

**TOWN OF SOUTH BETHANY  
TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 25, 2020**

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

**Due to social distance requirements, only Town Council Members and Town Staff met in  
the Council Meeting Room. The public participated electronically.**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Mayor Saxton called the June 25, 2020, Town Council Workshop Meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

Councilmembers Derek Abbott (participated electronically), Randy Bartholomew, Sue Callaway, Dick Oliver, Carol Stevenson, Frank Weisgerber, and Mayor Tim Saxton; Town Manager Maureen Hartman; Chief Jason Lovins; and Administrative Assistant Pam Smith (participated electronically).

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Ed Bintz, 302 N. Ocean Dr. – Regarding FEMA's Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM), Mr. Bintz believes the Town should indicate to FEMA that the Town is very unhappy about how the Town has been treated, and Mr. Bintz thinks there needs to be property owner involvement in dealing with FEMA on this. Mayor Saxton reiterated that the Town is not working with FEMA on the reissue of the maps. It is all FEMA directed. Mayor Saxton said Council plans to discuss the participation of property owners on a committee during the FEMA Discussion agenda item.

Ria Malinak, 1 N. 5<sup>th</sup> St. – Wants property owners on ocean block to understand the financial implications of the change to the FEMA maps. Ms. Malinak stated that her flood insurance premium went from \$1,400 a year to \$13,000 a year. Ms. Malinak hopes the Town helps make sure that South Bethany is treated fairly like other towns have been. Ms. Malinak stated that she does not understand why FEMA needs to do more studies.

Tom Roche, 141 Henlopen Dr. – Asked if the Town had received any response regarding the Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacon Lights (RRFBs) that DeIDOT installed on Route 1 at Anchorage, Petherton, Henlopen and Bayshore. The Town Manager stated that the RRFBs have not been turned on yet.

Steve Achuff, 1006 S. Ocean Dr. – Requested that accurate minutes be taken and sent to the property owners due to the audio difficulties.

Mark Damato, 116 Anchorage Dr. – Stated that the bike racks solution has created other issues. Believes that in Sandpiper Village the one-way street is wide enough to get a setback easement for additional racks, and he was surprised to see the racks only on one side of the road and not the other. Asked if the Town had considered bike permits for parking. Mayor Saxton stated that he understands people tend to want more bike racks in Sandpiper Village, but the Town followed the plan and there are plenty of bike racks that are not being fully utilized on N. 6<sup>th</sup> St. The Town is looking at putting a few additional bike racks at the Anchorage forebay. Mayor Saxton said he thinks Council will have another discussion this fall around bike permits. Council has discussed it in the past and decided against it.

Susan Tully, 2 Peterson Dr. – Asked who would be removing bicycles and cutting bike locks to bikes that are not in bike racks. Mayor Saxton said the Police Department is in charge of the

enforcement during their normal patrols. He added that the Police Department will move the bike to the closest open rack. Ms. Tully is in favor of solutions such as adding more racks to the canal side for people coming off of Anchorage Dr., realigning some of the parking spaces, adding an additional bike rack in Sandpiper Village, and bike permit parking.

Beth Rosso, 106 Elizabeth Way – Ms. Rosso suggested turning the bike racks in Sandpiper Village 90 degrees so people can park bikes on both sides of the rack and then people wouldn't need to go on private property when placing their bike in the rack. Mayor Saxton stated that the Town moved the racks in Sandpiper Village that way today.

Maria Vershel, 16 Sea Side Dr. – Stated that with the revised FIRM to incorporate the March 16, 2015, study data within the Town of South Bethany, her property changed from a Zone VE 12 elevation to a Zone VE 10 elevation which helped lower her flood insurance rates. Ms. Vershel would like to see the Zone VE 10 elevation extended to the properties south of her property so that those property owners get the same advantage that the Bethany Beach property owners have. Ms. Vershel said she would be willing to be part of the discussion with property owners to try and maintain the Zone VE 10 and fight for getting that for other people. Ms. Vershel said she is a registered architect and feels she could help.

