

**TOWN OF SOUTH BETHANY
TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 7, 2017**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Mayor Voveris called the April 7, 2017, Town Council Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT: Councilmembers Don Boteler, Wayne Schrader, Tim Shaw, Frank Weisgerber, and Mayor Pat Voveris; Chief Troy Crowson; Finance Director Renee McDorman; and Administrative Assistant Pam Smith

PRESENT BY REMOTE ACCESS: Councilmember Sue Callaway

EXCUSED ABSENCE: Councilmember Carol Stevenson

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- **Town Council Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes, March 23, 2017** – A motion was made by Councilmember Shaw, seconded by Councilmember Weisgerber, to accept the March 23, 2017, Town Council Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes. The voting was as follows:

FOR THE MOTION: Mayor Voveris and Councilmembers Weisgerber, Callaway, Boteler, Schrader, and Shaw

AGAINST THE MOTION: None

The motion was unanimously carried.

- **Town Council Executive Session Minutes, March 23, 2017** – A motion was made by Councilmember Boteler, seconded by Councilmember Schrader, to accept the March 23, 2017, Town Council Executive Session Minutes. The voting was as follows:

FOR THE MOTION: Mayor Voveris and Councilmembers Weisgerber, Callaway, Boteler, Schrader, and Shaw

AGAINST THE MOTION: None

The motion was unanimously carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE ON BEACH INITIATIVE OF VOLLEYBALL AND PICNIC TABLES (WAYNE SCHRADER)

Councilmember Schrader proposed installing on the beach a set of volleyball poles, a volleyball net, and a couple of picnic tables to be set near the volleyball net. All of the equipment will be privately funded through donations. Councilmember Schrader stated that there will be about one hour of labor costs to install the poles. There will be somewhere between a \$30 and \$60 a year increase in the Town's insurance premium for the picnic tables – the Town is already covered for having a volleyball net so there won't be any additional premium that would be charged for the volleyball net. Councilmember Schrader would like to set the volleyball net on the beach

somewhere between N. 6th St. and Middlesex. The exact location still has to be determined. The volleyball net would be for public use on a first come first serve basis.

Motion and Vote: A motion was made by Councilmember Schrader, seconded by Councilmember Weisgerber, to continue to pursue the activity knowing that an acceptable location needs to be determined. The voting was as follows:

FOR THE MOTION: Mayor Voveris and Councilmembers Weisgerber, Callaway, Boteler, Schrader, and Shaw

AGAINST THE MOTION: None

The motion was unanimously carried.

DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE VOTE TO INCLUDE A LINE ITEM IN THE FY 2018 DRAFT BUDGET FOR A PROFESSIONAL REVIEW OF POLICE DEPARTMENT COMPENSATION, INCENTIVE, AND PROMOTION POLICIES – TOTAL PROJECT COSTS = \$1,320.00 (PAT VOVERIS)

Mayor Voveris said there are some ambiguous policies that exist and she believes it is important for operating and liability that the Town clean up the policies. Mayor Voveris noted that she went out to Dr. Warren to get an estimate for the review.

Motion and Vote: A motion was made by Councilmember Shaw, seconded by Councilmember Boteler, to include a line item in the FY 2018 Draft Budget for a professional review of Police Department Compensation, incentive, and promotion policies with total project costs of \$1,320. The voting was as follows:

FOR THE MOTION: Mayor Voveris and Councilmembers Weisgerber, Callaway, Boteler, Schrader, and Shaw

AGAINST THE MOTION: None

The motion was unanimously carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE ON THE PLANNING COMMISSION'S REQUEST TO ADHERE TO THE 2016 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR THE TOWN LIGHTING INITIATIVE (DICK OLIVER)

Planning Commission Chairman Dick Oliver stated that one of goals of the Town's 2016 Comprehensive Plan is a plan to improve Town lighting to meet modern standards for safe communities while meeting concerns for light pollution, and to develop a lighting plan for future lighting. In a memo to Council Mr. Oliver stated, "Accordingly for the Planning Commission I am recommending that no further lighting or indeed any future initiatives be pursued until the agreed to strategy is implemented and the results are presented for property owners and Council review." Mr. Oliver requested that Council let the Planning Commission study the issue in order to make a recommendation that is in compliance with the 2016 Comprehensive Plan.

