

**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**January 24, 2011**

Present: Mayor Horn, Vice Mayor Dias, Secretary Stover, Treasurer Lightcap, Asst. Treasurer Letterman, Chief Hill, Recording Secretary Melissa Knight, Tommy Watts, Al Hill, Earl & Prunetta Brown, John W. Paradee, Esq., Russell & Timothy Johnson and Sandi DeLane.

Mayor Horn called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Horn.

A motion was made by Asst. Treasurer Letterman to approve the previous minutes in written form of January 10, 2011, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vice Mayor Dias.

No Treasurer's Report.

**Communications:** No Report

**Chief of Police:** Chief Hill met with the Street Committee to discuss the Emergency Plan for snow removal and should have the information regarding this next week.

**Town Foreman:** No report

**Town Solicitor:** Town Solicitor wasn't present.

**Inspections & Enforcement:** No Report

**Electric:** No Report

**Streets:** Treasurer Lightcap wanted to remind Town Manager Hurlock and Chief Hill the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade will be held in Clayton this year. The parking signs in front of the coffee shop - one was installed and the other sign is on hold at this time. A contractor will need to drill into the sidewalk for the sign to be installed. Years ago when the town purchased the street sweeper a committee was appointed to determine which streets are non-restricted streets and they are: Rodney Street, Reed Street, parts of Smyrna Avenue and Washington Avenue due to the parking situation. The ordinance book states which streets are to be posted. The Street Committee will get together to discuss if there are more signs needed, if any, on these particular streets.

**Water & Sewer:** Progress

**Equipment:** No Report

**Personnel:** No Report

**Police:** No Report

**Budget:** Everything on-line.

**DEMEC:** Town Foreman asked the President of DEMEC to make a presentation in the next week or two regarding the Peak Energy Consumption Reduction. A notice will go out two (2) hours before to our Commercial and Industrial Businesses asking them to reduce their electric consumption on a certain day and time. This may not affect the town as much due to the town's limited commercial and industrial businesses. The Town Foreman also asked if DEMEC could attend the council meeting every couple of months to keep the council informed of any changes in the near future.

**Board of Adjustments:** No Report

**Planning & Zoning:** No Report

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** No Report

**New Business:**

The 1<sup>st</sup> reading to introduce the change to the Subdivision Open Space was read by Secretary Stover. (See Attachment)

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Dias to accept the renewal insurance policy for another year with Pratt Insurance, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Treasurer Lightcap. Unanimous vote.

**Public Forum:**

Mr. Jordan from Jockey Hollow was asking about the open space. Was this in the ordinance of 60% open space? Was this the town's intent or was this a mistake? Asst. Treasurer Letterman explained a little more in detail regarding the open space to Mr. Jordan and the public. A formula was prepared by the University of Delaware and the formula stated that 60% is to be the open space in the development for common use. After Ashburn Homes reviewed this ovation, it was concluded that the open space of 60% was much higher so an amendment to the ordinance for open space was recommended to reduce the open space to 30%.

Earl Brown was questioning the senior 55+ or above development. He wanted to ensure that the Town Foreman would fix the grass in front of his house due to the snow plow plowing up the grass. The Town Foreman ensured Mr. Brown that this would be fixed in the spring. He was told that Town of Clayton does the snow removal as a favor in the developments. Town Foreman Hurlock replied the Town of Clayton is not responsible to maintain the streets in the developments until the developer turns the development over to the town. Mr. Brown wanted to know about the sanding and salting of the streets in the development. The Town Foreman replied that if the snow is going to remain on the street for a long period of time, then the town will sand and salt; but if the snow is going to melt then the streets will only be plowed. If the Town Foreman foresees that the snow is not melting, then the streets will be sanded and salted in the areas in need. The Town

Foreman also informed the public that there are two (2) plows that are assigned to Huntington Mills, Providence Crossing, town limits and the development outside of town. The Town Foreman is a roaming truck which means he will ride around in the developments and town limits to see if any areas are in need of additional plowing and will do so. Mr. Brown also wanted to know about street sweeping in the developments. Once again the Town Foreman informed Mr. Brown and the public that until the developer turns the development over to the town the streets will not be swept unless the council advises otherwise. He also wanted to know about the storm sewer drains with the snow piled on top of the drain that this may affect the sewer odor backing up in the homes. Town Foreman informed Mr. Brown that this is only a storm drain this is not tied in anyway to the sewer. If he smells sewer gases then he should consult a plumber for that issue. He has some concerns in regards to the vacant houses with people breaking into them. Chief Hill stressed the issues have been taken care within Huntington Mills and that the public should continue to be their eyes and ears.

Al Hill was commenting on the open space saying that he is not an advocate for Ashburn Homes for "ovations." Changing this ordinance is not just for Ashburn Homes. Changing this ordinance makes any valuable property in the Town of Clayton attractive. Any builder can come in and build more homes that are cost effective. It's going to make the Town of Clayton more attractive.

Sandi DeLane was questioning the renter inspection. If the town increases the fee to \$300.00 the development would not have people in and out of the homes. When she first moved to Huntington Mills she saw the police every 10 minutes. Now they are not in the development as much. She is seeing them on Route 300 more then in the developments. She would like to see more patrol in the development.

**Executive Session/Personnel-Legal:**

**Adjournment:**

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m. by Vice Mayor Dias and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Secretary Stover. Unanimous vote.

Recording Secretary,

Melissa Knight