

**Town of Felton  
Town Council Meeting  
March 11, 2024  
6:30 pm**

Mayor Clendaniel called the Town Council Meeting of Felton to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, March 11, 2024. Present at the meeting were:

**Council Members:** Mayor Joanne Clendaniel, Vice-Mayor Dave Kelley, Marquis Broom, Bill Brittingham and Diana Dolan-Beulah.

**Staff:** Chief Guild, Town Manager, Amy Thomas and Town Clerk, Tracey Thompson.

**Public:** Joe Shanahan representing Con Edison Development.

**Swearing in of Council Members:**

Mayor Joanne Clendaniel swore in William Brittingham and Marquis Broom.

**Motion:** William Brittingham made a motion to go into executive session. Councilmember Broom seconded.

**The meeting was adjourned at 6:34pm to go into Executive Session.**

**Town Council Meeting was reconvened at 6:40pm.**

Mayor Dave Kelley advised everyone that he would be returning as Mayor and Joanne Clendaniel will become Vice- Mayor.

**Public Comments:**

Adam Gillespie, Chief of Harrington Police Department wanted to recognize Felton Police Department for their support and help. Harrington PD went from having twelve full time officers to four. For that period of time Harrington PD relied on Felton PD to listen for calls and backup. Chief Gillespie presented four plaques for Felton PD officers as a thank you.

**Minutes:**

Mayor Kelley presented the February 12, 2024 Public Hearing Meeting Minutes, the February 12, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes and the March 6, 2024 Planning and Zoning Minutes. Mayor Kelley introduced Joe Shanahan representing Con Edison Development and the Solar Farm that was approved for a conditional use on Paskey's lot by Planning and Zoning. Joe briefly updated Council on the Solar Farm plans. There was discussion on landscaping.

**Motion:** Councilmember Dolan-Beulah made a motion to accept the February 12, 2024 Public Hearing Meeting Minutes, the February 12, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes and the March 6, 2024

Planning and Zoning Minutes. Councilmember Brittingham seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Police Report:**

Chief Guild presented the February 2024 police report.

- Electric police vehicles – in touch with the point of contact.
- Accreditation is moving along but very time consuming.
- Spoke with neighbor of Deb's Deli.
- Dedicated 14 hours to patrols in Hidden Pond in the month of February.
- On February 10, 2024 computer system was down.
- Both the black and gray Tahoe's are in need of engine replacements. Gray Tahoe is still under warranty. Not paying for engine replacement in the Black Tahoe and will be selling vehicle in July since we will be on our next vehicle rotation. Discussion on oil changes and the costs with maintenance of police vehicles. Josh Smith, Superintendent of Public Works has agreed to do oil changes on the police vehicles to help cut costs and stay within budget.

**Motion:** Councilmember Dolan-Beulah made a motion to accept the February 2024 Police Report. Councilmember Broom seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Felton Fire Company Report:**

- Total Alarms for the month- 31
- EMS Run Total for the year 248.

**Public Works Report:**

Amy presented the February 2024 Public Works Report. Amy mentioned Josh has also been busy trying to work on getting his estimate for the utility building on Walnut Street and talking to Ford dealership on getting prices for a new plow truck.

**Budget Report:**

Amy presented the February 2024 Budget report. There were no questions or concerns.

**Motion:** Councilmember Dolan-Beulah made a motion to accept the February 2024 Budget Report. Councilmember Broom seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Discussion of Historical Society:**

Amy stated Debbie Virdin is our new President of Felton's Historical Society and William Brittingham as the treasurer. Amy will need to get the towns solicitor to type up an updated agreement for the Historical Society stating that they are responsible for all repairs and maintenance of the Railroad Building. We also need to have something in there stating they are allowed to rent the building to the VFW. There was discussion on the work that needs to be done to the building. There were no questions or concerns.

**Discussion of FY25 Budget:**

Amy discussed budget preparations for the next meeting:

- State medical benefits and the possible 17%-28% increase.
- Amy told Council that she would like to look at a 4-5% raise for employees due to inflation and possibly increasing the percentage of what the employees pay for insurance.
- There was discussion about the medical benefits and different options Amy could budget for once the State of Delaware finalizes the new rate.
- Mayor Kelley discussed the budget for Council pay. He would like to see the mayor's pay be reduced and Council only getting paid for one meeting a month to save on the town's budget.
- Amy stated Public Works would like to try and work with the PD by getting prisoners on a weekly basis. They would like to try this first before having to budget for a part time employee.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:28pm to go into Executive Session.**

**Town Council Meeting was reconvened at 8:37pm.**

**Motion:** Councilmember Dolan-Beulah made a motion to accept to add the employee pay increase to the FY25 Budget as discussed in Executive Session. Councilmember Broom seconded the motion. Roll Call- Mayor Kelley- Yes, Vice Mayor Clendaniel- Yes, Councilmember Broom- Yes, Councilmember Dolan Beulah- Yes, Councilmember Brittingham- Yes.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:38pm.**

**Motion:** Councilmember Dolan-Beulah made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Broom seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

These minutes were prepared by Tracey Thompson, Town Clerk.

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Tracey Thompson, Town Clerk

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Date