Mayor Voveris stated that this means turning the issue over to the Planning Commission to make a Town-wide plan that the Planning Commission would bring forward to the Council and to the public.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Shaw, seconded by Councilmember Boteler, to adhere to the 2016 Comprehensive Plan for the Town lighting initiative which means turning the initiative over to the Planning Commission to make a Town-wide plan that the Planning Commission would bring forward to the Council and to the public.

Discussion:

Mr. Oliver stated that the Planning Commission would do the research in an organized and scholarly way and come forward to the Council with recommendations, options, and costs.

Planning Commission Member Joe Conway noted that the 2015 Community Survey showed that 60% of the property owners who responded to the Survey said they would like an improved Town lighting plan. Mr. Conway also noted that there is a set of national standards for small community lighting which he sent to Mayor Voveris and the Planning Commission Members.

Mayor Voveris stated that it is also important to tap into the seven years of work that Councilmember Callaway has done on lighting. Mayor Voveris does not want to discount any of the work that has already been done. Mayor Voveris suggested that Councilmember Callaway would be a good Council liaison to the Planning Commission for this initiative.

Councilmember Callaway stated that she will be happy to have the Planning Commission develop a lighting plan. For the record, Councilmember Callaway made the following comments:

- Any of the lighting that the Community Enhancement Committee (CEC) and the Town Council have done has been done in good judgment. Every plan that has come forward is done with thoughtful consideration. There has been a plan.
- The 2015 Community Survey was listened to and the CEC and the Town Council responded to the Survey.
- Councilmember Callaway met with a consultant two years ago and the Town has documentation of where all of our lighting is in the Town.
- The CEC is very familiar with lighting that Delmarva Power can provide at the most reasonable costs. Certainly, costs are a factor. Going outside of Delmarva Power will incur extra costs.
- Letters have always gone out to property owners in the affected area so that owners have been made aware and have had input. This was done on Ocean Drive and Canal Drive as well as any requests from property owners for new lights. This has been a practice in South Bethany.
- The lighting plan that was proposed for Route 1, while there are some differences in opinions between Delmarva Power and DelDOT, the proposed lighting was not going to violate any particular standard for Route 1. The plan for Route 1 was to develop consistent lighting along Route 1 to go along with the other lighting that is there and to create more of a streetscape effect.
- Councilmember Callaway reiterated that she believes everything has been done in good judgment and with the participation of the property owners that have been impacted.

To recap, Mayor Voveris said the motion would put the brakes on what the Town is doing in lighting and task the Planning Commission to work on an overall Town-wide plan considering options available and things that have already been done. Mayor Voveris referred to a study from the University of Delaware Institute for Public Administration (IPA) that can give the Planning Commission information and therefore at this point there is no money assigned to this initiative. Mayor Voveris also wants everything that the CEC has done to be considered.

Vote: The voting was as follows:

FOR THE MOTION: Mayor Voveris and Councilmembers Weisgerber, Callaway, Boteler, Schrader, and Shaw

AGAINST THE MOTION: None

The motion was unanimously carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS – CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE VOTE TO AWARD BID NO. 2017-01 Y2017 STREET REHABILITATION PROJECT (PAT VOVERIS)

Mayor Voveris explained that this in regard to Phase One of the street rehabilitation project. Mayor Voveris noted that Phase One is the biggest phase. The project is for patching and micro-surfacing. Kercher Engineering is overseeing the project. There was only one bidder. The bid came in at \$287,904.54 which is over what was expected, but Municipal Street Aid (MSA) funds that the Town currently has along with MSA funds that the Town will be receiving in the near future will be enough to cover the cost. Mayor Voveris anticipates having at least \$29,000 left in MSA funds moving forward after payment of Phase One.