Fred Weidner, 10 Sea Side Dr. – Asked how the bike racks are now positioned in Sandpiper Village. Mayor Saxton said they are now perpendicular to the road. Mr. Weidner said the space cannot accommodate the bike rack without going on his property. Mayor Saxton said the Town Manager is investigating that.

#### **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE ON AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE POLICE BODY CAMERAS**

Chief Lovins stated that when he was hired a year ago one of the problems he identified was that the Police Department has never had body cameras and the department's in-car cameras are approaching 12 years old. Chief Lovins noted that technology has advanced since the in-car cameras were purchased. Chief Lovins asked for Council's support of new body worn cameras and updated in-car mobile cameras. Chief Lovins provided a quote and information for Council to review. Mayor Saxton said there is adequate funding within grants to handle this year's installments, and then there are two more years of installments for which there is potential grant funding.

Motion by Councilmember Oliver, seconded by Councilmember Abbott, to authorize the purchase of police body cameras and all equipment necessary for the body cameras.. The voting was as follows:

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

AGAINST THE MOTION: None

Motion unanimously carried.

#### **REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF BIKE PARKING SOLUTION AND OBSERVATIONS TO DATE**

Having discussed this topic during the Public Comment period, there was no further discussion.

The Mayor and Council agreed that the Town Manager and Chief of Police have the authority to implement the policy, and they can move bike racks around to accommodate the need. In order to track comments and complaints, Mayor Saxton encouraged people to send comments and complaints to the Town Manager and if it is an enforcement issue send it to the Chief of Police.

**FEMA DISCUSSION**

Having discussed this topic during the Public Comment period, Council agreed to form a committee in the July or August timeframe to do research during the period leading up to FEMA issuing Letters of Map Revisions (LOMRs) for the Town of South Bethany. The committee will consist of 5 – 7 people. Councilmember Bartholomew volunteered to chair the committee. Mayor Saxton asked property owners interested in volunteering to serve on the committee to contact the Town Manager by email.

**DISCUSSION OF A SHUTTLE BUS ORDINANCE**

Mayor Saxton said that a property owner had concerns that South Bethany will be next to have shuttle buses come into town. Councilmember Oliver would like to have a discussion on the possibility of an ordinance and whether Council should send something like this to the Charter and Code Committee. Councilmember Oliver stated that Bethany Beach has an ordinance regarding shuttle buses and the fees are substantial. Councilmember Oliver proposed that South Bethany follow the same course as Bethany Beach to provide for public safety and not create any more congestion on Ocean Dr. Councilmember Oliver does not think this is a big issue now, but he is looking toward the future when it may become an issue. During discussion Council noted that since South Bethany has no public bathroom facilities, shuttle bus services would be discouraged from coming to South Bethany. Councilmember Callaway asked if the Town could prohibit shuttle buses on Ocean Dr and added that she does not believe revenue from shuttle buses would be worth a decrease in safety. Councilmember Oliver said the Town could probably prohibit vehicles over a certain weight and number of wheels, but it would not prohibit something like a 10-passenger van. Councilmember Bartholomew stated that he believes the Town is better off putting limitations such as vehicle weight and number of wheels and prohibiting drop offs in an ordinance and not applying a fee.

Councilmember Abbott suggested Council refer the research of this matter to the Charter and Code Committee to have them look at what the range of alternatives are and then report back to Council to decide on whether to move forward with an ordinance. Council agreed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Councilmember Oliver, seconded by Councilmember Callaway, to adjourn the June 25, 2020, Town Council Workshop Meeting at 4:10 p.m. The voting was as follows:

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

AGAINST THE MOTION: None

Motion unanimously carried.

Mayor Saxton apologized to the public for the technical difficulties and said the Town will work on improvements for future meetings.