

**TOWN OF SOUTH BETHANY  
TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 17, 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 December 17, 2020, Town Council Workshop Meeting to order at 3 p.m.

**Attendance**

Mayor Timothy Saxton, Councilmembers Derek Abbott, Randy Bartholomew, Sue Callaway, Dick Oliver, Carol Stevenson; Town Manager Maureen Hartman; and Chief Jason Lovins. Excused absence - Councilman Frank Weisgerber. Total virtual attendees - 35.

**Treasurer's Report**

Councilman Bartholomew briefly provided an overview of the report. Councilwoman Callaway requested that the Building Permit revenues be pulled out of the "All Other Revenues" line item and be classified separately. Councilman Bartholomew stated that he will discuss that request with the Budget & Finance Committee when they meet in February.

**Discussion of Amendments to Town Code Chapter 30, Animals**

Councilman Abbott presented proposed revisions to Chapter 30 that were reviewed and modified by Charter & Code, Solicitor Ballard, Chief Lovins, and Councilwoman Stevenson. Councilman Abbott stated that the revisions provide better structure with what you can, and cannot do, regarding pets, specifically pet cats. There was a lengthy discussion about tagging/licensing as well as the number of cats that can run at large. Chief Lovins discussed enforcement concerns and Mayor Saxton concurred that enforcement is going to be difficult. Mayor Saxton recommended sending back to Charter & Code for a final review and then for a first reading at the February 12, 2021 Town Council meeting.

**Discussion of Sponsorship for Bethany-Fenwick Artisan Walk Event**

Councilwoman Sue Callaway presented an event for Council to consider participating in conjunction with the Bethany-Fenwick Chamber of Commerce. The event is an Artisan Walk that will be held on the same day as Operation Seas the Day and the Bethany Beach Boardwalk Art Festival on September 11, 2021. Council discussed their concerns, and it was decided that South Bethany would not participate in the Chamber event. Town Manager Hartman will contact the Chamber to advise them of the decision.

**Discussion of Amendments to Town Code Chapter 94 Parking to Include Bike Parking**

Councilman Abbott opened the discussion to include bike parking in Chapter 94, Parking. Chief Lovins also provided a summary as to why the proposed changes need to be included in the ordinance due to the surmounting issues that are occurring over the summer with bikes. Several items were discussed such as an affidavit or document that the Chief is suggesting residents fill out when requesting removal of a bike on private property. Councilman Bartholomew suggested that the document be added to the website. Councilman Bartholomew also questioned storage and safety of the retrieved bikes once they were brought back to the Police Department. Chief Lovins stated that they will be stored in a shed and secured with a locked cable. There was another lengthy discussion about the \$15.00 removal & storage fee and Councilman Bartholomew, as Treasurer, was concerned about the control of cash. In addition, Chief Lovins discussed issues with bikes that are locked to Town property such as signs and beach walkways and indicated that they will be

removed and relocated to racks. Mayor Saxton recommended bringing the proposed ordinance to the February 12, 2021 Town Council meeting for a first reading.

#### **Discussion of Amendment to Section 5.5. (Holidays) of Employee Manual**

Chief Lovins requested a change to Section 5.5 of the employee manual to simply clarify 5.5.B(6), Police Department Holiday Pay. The Council concurred with Chief Lovins' recommendation but recommended giving the Officers 60 days to use a banked holiday instead of 30 days.

#### **Cat Hill Owners Response**

Mr. Gil Geldon, 405 Tamarack, provided a response to Mr. Kent Stephan's comments regarding the barricade on Black Gum Drive and Kent Road over the summer. Mr. Geldon presented a brief history of the barricade and discussed the supporting research and documentation which supplied the Council with enough information to approve the barricade. He indicated that the residents of Cat Hill request that the barricade remain for the safety of that neighborhood. Mayor Saxton thanked Mr. Geldon and advised Council that they are welcomed to bring a change forward if they desire.

#### **Public Comment**

Kent Stephan, 46 S. Anchorage Avenue – discussed a document that was sent to Council regarding his disdain for the barricade. Mr. Stephan expressed dismay with the barricade that is used specifically for just the Cat Hill residents and stated that all residents have the basic right to use the roads in South Bethany.

Wailohia Woolsey, 400 Black Gum Drive – commented that living on Black Gum Drive is challenging and spoke in favor of the barricade. She thanked Council for the barricade and their volunteerism to the community.

Thomas Wood, 414 Periwinkle Road – feels there is misrepresentation with the information brought forth by Mr. Geldon. He stated that he conducted his own study and there is nothing to prove that Cat Hill is dangerous.

Carl Bittenbender, 141 Layton Drive - Commented that the bike parking ordinance is necessary and requested more bike parking be provided on Ocean Drive. Mayor Saxton indicated that the Town is looking to expand bike parking and stated that it will not be placed on private property.

#### **Adjournment**

Motion by Councilman Abbott, seconded by Councilman Bartholomew, to adjourn the December 17, 2020, Town Council Workshop Meeting at 5:04 p.m. Motion carried.