Motion and Vote: A motion was made by Councilmember Boteler, seconded by Councilmember Schrader, that Council accept the bid from Asphalt Paving Systems and move forward with the project. The voting was as follows:

FOR THE MOTION: Mayor Voveris and Councilmembers Weisgerber, Callaway, Boteler, Schrader, and Shaw

AGAINST THE MOTION: None

The motion was unanimously carried.

PROPERTY OWNERS' PARTICIPATION

- Diann Nazarian (20 Peterson Dr.) – Inquired what would happen to the picnic tables on the beach during a storm. Mayor Voveris said the Maintenance Department would take the picnic tables off the beach.
- Garnet Timbario (Anchorage Dr.) – Because the funding for the volleyball net is private funding, Ms. Timbario asked if the net is going to be turned over for public use. Councilmember Schrader said yes the net will totally be for public use on a first come first serve basis. Mayor Voveris said the funding is a donation. Ms. Timbario expressed her concern about regulating the use of the picnic tables. Mayor Voveris said it is a legitimate concern and it is a work in progress. The picnic tables are not meant to be a place where people can leave their stuff and sit at all day. Mayor Voveris said it will be monitored.
- Tim Saxton (Peterson Dr.) – Thanked Councilmember Boteler and the Budget and Finance Committee for the fantastic job they did working through the issues on the FY 2018 Budget. Mr. Saxton questioned whether this Council has heeded the astute advice that Councilmember Boteler gave at the first Budget Workshop Meeting this year. Mr. Saxton said that per the budget that is posted on the Town's website, Council is eight or nine thousand dollars shy of a balanced budget. Mr. Saxton said if budget is not balanced he questions if the Town can afford to do all of the projects that are in the budget. Mr. Saxton added that the Town does not have to do everything in one year. Mr. Saxton suggested that Council balance the budget – take something out and then if there is extra money Council can always amend the budget and put monies back in for projects that Council wants to do. Mr. Saxton stated that the revenue projections are greater than they have ever been since about FY 2010. In the past the revenue projections have always been extremely conservative. Mr. Saxton is worried that even if the Town hits budget the Town will not be able to fund additional operating reserves and capital reserves. Mr. Saxton stated that the Town has policies that have to be followed. Mr. Saxton also stated that he has concerns that there are no extra monies for cost overs regarding the police building expansion. Mayor Voveris said there is a 20% overrun cost (contingency fee) built in and she does not expect all of it to be used. Mr. Saxton encouraged Council to come out with a balanced budget without dipping into reserves.

MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS TWO POTENTIAL CANDIDATES FOR THE POSITION OF TOWN CLERK IN WHICH INDIVIDUAL CITIZEN'S QUALIFICATIONS TO HOLD A JOB WILL BE DISCUSSED AS WELL AS A COMPENSATION PACKAGE. 29 DEL. C. 10004(B)(1).

A motion was made by Councilmember Shaw, seconded by Councilmember Schrader, to go into Executive Session to discuss two potential candidates for the position of Town Clerk in which individual citizen's qualifications to hold a job will be discussed as well as a compensation package. The voting was as follows:

FOR THE MOTION: Mayor Voveris and Councilmembers Weisgerber, Callaway, Boteler, Schrader, and Shaw

AGAINST THE MOTION: None

The motion was unanimously carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS TWO POTENTIAL CANDIDATES FOR THE POSITION OF TOWN CLERK IN WHICH INDIVIDUAL CITIZEN'S QUALIFICATIONS TO HOLD A JOB WILL BE DISCUSSED AS WELL AS A COMPENSATION PACKAGE. 29 DEL. C. 10004(B)(1).

Council went into Executive Session at 7:45 p.m. to discuss two potential candidates for the position of Town Clerk in which individual citizen's qualifications to hold a job will be discussed as well as a compensation package.

