



MINUTES OF THE MILLVILLE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

April 18, 2023

1. **Call to Order:**

Mayor Belinko called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. with the **Pledge of Allegiance**. **Present:** Mayor Ronald Belinko, Secretary Joseph Parent, Treasurer Peter Michel, Council Member Robert Wisgirda, Town Manager Deborah Botchie, Administrative Assistant Eileen Scerra, Town Clerk Wendy Mardini, and Finance Director Lisa Wynn. Deputy Mayor Sharon Brienza was absent.

2. **Citizens' Privilege:** None.

3. **New Business:**

A. ***Discuss, consider, and possibly vote on the Hometown Heroes project - Town Clerk Wendy Mardini***

The Hometown Heroes Project was introduced and explained by Wendy Mardini. She explained the cost of the vinyl banners and bracket kits and that we can put two banners per light pole in Evans Park. She also explained that the Town would like to have this project completed by October 14, 2023, which is when the Gold/Blue Star Memorial will be presented at Evans Park. The Council will decide on who the banners will spotlight i.e., Deceased Veterans, Living Veterans, First Responders, etc. She said that they also must decide on who will pay for them, for example, the families can pay for the flag and the Town could pay for the brackets, which will be up to Council. It was agreed that the details need to be worked out, but we need to get it approved first. Ms. Botchie also reminded the Council that any funds used for this will come out of the Economic Development fund.

A motion was made by Mr. Robert Wisgirda to move forward with the Hometown Heroes Project. The motion was seconded by Mr. Peter Michel. The motion carried 4-0.

4. **Old Business:**

A. ***Discuss FY24 Budget Draft – Town Manager Deborah Botchie and Finance Director Lisa Wynn***

Further discussions were held by Ms. Wynn where she pointed out a few adjustments

made from the last meeting. For example, the addition of the proposed bocci ball courts and new lawn mower for the park.

Mr. Wisgirda inquired as to why there was another \$500.00 added to the Mayors for Monarchs program for FY24. Ms. Botchie explained that we were obligated to do three projects each year to stay in the program, so that is why the money was added to that line item.

Mr. Parent wanted a breakdown of the projected expenses for repairs and maintenance at Evans Park. Mr. Evans responded by saying the repairs are unknown at this point because the Park is so new, and it is better to have the money there for maintenance repairs that may happen. For instance, if the water heater breaks down, repair of the exercise equipment, maintenance of the playground, Goose B Gone spray, etc.

Mayor Belinko asked Ms. Botchie when the last time was the property taxes were increased. Ms. Botchie said approximately 15 years ago, nor have the fees for building permits and licenses been increased.

Ms. Botchie advised that the final budget will be submitted at the April 25, 2023, meeting for approval along with a revised fee schedule.

5. **Citizens' Privilege:** Mr. David Holmes, 33701 Tudor Pl., Millville, DE – Mr. Holmes had a couple of follow-up questions from the previous meeting. He acknowledged that they adjusted the interest income but not enough. Ms. Wynn pointed out that she could not budget for the interest on 18 CD's maturing this fiscal year if they do not know the interest rate, she could not budget for the unknown. Mr. Holmes insisted that she could figure it out with the present interest rate and Ms. Wynn said she could not. The Mayor felt this was turning into a debate and stopped the questioning.

Ms. Botchie read a comment from the Town's auditor regarding a point that Mr. Holmes questioned that the Town is being too conservative with our budget. He responded that there is absolutely nothing wrong with budgeting conservatively, legally, or otherwise. Also, regarding the reserves, the auditor said there are also other reasons to maintain the reserves at the level the Town has.

6. **Announcement of next meeting:** April 25, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

7. **Adjournment:**
Mr. Robert Wisgirda made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m. Mr. Michel seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Mardini
Town Clerk