

**TOWN OF SOUTH BETHANY
TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 22, 2020**

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

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Mayor Saxton called the October 22, 2020, Town Council Workshop Meeting to order at 2 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

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

REVIEW OF ELECTION CODE

Mayor Saxton noted that changes to the Town Charter must be approved by the State Legislature and signed by the Governor. Town Manager Hartman said the goal is to revise Town Charter § C-6 to emulate State of Delaware Code Title 15, Chapter 75 Municipal Elections. She noted that portions of the Town Charter that are specific to South Bethany have been retained. Town Manager Hartman stated that the Town Solicitor has vetted the proposed changes. Town Manager Hartman and Town Clerk Powell reviewed possible amendments to Town Charter § C-6 Municipal Elections.

There was a consensus among Council to change the date of the election to the second Saturday in May.

At the November Town Council Regular Meeting Council will review comments from the Town Solicitor on how to clarify that LLCs cannot vote in Town elections.

Council discussed how the spouse of a property owner would show proof of residency. It was noted that the spouse would have to provide proof of voter eligibility as described in § C6-4.

Councilmembers agreed that they were not in favor of going from a 7-member Council to a 5-member Council, and Council agreed that they were not in favor of term limits for Councilmembers. Mayor Saxton said he is in favor of leaving the term limits for the office of Mayor in the Town Charter.

Council will do another review at the November Town Council Regular Meeting.

DISCUSSION OF THE BRISTOL ROAD BULKHEAD

Councilmember Oliver stated that Bristol Road is the lowest street in Town, and some of the bulkheads on the north side are the lowest. Bristol Road also slants gently downward from east to west and several lots partially flood during unusually high tides, and their docks are under water more frequently at high tide. Councilmember Oliver asked Council to consider allowing four property owners on Bristol Road to raise their bulkheads into line with one another. After discussion, there was a consensus among Council that since the bulkheads are not in alignment the Code Enforcement Constable can allow the four property owners on Bristol Road to bring their bulkheads into line with one another.

PRESENTATION BY PROPERTY OWNERS ON THE BLACK GUM ROAD AND KENT AVENUE BARRICADE

Kent Stephan (46 S. Anchorage Ave) spoke in opposition of the current Town ordinance regarding the barricade (it shall be unlawful for any vehicle to enter Black Gum Drive from Kent Avenue from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. May 15 to September 15 inclusive) and requested that the Council consider reducing the barricade to weekends and holidays Memorial Day to Labor Day. There was a consensus among Councilmembers that it was a fair proposal that Council should take further consideration of.

Gil Geldon (405 Tamarack Dr.) – Spoke in support of the current Town ordinance regarding the barricade. and requested the chance to give a presentation on the topic. Council will hear a presentation from Mr. Geldon at the December 11, 2020, Town Council Regular Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Richard Dallaire, 444 Black Gum Dr. - Spoke in support of the current Town ordinance regarding the barricade.

Rich Bar, 446 Black Gum Dr. – Spoke in support of the current Town ordinance regarding the barricade.

Debra Fanshel, 413 Cattail Rd. - Spoke in support of the current Town ordinance regarding the barricade.

Terry Hart, 433 Black Gum Dr. - Spoke in support of the current Town ordinance regarding the barricade.

Bob Smith, 420 Black Gum Dr. - Spoke in support of the current Town ordinance regarding the barricade.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilmember Abbott, seconded by Councilmember Oliver, to adjourn the October 22, 2020, Town Council Workshop Meeting at 3:40 p.m. FOR THE MOTION: Councilmembers Stevenson, Weisgerber, Callaway, Bartholomew, Oliver, Abbott, and Mayor Saxton. AGAINST THE MOTION: None.