MOTION TO RECONVENE THE TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING

At 8:15 p.m. a motion was made by Councilmember Boteler, seconded by Councilmember Weisgerber, to reconvene the Town Council Budget Workshop Meeting. The voting was as follows:

FOR THE MOTION: Mayor Voveris and Councilmembers Weisgerber, Callaway, Boteler, Schrader, and Shaw

AGAINST THE MOTION: None

The motion was unanimously carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE TO HIRE A NEW TOWN CLERK WITH THE COMPENSATION PACKAGE AS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Councilmember Schrader, seconded by Councilmember Weisgerber, to hire a new Town Clerk with the compensation package as discussed in Executive Session. The voting was as follows:

FOR THE MOTION: Mayor Voveris and Councilmembers Weisgerber, Callaway, Boteler, Schrader, and Shaw

AGAINST THE MOTION: None

The motion was unanimously carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE TO CHANGE THE CURRENT POLICE DEPARTMENT DISPATCHER/ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT POSITION TO A 40 HOUR WORK WEEK (FULL-TIME) FROM THE CURRENT 35 HOUR WORK WEEK (PART-TIME) TO BE INCLUDED IN THE FY 2018 BUDGET.

A motion was made by Councilmember Boteler, seconded by Councilmember Weisgerber, to change the current Police Department Dispatcher/Administrative Assistant position to a 40-hour work week (full-time) from the current 35-hour work week (part-time) to be included in the FY 2018 budget. The voting was as follows:

FOR THE MOTION: Mayor Voveris and Councilmembers Weisgerber, Callaway, Boteler, Schrader, and Shaw

AGAINST THE MOTION: None

The motion was unanimously carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE ON RESOLUTION 2-17, A RESOLUTION TO SET THE FY 2018 PROPERTY TAX RATE AND RENTAL TAX RATE (DON BOTELER)

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Boteler, seconded by Councilmember Schrader, that Council approve Resolution 2-17 that retains the same rate for the property tax at \$1.30 for \$100 of taxable assessed value and also to retain the 8% gross receipts tax on the rental income.

Discussion: Councilmember Shaw said nobody likes tax increases but we know as a Town that we are facing some significant challenges moving forward. In talking with DNREC and Corps of Engineers at recent meetings he has attended in Washington, Councilmember Shaw said this year municipalities that have a revenue stream to generate both an initial set of dollars to underwrite the projects as well as ongoing revenues to maintain and support the projects such as beach/dune replenishment and issues regarding climate change and sea level rise (nuisance flooding) are the projects that are going to get the ear of the Corps. Municipalities have been told it would be advantageous to start thinking about building up additional revenues earmarked for those purposes to induce and entice the federal and state agencies to do the projects that are so desperate for the Town. Councilmember Shaw said he is going to vote to maintain the current rate but he thinks at some point there needs to be a discussion to look at additional revenue sources for building up some funding that is earmarked for these kinds of projects in the future and it will probably be from additional tax dollars.

Councilmember Boteler noted that the Governor has talked about the property tax situation in the three counties and how the assessments are out of date. Councilmember Boteler said a major exercise at the county level directed from the State to start this process of having more modern assessments may be coming our way. Councilmember Boteler said the Town relies on the Sussex County tax assessments so if they reassess property in the county including those properties in our Town then we will have a new better basis on which to have a rate that reflects a more realistic tax base for our future. Regarding increasing the Town's tax rate for the FY 2018 Budget, Councilmember Boteler said the Budget and Finance Committee discussed the issue but thought the committee would need to spend more time laying down a proper foundation for considering any changes to the rate.

Mayor Voveris said it is important to study and project revenues and expenses because if revenues are more stagnant and expenses are rising the inevitable is at the end of the rainbow, but there is going to have to be justification brought forth and demonstrated. The Town will have to justify and demonstrate the need. Mayor Voveris thinks the Budget and Finance Committee has some good projects in place for movement forward next year.

Public Comment: Kent Stephan (46 S. Anchorage Ave.) - Suggested charging less fees and maybe raise the property tax rate to offset it. Mr. Stephen hopes Council looks at it as a whole.

