

**TOWN OF SOUTH BETHANY
TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 9, 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 9, 2020, Town Council Regular Meeting to order at 10 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Councilmembers Derek Abbott, Randy Bartholomew, Sue Callaway (joined meeting after the Adoption of Minutes agenda item), Dick Oliver, Carol Stevenson, Frank Weisgerber, and Mayor Tim Saxton; Town Manager Maureen Hartman; Chief Jason Lovins; and Administrative Assistant Pam Smith.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

September 11, 2020, Town Council Regular Meeting: Motion by Councilmember Abbott, seconded by Councilmember Oliver, to accept the September 11, 2020, Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes. FOR THE MOTION: Councilmembers Stevenson, Weisgerber, Bartholomew, Oliver, Abbott, and Mayor Saxton. AGAINST THE MOTION: None. Motion unanimously carried.

September 24, 2020, Town Council Workshop Meeting: Motion by Councilmember Oliver, seconded by Councilmember Abbott, to accept the September 24, 2020, Town Council Workshop Meeting Minutes. FOR THE MOTION: Councilmembers Stevenson, Weisgerber, Bartholomew, Oliver, Abbott, and Mayor Saxton. AGAINST THE MOTION: None. Motion unanimously carried.

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 200-20 TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF SOUTH BETHANY BY ADDING A NEW CHAPTER, TO BE ENTITLED "CONCESSIONS AND CONCESSIONAIRES"

Councilmember Abbott stated that this ordinance was developed to add standards and uniformity to how the Town solicits and selects vendors to provide various concessions to the Town. In response to a question from Councilmember Stevenson, Councilmember Abbott stated that the ordinance does not determine what concessions are appropriate, it simply provides the structure for bidding and awarding those concessions.

Mayor Saxton noted that in § 58-5 the correct section number that is referenced needs to be inserted before the second reading.

Noting that the Charter and Code Committee has new members, Councilmember Abbott thanked them for their work on this ordinance.

Mayor Saxton declared this the first reading of Ordinance 200-20.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE ON A BUDGET AMENDMENT TO REALLOCATE UNASSIGNED AND UNAUDITED FUNDS FOR DECORATIVE LIGHT POLES ON ROUTE 1

Councilmember Bartholomew noted that the Budget and Finance Committee met and approved the reallocation.

Motion by Councilmember Bartholomew, seconded by Councilmember Abbott, to approve the budget amendment of \$90,625.00 to reallocate unassigned funds for the decorative light poles on Route 1. FOR THE MOTION: Councilmembers Stevenson, Weisgerber, Callaway, Bartholomew, Oliver, Abbott, and Mayor Saxton. AGAINST THE MOTION: None. Motion unanimously carried.

LEADERSHIP REPORTS – REPORTS POSTED ONLINE

Mayor Saxton added to his report that he has participated and worked with the Mediacom franchise agreement renewal group multiple times this month and the group continues to proceed.

Town Manager Hartman thanked the seasonal Public Works employee, Jim Priano, whose last day is today. She praised him for the wonderful work he provided to the Town. Mayor Saxton and Councilmember Callaway agreed.

COMMITTEE AND COMMISSION REPORTS – REPORTS POSTED ONLINE

Budget and Finance – The next meeting will be the week of November 16 to review the budget.

Canal Water Quality Committee – The pilot program (the jets) in the Petherton Canal is in place, and Dave Wilson’s team is monitoring the results.

Charter and Code Committee – Mayor Saxton requested that draft changes to the building code that the Code Enforcement Constable and the Town Solicitor have been working on be sent to the Charter and Code Committee as soon as possible.

Community Enhancement Committee – Met on Friday, September 25. The committee brought the new members up to date on the Adopt Program and other activities as well as the budget process.

FEMA Ad Hoc Committee – The committee has had several meetings and has received responses from FEMA to questions from the committee. The committee has additional questions to submit to FEMA. The committee hopes to have a public meeting at which FEMA will give a presentation and take questions. The next committee meeting is October 14, 2020.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tom Roche, 141 Henlopen Dr. – Inquired about several incidents in the Police Department Monthly Report.

MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Councilmember Abbott, seconded by Councilmember Callaway, to go into Executive Session to discuss the qualifications of an individual applicant for an open full-time police officer position. 29 DEL. C. 10004(b)(1) and for a strategy session, and discussion of documents excluded from the definition of “public records”, with respect to contract negotiations 29 Del. C. § 10004(b)(4); (b)(6). FOR THE MOTION: Councilmembers Stevenson, Weisgerber, Callaway, Bartholomew, Abbott, and Mayor Saxton. AGAINST THE MOTION: None. Councilmember Oliver had dropped off the call. Motion carried with a 6-0 vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council went into Executive Session at 10:35 a.m.

MOTION TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION AND RECONVENE THE TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

At 11:40 a.m., motion by Councilmember Oliver, seconded by Councilmember Abbott, to exit Executive Session and reconvene the Town Council Regular Meeting. FOR THE MOTION: Councilmembers Stevenson, Weisgerber, Callaway, Bartholomew, Oliver, Abbott, and Mayor Saxton. AGAINST THE MOTION: None. Motion unanimously carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE(S) ON ITEMS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Councilmember Abbott, seconded by Councilmember Callaway, to authorize the hiring of Jahn Farrell as a full-time police officer conditioned upon his completion of COPT certification by the end of November. Mayor Saxton clarified that this will bring the Police Department to six full-time officers and the Chief of Police. FOR THE MOTION: Councilmembers Stevenson, Weisgerber, Callaway, Bartholomew, Oliver, Abbott, and Mayor Saxton. AGAINST THE MOTION: None. Motion unanimously carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilmember Callaway, seconded by Councilmember Abbott, to adjourn the October 9, 2020, Town Council Regular Meeting at 11:45 a.m. FOR THE MOTION: Councilmembers Stevenson, Weisgerber, Callaway, Bartholomew, Oliver, Abbott, and Mayor Saxton. AGAINST THE MOTION: None. Motion unanimously carried.