

Town of Odessa

**MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR TOWN MEETING OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH, 2026 - 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: Lionel Hynson (arrived at 7:15pm)
Council Member: Yeni Ocampo
Council Member: Shelley Perry
Treasurer: Amy Marie Ottinger
Secretary: Megan Heck
5 community members

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

II. Roll Call

MOTION BY YENI OCAMPO, SECONDED BY SHELLEY PERRY, TO EXCUSE JOHN FREEMAN FROM THE SEPTEMBER 14TH, 2026 MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING.

MOTION CARRIED. VOTE: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTAIN

III. Approval of Minutes

a. Minutes: Regular Meeting of Mayor & Council 8-3-2026

MOTION BY SHELLEY PERRY, SECONDED BY YENI OCAMPO, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 3RD, 2026 REGULAR MEETING OF MAYOR & COUNCIL.

MOTION CARRIED. VOTE: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTAIN

IV. Correspondence

- a. Women's Club of Odessa email, attached hereto as Attachment A (*1-page email*) request for a handicap parking space at Old St. Paul's Church.
- b. Boyer & Boyer email, attached hereto as Attachment B (*1-page email*) detailing their commitment to continued service following their merger.
- c. DNREC letter, attached hereto as Attachment C (*3-page letter*) explaining they will be conducting site visits to our parks to ensure compliance.
- d. Odessa Fire Co letter received, attached hereto as Attachment D (*1-page letter*) requesting the town work with Odessa Fire Co. & Kevin Hensley to secure funds for a UTV.
- e. Communications Tower Objection Letter, attached hereto as Attachment E (*1-page letter*).

V. Treasurer's Report

Balance Sheet / Profit & Loss as of 7/31/2026, attached hereto as Attachments F & G (3-page report). Looking at the Balance Sheet for the Period Ending August 31, 2026:

- In the Odessa Community Account (Old Academy Account): There was a deposit in the amount of \$630.00 which consisted of rental income for Unit A for July. Expenses consisted of normal operating expenses with the exception of a payment to EHI Contracting LLC in the amount of \$650.00 for flagpole repairs and a payment to RSP Painting and Remodeling in the amount of \$450.00 for scraping, sanding and painting all the benches and handrails out front.
- In the PNC Operating Account: Deposits totaling \$22,150.18 consisted of permit fees, traffic fines, property tax payments and our yearly Municipal Street Aid Funds which accounted for \$10,524.07 of that total deposit. The town clerk will be transferring those street aid funds to the Municipal Street Aid account next month. Expenses consisted of normal operating expenses.
- Total assets are \$892,741.38

MOTION BY YENI OCAMPO, SECONDED BY SHELLEY PERRY, TO APPROVE THE TREASURER'S REPORT FROM 8-31-2026.

MOTION CARRIED. VOTE: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTAIN

VI. Commission Reports

- a. Historic – No Meeting in August- all applications were replacements in kind/previously approved materials.
- b. Board of Adjustment – No Meeting in August
- c. Planning – No Meeting in August

Council Member, Lionel Hyson, arrived

VII. Old Business

- a. Safety & Speeding Update – Secretary Heck announced that the Jobs4Blue detail has been updated and we are now requesting police patrol for speeders at our most complained areas of town.
On September 8th, Mayor Smith attended a meeting at Memorial Park, initiated by resident Melanie Fox, with Del-DOT and Senator Stephanie Hansen. They took our thoughts and gave suggestions. East to West the chevrons will be added back (many are missing). 25 MPH is the minimum speed the state will allow for that road.
- b. IRC 2018 adoption request update – Secretary Heck read the updated feedback from the Town Solicitor and Town. Mayor Smith stated we would begin research into whether our town's water would be able to handle these sprinkler systems.
- c. High St. construction has begun. Pre-construction looks to be a block a day and as we hear information, we will send information via MailChimp to everyone we have an email for.

VIII. New Business

- a. Old Academy improvements request, attached hereto as Attachment H (6-page submission including estimates & pictures)
 - Install a gated enclosure around existing trash bins on Fourth St.
 - Install a central iron railing on the lower three steps of the main brick pathway

- Extend the right-side landscaping bed down to the base of the lower three steps
- Establish a new left-sided landscaping bed to cover an exposed magnolia tree root (tripping hazard)
- Add dedicated outdoor lighting to the new landscaped beds

MOTION BY LIONEL HYNSON, SECONDED BY YENI OCAMPO, TO APPROVE OLD ACADEMY IMPROVEMENTS AS PRESENTED TO TOWN COUNCIL.

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

- b. Update to IRC 2018, attached hereto as Attachment I (*2-page email*), with First State's recommendations on code adoptions and discussion of residential sprinkler systems.

MOTION BY SHELLEY PERRY, SECONDED BY YENI OCAMPO, TO STUDY THE CODE AND THE FIRST PHASE BEFORE ADOPTION.

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

- c. Women's Club of Odessa emailed a request, attached hereto as Attachment A (*1-page letter, 1-page application*) requesting one handicap parking space at Old St. Paul's Church, 506 High St. Odessa, DE 19730.

MOTION BY LIONEL HYNSON, SECONDED BY YENI OCAMPO, TO APPROVE ALLOWING A SINGLE HANDICAP PARKING SPACE AT OLD ST. PAULS'S CHURCH, 506 HIGH ST. ODESSA, DE, 19730

- d. Odessa Fire Company Utility Vehicle, attached hereto as Attachment D (*1-page letter*). Mayor Smith discussed with council that State Senator Stephanie Hansen and State Representative Kevin Hensley have put together a community fund bill to purchase a traffic/utility vehicle for the Odessa Fire Company. Due to federal funding requirements, the money to purchase the vehicle must be distributed from the State of Delaware first to the Town of Odessa (since we are a municipality) and then we would in turn distribute those funds to the Fire Company.

MOTION BY SHELLEY PERRY, SECONDED BY YENI OCAMPO , THAT THE TOWN OF ODESSA IS AGREEABLE TO ACCEPT STATE FUNDING FOR A TRAFFIC UTILITY VEHICLE FOR FUTURE DISTRIBUTION TO THE ODESSA FIRE COMPANY.

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

- e. Resolution 2026-7: Update Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazard Mitigation Plan, attached hereto as Attachment J (*1-page Resolution*)

MOTION BY YENI OCAMPO, SECONDED BY LIONEL HYNSON, TO ADOPT THE UPDATED 2026 NEW CASTLE COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL ALL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

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

- f. Mayor Smith explained to council that we had a very bad plumbing issue in unit B that had to be addressed immediately. The plumber suggested that we remove the sink and cap it off since there is no access to the pipe to work on it any further.

IX. Public Comment

- Sean Mattingly asked about the speeding meeting. Mayor Smith clarified this was a resident-initiated meeting. Southern New Castle County Growth Area Land Use and Transportation public workshop meeting will be 10/26/26, 4:30pm-6:30pm at the Odessa Fire Hall
- Council Member Hynson inquired about speeding cameras. Mayor Smith responded that we have inquired about them and it's a lengthy process.

- X. Next Meeting Date and Time: Next meeting of Mayor and Council will be 5th October, 7:00 PM.

XI. Adjournment

MOTION BY LIONEL HYNSON, SECONDED BY YENI OCAMPO, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:51 PM.

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

Minutes Submitted: 9/22/2026

By: Megan Heck
Town Secretary

Approved: _____