Vote: The voting was as follows:

FOR THE MOTION: Mayor Voveris and Councilmembers Weisgerber, Callaway, Boteler, Schrader, and Shaw

AGAINST THE MOTION: None

The motion was unanimously carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE ON ANY FY 2018 BUDGET LINE ITEM TO INCLUDE THE CHANGE AS OUTLINED IN AGENDA ITEM XII.

Council discussed the CEC Evergreen Respite line item which includes Wi-Fi access and picnic tables in the area adjacent to the Town Hall parking area. Council agreed to leave the \$4,000 in the CEC budget for an initiative and the CEC will do research and come back to Council. For now the line item will be CEC Initiative – it won't be classified.

VOTE ON APPROVAL OF FY 2018 BUDGET (DON BOTELER)

Councilmember Boteler said given the changes Council voted on tonight and the other items that Council arrived at a consensus on in prior meetings and tonight, Council has a budget with a deficit of \$10,147. Councilmember Boteler said Council would tap into unassigned reserves or operating reserves in order to balance the budget.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Boteler, seconded by Councilmember Shaw, that Council approve this budget under the Budget and Finance Committee recommended line.

Joe Mormando – Questioned approving a budget that is not balanced. Mayor Voveris said it is balanced by taking from reserves. Mr. Mormando questioned how the reserves would be replenished. After discussion Mayor Voveris stated that the Town's reserve number is healthy.

Vote: The voting was as follows:

FOR THE MOTION: Mayor Voveris and Councilmembers Weisgerber, Callaway, Boteler, Schrader, and Shaw

AGAINST THE MOTION: None

The motion was unanimously carried.

ORDINANCES

- **Third Reading of Ordinance 185-17, to amend the Code of the Town of South Bethany Chapter 134, Vehicles, Operation of, to regulate the time and months that vehicles cannot enter Black Gum Dr. in South Bethany from Kent Ave. (Pat Voveris)**

Mayor Voveris reviewed Ordinance 185-17.

Mayor Voveris declared this the third reading of Ordinance 185-17.

- **Discussion and possible vote to adopt Ordinance 185-17.**

A motion was made by Councilmember Weisgerber, seconded by Councilmember Shaw, to adopt Ordinance 185-17. The voting was as follows:

FOR THE MOTION: Mayor Voveris and Councilmembers Weisgerber, Callaway, Boteler, Schrader, and Shaw

AGAINST THE MOTION: None

The motion was unanimously carried.

- **Third Reading of Ordinance 186-17, to amend the Code of the Town of South Bethany Chapter 34, Beaches, to prohibit smoking on the beach and in other areas within the Town of South Bethany to include the new picnic table area adjacent to Town Hall. (Frank Weisgerber)**

Councilmember Weisgerber reviewed Ordinance 186-17. Since Council did not approve the new picnic table area adjacent to Town Hall, Council agreed not to include the text in blue pertaining to the picnic table area adjacent to Town Hall that was in the third reading of Ordinance 186-17.

Mayor Voveris declared this the third reading of Ordinance 186-17.

- **Discussion and possible vote to adopt Ordinance 186-17.**

Motion: A motion was made by Councilmember Weisgerber, seconded by Councilmember Boteler, to adopt Ordinance 186-17.

Discussion: Councilmember Shaw stated he feels this ordinance is solving a problem we don't have and potentially restricts personal rights.

Vote: The voting was as follows:

FOR THE MOTION: Mayor Voveris and Councilmembers Weisgerber, Callaway, Boteler, and Schrader

AGAINST THE MOTION: Councilmember Shaw

The motion was carried with a 5-1 vote.

