gets its final approval, the Town is planning on keeping the page up live for about another week or so. Mr. Amerling stated he wouldn't keep it up that much longer because, at that point, the project is done, it's time to move on, and if anybody wants to see any of those items, the Town will still have them saved electronically here at Town Hall, and they can still see the big physical copies at Town Hall too. Mr. Amerling stated this tool is more for keeping folks updated on what's coming and not what's already been approved. Mayor Maneri stated he thinks it should remain up at most five (5) working days after the final approval.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discuss and possible vote on Memorandum of Understanding between the Delaware Division of State Police and the Town of Millville.

Town Manager Debbie Botchie stated this is a document which needs to be reviewed annually, and all the Town does is maybe change the coverage hours with the Delaware State Police (DSP). Ms. Botchie stated the Town is currently doing thirty (30) hours of DSP coverage per week, and the Town doesn't put the cost of it in this agreement because, during the year, the costs may fluctuate; but the Town currently pays ninety-one dollars (\$91.00) per hour, which consists of eighteen dollars (\$18.00) for the car, and seventy-three dollars (\$73.00) for the trooper. Ms. Botchie stated this memorandum has been reviewed by Town Solicitor Seth Thompson as well as the DSP, who all say everything is good with this memorandum. Mr. Belinko stated he thinks for the citizens of Millville, having the DSP patrol is one of the best bargains around. Mr. Belinko stated he doesn't think the public understands the police coverage because when Council gets the reports from the DSP every month, every stop is documented, crime maps are updated, and anyone would look at the reports (which they can on the DSP website), most crime is not in Town limits, but rather outside of Town. Mr. Belinko stated there is some minor crime which will be in places like Town Center Drive (where Banks and Giant Food are located), and, unfortunately, there will be drug overdose calls; but no matter how much police coverage you have, you'll still have these incidents. Mr. Belinko stated he's seen the DSP patrol his neighborhood more than any place he's lived in the past. Mr. Belinko stated the Town has an outstanding agreement with the DSP and they are professional and confident. Mayor Maneri stated his agreement on the DSP's professionalism and the DSP is also very courteous as they will stop and talk to you if they're driving around your neighborhood. Mayor Maneri stated he has no problem with having the DSP right now, and even though, in the future, the Town will have to look into options, for right now, the DSP is more than enough.

Mr. Belinko motioned to accept the Memorandum of Understanding between the Delaware Division of State Police and the Town of Millville. Ms. Brienza seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

6. CITIZENS' PRIVILEGE

Mr. Frank Vigna, of Blue Heron Drive, stated he knows – coming from a big city and having about half his family in law enforcement, military or government – almost eighty (80%) to ninety percent (90%) of the Town's property tax or taxes will be going toward a police department. Mr. Vigna stated he has never seen any better outstanding police force who stops and talks and answers any questions you have. Mr. Vigna stated you also “can't set a clock by them” because they are around all different hours of the day and night; so you couldn't get better coverage than if you had one-hundred (100) police officers working the territory. Mr. Vigna stated he agrees with Council one-hundred percent (100%) and any time you can save that much – eighty percent (80%) of your taxes – it's wonderful. Ms. Botchie stated the Town's tax base is only five-hundred-thirty-eight-thousand dollars (\$538,000.00) per year and that wouldn't even cover paying for two (2) police officers today.

Mayor Maneri stated from October 3 to October 6, the Wall That Heals will be at the Mason-Dixon VFW post. Mayor Maneri stated this is a small version of the Vietnam War Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C. Mayor Maneri stated he's been invited to – and would like to see if Council would also like to attend – a wreath ceremony on Saturday, October 5, at 11 a.m., which is open to the public. Mayor Maneri stated this is a twenty-four (24)-hour system so you can go any time of day to see it. Mayor Maneri stated this is a wonderful opportunity for us to pay respects to the men and women of that war. Ms. Botchie stated we can put it up on the Town's Facebook page and website.

7. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING –TOWN COUNCIL MEETING, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2019

8. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Brienza motioned to adjourn at 7:20 p.m. Ms. Ryer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Matt Amerling, Town Clerk