

Town of Odessa

**MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR TOWN MEETING OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2024 - 7:00 PM
OLD ACADEMY BUILDING
315 MAIN STREET
ODESSA, DE 19730**

Those present at 7:00 PM:

Mayor: Harvey C. Smith Jr.
Council Member: Lenny Aguilar
Council Member: John Freeman
Council Member: Yeni Ocampo
Treasurer: David Sheats
Secretary: Amy Marie Ottinger
(3) community members

- I. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance – The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.
- II. Roll Call

MOTION BY LENNY AGUILAR, SECONDED BY JOHN FREEMAN, TO EXCUSE LIONEL HYNSON FROM THE DECEMBER 2, 2024 MEETING OF MAYOR & COUNCIL.

MOTION CARRIED. VOTE: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTAIN

- III. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Minutes: Public Hearing 11-4-24

MOTION BY JOHN FREEMAN, SECONDED BY YENI OCAMPO, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 4, 2024 PUBLIC HEARING.

MOTION CARRIED. VOTE: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTAIN

- b. Minutes: Regular Meeting of Mayor & Council 11-4-24

MOTION BY JOHN FREEMAN, SECONDED BY LENNY AGUILAR, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 4, 2024 REGULAR MEETING OF MAYOR & COUNCIL.

MOTION CARRIED. VOTE: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTAIN

- IV. Correspondence - None

- V. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Balance Sheet / Profit & Loss as of 11-30-24, attached hereto as Attachments A & B (3-page reports)
 - b. Treasurer Sheats reviewed various expenses on the balance sheet. In the Odessa Community account, the deposit consisted of rental income. Expenses consisted of normal operating expenses. In the PNC Operating Account, deposits totaling \$7,093.62 were received which consisted mainly of transfer taxes, property tax payments, permit fees,

franchise fees and JP court fees. Expenses consisted of normal operating expenses with the exception of a payment to Kirkin Exteriors in the amount of \$500.00 for the remaining balance of the Old Academy roof replacement. Total assets are \$697,721.36.

MOTION BY JOHN FREEMAN, SECONDED BY LENNY AGUILAR, TO APPROVE THE TREASURER’S REPORT FROM 11-30-24.

MOTION CARRIED. VOTE: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTAIN

VI. Commission Reports

- a. Historic – Meeting was 11-14-24 (Carole Coleman, K. Hovnanian & Olde Odessa Ventures)
- b. Planning – No meeting in November

VII. Old Business - None

VIII. New Business

- a. DelDOT SR299 Drainage Study – Mayor Smith provided an overview of the DelDOT workshop held at the Odessa Fire Company on November 20, 2024 for the section of roadway between Front Street and Old Corbit Road. The workshop was held to inform residents about the drainage study, provide preliminary findings, and proposed improvements. The Mayor stated that the State is proposing a couple different solutions such as raising the roadbed and/or bridging the roadway. DelDOT has stated that work will not begin on this section of roadway for at least ten (10) years.
- b. Middletown Area Chamber of Commerce (MACC) Membership

MOTION BY JOHN FREEMAN, SECONDED BY YENI OCAMPO, FOR THE TOWN OF ODESSA TO BECOME MEMBERS OF THE MIDDLETOWN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

MOTION CARRIED. VOTE: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTAIN

- c. Holiday Office Closures – December 25th, 2024 thru January 1st, 2025, attached hereto as Attachment C (1-page notice)
- d. Cancel January meeting

MOTION BY YENI OCAMPO, SECONDED BY LENNY AGUILAR, TO CANCEL THE JANUARY 2025 REGULAR MEETING OF MAYOR & COUNCIL.

MOTION CARRIED. VOTE: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTAIN

IX. Public Comment

- Andrew and Collen Ward (307 High Street) expressed concern over the brightness of the floodlights recently reconnected on the back side of the Old Academy building.

X. Next Meeting Date and Time: Next meeting of Mayor and Council will be Monday, February 3, 2025 at 7:00 PM.

Miscellaneous:

- Mayor Smith announced that New Castle County did a study of all of the twenty-one (21) volunteer fire companies and their financial conditions. He was proud to report that the Odessa Fire Company was ranked as the most stable fire company in New Castle County. They ranked first in their financial responsibility to their community, number one in their investment portfolio to set money aside for future projects, purchasing equipment and such, and their loan ratio versus income was impeccable according to the study.

XI. Adjournment

MOTION BY JOHN FREEMAN, SECONDED BY LENNY AGUILAR, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:17 PM.

MOTION CARRIED. VOTE: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS

Minutes Submitted: 12/10/2024

By: Amy Marie Ottinger
Town Secretary

Approved: _____