- **Second Reading of Ordinance 187-17, to amend the Code of the Town of South Bethany Chapter 30, Animals, to prohibit the feeding of wild mammals and stray cats in South Bethany, ban the importation of feral or stray cats into South Bethany, and promote the operation of a Trap, Neuter, and Return (TNR) program in South Bethany. (Wayne Schrader)**

Councilmember Schrader reviewed Ordinance 187-17. Councilmember Schrader said the ordinance is a prohibition on feeding of wild mammals, feral cats, and stray cats and a ban on importing feral or stray cats into the Town of South Bethany. In addition the ordinance includes language that recognizes that the Trap, Neuter and Return (TNR) program can be operated in South Bethany. After discussion Councilmember Schrader said he would retool the last sentence of Sections 30-9 and 30-10 for clarification.

Council took public comment.

Mayor Voveris declared this the second reading of Ordinance 187-17.

Council took more public comment.

- **Discussion and possible vote to amend Ordinance 187-17 for the Third Reading.**

There was a consensus to amend the ordinance as discussed above.

LEADERSHIP REPORTS

- **Mayor's Report**—Mayor Voveris reported:

There has been a flurry of activity at Town Hall.

Negotiation took place with our selection for Town Manager and I am happy to report Maureen Hartman will be on board May 8th. She comes to our Town with nearly a decade of Town experience and most recently served as a Town Manager in the York, Pennsylvania area. During that time she served on the Board for the Keystone Municipal Insurance Trust and led initiatives for storm water management. Her skill set will be of great benefit to South Bethany and we welcome her to our fold.

Maureen along with Don Boteler, Renee McDorman, Pam Smith and I have conducted interviews for the open Town Clerk position and have arrived at a candidate to recommend for Council approval of hire.

On March 23rd we held the pre-bid meeting for our 2017 Paving Project and on April 5th we held the bid opening. Asphalt Paving was the sole bidder for the project as discussed on our agenda this evening. We anticipate the project beginning around April 17th and ending before Memorial Day. There has been a posting to our website that includes a list of streets scheduled for maintenance.

The drawings have been completed for our Police Building Expansion and the advertisement for bid is running in 2 publications as specified in our Charter. We anticipate a number of bidders and all will be carefully screened for their experience and financial stability. Award of the bid will be on the agenda at our May Council Meeting.

On April 6th South Bethany hosted a SCAT dinner meeting at the Big Fish in Ocean View. The meeting was well attended with a packed house. Tony Pratt from DNREC and ASBPA was our very informative speaker and added to the success of our event. There is no definite information to share but we are still on a schedule for beach replenishment later this year. It will be all about the money, however.

On April 13th I will attend a meeting of our Ambulance Group which includes Bethany, Fenwick, Sea Colony and us. We will be approached by the BBVFC for additional funding for fire fighters. Time period is for summer and the aggregate amount requested last April of the 4 members was \$42,000. Though a committee has been formed to propose funding options other than private there has been little headway on the initiative. Mayor Voveris stated that she does know that they are coming forward with a request for \$18,000 so if in fact our Town participates it will probably be less than \$5,000 but it will be up to the Ambulance Group of four to unanimously decide to help the fire fighters.

This morning I attended the SCAT legislative breakfast with Councilman Shaw. Short presentations were made by many Towns. The message from Seaford really resonated. The Mayor asked for no budget cuts on MSA and Transfer Tax monies which are critical for Towns to provide services – not salaries – not bonuses – not operations – just services. Great message!

Thank you.

- **Treasurer's Report**—Councilmember Boteler reported:

The Treasurer's Report on March results will be given at the April Workshop.

- **Police Department Report/Questions**—Chief Troy Crowson reported:

Departmental Training

Sgt. Lee Davis attended the FBI-LEEDA "Conducting and Managing Internal Affairs" training from March 20th through March 24th hosted by the Dover Police Department. The focus is on procedures for conducting and managing Internal Affairs investigations by law enforcement agencies. This course covers ethics and integrity, agency policies and procedures, the complaint process, investigation of personnel complaints, administrative law, the interview process, and special investigations. Another officer just completed his firearm instructor course so we will now have two certified instructors in firearms. Each shift will have its own firearm instructor.

