

**TOWN OF SOUTH BETHANY
TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 8, 2020**

**This meeting was conducted electronically pursuant to Governor Carney's State of
Emergency declaration, effective March 13, 2020**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Mayor Saxton called the May 8, 2020, Town Council Regular Meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Councilmembers Derek Abbott, Don Boteler, Sue Callaway, Dick Oliver, Carol Stevenson, Frank Weisgerber, and Mayor Tim Saxton; Town Manager Maureen Hartman; and Administrative Assistant Pam Smith.

Noting that this would be Councilmember Boteler's last Town Council Regular Meeting, Mayor Saxton thanked Councilmember Boteler for his service, expertise, and guidance as Treasurer and Budget and Finance Committee Chairman.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES – APRIL 3, 2020, TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Motion by Councilmember Oliver, seconded by Councilmember Boteler, to accept the April 3, 2020, Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes. The voting was as follows:

FOR THE MOTION: Councilmembers Stevenson, Weisgerber, Callaway, Boteler, Oliver, Abbott, and Mayor Saxton

AGAINST THE MOTION: None

The motion was unanimously carried.

**CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE VOTE TO APPOINT JIMMY OLIVER AS A BOARD OF
ADJUSTMENT MEMBER**

Motion by Councilmember Callaway, seconded by Councilmember Oliver, to approve the appointment of Jimmy Oliver to the Board of Adjustment. The voting was as follows:

FOR THE MOTION: Councilmembers Stevenson, Weisgerber, Callaway, Boteler, Oliver, Abbott, and Mayor Saxton

AGAINST THE MOTION: None

The motion was unanimously carried.

After discussion, Mayor Saxton requested that the Town Manager develop a draft communication plan regarding soliciting applications for vacancies to be discussed at a future Town Council Workshop Meeting.

VOTE TO COMMIT UNASSIGNED RESERVES

Motion by Councilmember Callaway, seconded by Councilmember Weisgerber, to commit the reserves per the proposed schedule:

5/13/2020

Town of South Bethany
Reserve Commitment

		Percentage of Total Reserves
Total Current Unassigned Reserves as of 4/30/2020	\$2,709,479	
Operational Reserve	\$702,624	26.18%
MSA Reserve	\$180,814	6.74%
ARM Reserve	\$1,486,009	53.54%
Accrued Liabilities	\$48,511	2.69%
Beach Access Fund	\$280,000	10.43%
Storm Emergency Relief	\$11,521	0.43%
Total Unassigned (Available) Reserves	\$0	100.00%

The voting was as follows:

FOR THE MOTION: Councilmembers Stevenson, Weisgerber, Callaway, Boteler, Oliver, Abbott, and Mayor Saxton

AGAINST THE MOTION: None

The motion was unanimously carried.

DISCUSSION AND CONSENSUS OF REVISIONS TO PERSONNEL POLICY MANUAL

Tabled.

UPDATE ON COVID-19 AND THE TOWN AND DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE ON SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Mayor Saxton thanked Town Manager Hartman for the countless hours she has spent with him on teleconferences receiving information from the State and local levels to help make decisions for the best path forward for the Town of South Bethany.

Yard waste pickup resumed May 8 with only one missed pickup. The Town Manager worked hard with Republic Services to get the yard waste pickups back on track. Bulk trash pickup has been delayed to the fall (maybe September) and will be rescheduled to a date when all property owners can participate.

Governor Carney has announced the target date of June 1 to go into Phase 1 and he has extended the declaration order through May 31.

South Bethany's beach is now open for exercising and dog walking. It will be up to the Governor to lift other beach restrictions.

Governor Carney is trying to follow the three phases of the CDC guidelines.

Council needs to meet weekly to address changes. Agendas will be posted seven days in advance.

There is a crowd limitation of 10 people which makes it difficult to have Town events. Once the Governor lifts that restriction, the Town can consider doing more things. Town committees need to continue to plan.

When restrictions are lifted, vendors will be required to submit safety plans to the Town.

Motion by Councilmember Oliver, seconded by Councilmember Abbott, that the Town will suspend all Town sponsored activities until the end of Phase 1 of the Governor's plan or June 15 whichever comes first. The voting was as follows:

FOR THE MOTION: Councilmembers Stevenson, Weisgerber, Callaway, Boteler, Oliver, Abbott, and Mayor Saxton

AGAINST THE MOTION: None

The motion was unanimously carried.

Motion by Councilmember Abbott, seconded by Councilmember Oliver, to extend the dog walking privileges until such time as other activities on the beach are authorized.

Discussion: Councilmember Callaway pointed out that the Town has other restrictions that are effective May 15 and the Town should be consistent. Mayor Saxton agreed.

The voting was as follows:

FOR THE MOTION: Councilmembers Stevenson, Weisgerber, Oliver, and Abbott

AGAINST THE MOTION: Councilmembers Callaway and Boteler and Mayor Saxton.

The motion carried with a 4-3 vote.

Rather than deciding on a date to end the extension, there was a consensus to leave that decision up to the Town Manager.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED MEDIACOM SURVEY AND TO CONFIRM THE VEHICLE(S) THROUGH WHICH THE SURVEY WILL BE CONDUCTED.

After discussion and revisions to the survey, motion by Councilmember Oliver, seconded by Councilmember Abbott, to approve the provided text for the Mediacom survey and move forward with developing the survey through SurveyMonkey with a tentative deadline of June 1 return. The voting was as follows:

FOR THE MOTION: Councilmembers Stevenson, Weisgerber, Callaway, Boteler, Oliver, Abbott, and Mayor Saxton

AGAINST THE MOTION: None

The motion was unanimously carried.

LEADERSHIP REPORTS – REPORTS POSTED ONLINE

COMMITTEE AND COMMISSION REPORTS – REPORTS POSTED ONLINE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Randy Bartholomew, 6 S. 6th St. – Councilmember-Elect Bartholomew stated that he is looking forward to working with Council in the months to come and thanked Councilmember Boteler for his assistance.

ADJOURNMENT

Next Town Council meeting will be May 19, 2020, at 9 a.m. The Town Council Organizational Meeting will be May 27, 2020, at 9 a.m.

Motion by Councilmember Oliver, seconded by Councilmember Abbott, to adjourn the May 8, 2020, Town Council Regular Meeting at 3:35 p.m. The voting was as follows:

FOR THE MOTION: Councilmembers Stevenson, Weisgerber, Callaway, Boteler, Oliver, Abbott, and Mayor Saxton

AGAINST THE MOTION: None

The motion was unanimously carried.