Office of Highway Safety Checkpoint Strike Force

Cpl. Mark Burton and Ptlm. Megan Loulou assisted the Office of Highway Safety, along with several other departments, with a DUI checkpoint in Rehoboth on St. Patrick's Day. 52% of fatal crashes in 2015 were impaired driving related. The goal of the OHS checkpoint strike force is to decrease impaired driving fatalities 10% from the 2010-2014 calendar year.

Impaired Driving Recognition Breakfast

Chief Crowson and Ptlm. Loulou attended the Impaired Driving Recognition Breakfast at Dover Downs on Tuesday, March 21st. All officers that participated in the 2016 Statewide Checkpoint Strike Force and/or Office of Highway Safety DUI Mobilizations and their supervisors were invited to attend.

Just finished interviews for seasonal staff – weekend dispatcher and parking enforcement officer.

COMMITTEE & COMMISSION REPORTS

- **Community Enhancement Committee** – Councilmember Callaway reported:

The CEC meeting was held on March 21, 2017 at 1:00 PM at Town Hall.

Update from Public Works

All the new plants have been ordered and the old plants have been removed. The seasonal employee from last year has returned and is now on board until September. They have been working on the Sandpiper dune that acquired too much sand over the winter. CEC is hopeful that DelDOT will return to hydro-seed the multiple areas along the Route 1 Median that have been left barren by the installation of FIOS cables.

Update on Historic Sign Project

The Historic Signs have been prepared by InstaSigns and Sue Callaway picked them up in Newark to ensure safe delivery! Public Works will be preparing them for installation. The CEC is very pleased with the quality of the signs. The group has reviewed the location and order of the signs and the logistics are in place for the ceremonial installation in partnership with the Historical Society. The dedication will be held in conjunction with Earth Day on Friday, April 21st at 10:00 AM. An Email News Update announcing the event has been prepared and is scheduled for distribution on March 31st, April 6, April 13, and 19.

Update on Adopt-A-Canal End Program

The new adoption on Brandywine Road End is underway. The design and notification letters have been mailed to the adjacent homeowners on March 30. The junipers have been removed and a new bench is being made by Public Works. The adopters are reaching out to their neighbors and planning to engage the neighborhood in the planting. Another adoption on W. 4th Street is forthcoming.

Update on Canal Drive Street Lighting

The lights along Canal Drive have all been installed and are now hooked up. We are waiting for Delmarva Power to activate all installed lights.

Discussion of FY 18 CEC Budget Requests

The CEC is hopeful that the two new items listed in the CEC FY 18 Budget will be approved: 1) the proposed Evergreen Respite Wi-Fi area and 2) the replacement street lights along Route 1.

Review of 2017 Photography Exhibit Submissions and Discussion of Exhibit Logistics

The CEC has approved the photo submissions of 25 outstanding amateur and professional South Bethany photographers for the Photography Exhibit which will take place at the Town Hall from Friday, May 26th to June 24th. Email letters of congratulations were sent to the photographers on March 27th including a specific list of plans for the event. The first draft of an Email News Update announcing the Exhibit and the Opening Night is currently being reviewed by the CEC. Opening Night is scheduled for Friday, May 26th from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Plans for the opening are underway and we are appreciative of the offer of the Communications & Public Relations Committee's volunteers to provide the refreshments.

Review of Draft Informational Updates for Community Regarding the Oyster Cage Installation & Water Quality Initiative

The CEC worked with Frank Weisgerber and volunteers Kathy Jankowski and Kent Stephan to help create materials and signs that will inform SB property owners about the initiative and other ways that citizens can get involved. An Email News Update was distributed on March 30th.

Discussion of Next Meeting Dates & Adjournment

The CEC will meet next at the Earth Day Historic Sign dedication on Friday, April 21 at 10:00 AM. The next CEC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 9th at 10:00 AM.

- **Budget and Finance Committee** – Councilmember Boteler reported:

The committee has not met since the last Town Council Regular Meeting. The committee with the Finance Director is pulling together 10 years of past data to base some future projections and long range planning on. The committee will be meeting in May or early June to continue that effort.

- **Charter and Code Committee** – Councilmember Schrader reported:

Work continues on finishing the feral cat ordinance. The committee is not working on any other ordinances.

- **Canal Water Quality Committee (CWQC)** – Councilmember Weisgerber reported:

A News Update was sent out educate our property owners on the efforts that Kent Stephan and Kathy Jankowski are working with the Center for the Inland Bays (CIB) on to help us clean up our canal water. The wetlands that are being deployed at properties where the property owners have agreed to take them on going to replenish the oxygen. The oyster gardening will clean the water. Oysters need oxygen to live and our canals are a little low on oxygen right now. That effort will continue. The Canal Water Quality Committee has worked with the Community Enhancement Committee and the Maintenance Department for ideas regarding the pipes sticking out of the water that identify areas that boats need to stay away from. The pipes are going to be cut down and covered with yellow plastic. Signs be put on the bulkheads identifying the area as a water quality effort. Information about the effort will also be placed in the grass areas at the end of those dead end streets.

Kent Stephan said the Oyster Gardening Program needs more volunteers. If interested contact Kent Stephan.

- **Planning Commission** – Mayor Voveris reported:

In Councilman Shaw's absence, I attended the March Planning Commission Meeting. The main focus centered around the 2016 Comprehensive Plan and the Commission's desire to see the Council adhere to the Plan for Town initiatives.

Based on the activity of our Council Meeting today I am certain the Planning Commission recognizes our Council support, in particular, for lighting.

- **Assawoman Canal Trail** – In Councilmember Stevenson's absence, Councilmember Shaw reported:

No new information has been received concerning progress of construction on the Trail at the Canal Trail Head just off Rte. 26, however work continues. The plan is to reopen the trail as soon as feasible.

- **Communications and Public Relations Committee** – In Councilmember Stevenson's absence, Councilmember Shaw reported:

Another in the popular series of Pot Luck Suppers was held in the Town Hall on Saturday March 11th. This "Luck of the Irish Party" was packed with Irish and "wannabe" Irish. The Committee did a spectacular job of decorating and providing a warm inviting place to meet both new and old neighbors. Lisa Saxton, Ann Boteler, Margaret Oliver and Linda Whitney are to be commended for their stellar job!

Lisa Saxton completed updating the Town Bulletin Boards to provide an eye catching background to our Town messages.

Realtor outreach will be held in May. Packets of information along with pens and flash drives will be delivered to all local realtors who may use the packets to provide information on Town rules and events to our summer guests.

Summer activity plans are underway. Yoga on the Beach will be offered twice weekly from June 3rd to September 2nd on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 to 8:45am. Moonlight Yoga will be held on June 9th, July 9th, and August 7th from 8:30 pm until the full moon rises. Beach Boot Camp will also be held from Memorial Day to Labor Day on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 7:30 to 8:30am. The annual Boat Parade will be held on July 2nd, a Band Concert by the Over Time Rock Band will be held in the parking lot of the Town Hall on July 3rd, and Movies on the Beach will be held on July 13th and August 3rd. The Town will again

enter a float in the Bethany Beach July 4th Parade. An additional Pot Luck Dinner is planned as a Beach Party on September 9th.

Volunteers make all these summer activities possible, so consider accepting the call to help our Town be "The Best Little Beach in Delaware." Watch for sign up information in the Email updates and on Town Bulletin Boards. We need your help! The Communications and Public Relations Committee has not yet chosen the summer movies. If you have a suggestion, please call the Town Hall, or email me at carol.stevenon54@gmail.com. See you at the beach!

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilmember Weisgerber, seconded by Councilmember Boteler, to adjourn the April 7, 2017, Town Council Regular Meeting at 9:30 p.m. The voting was as follows:

FOR THE MOTION: Mayor Voveris and Councilmembers Weisgerber, Callaway, Boteler, Schrader, and Shaw

AGAINST THE MOTION: None

The motion was unanimously carried.

phs:2017 04 7 Regular Meeting Minutes Approved 4 27 17