

**TOWN OF SOUTH BETHANY
TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 14, 2021
10:00 A.M.**

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

Meeting Called to Order

Mayor Saxton called the May 14, 2021 Town Council Regular Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Attendance

In attendance were Mayor Tim Saxton and Councilmembers Randall Bartholomew, Sue Callaway, Dick Oliver, Carol Stevenson, Frank Weisgerber; and Derek Abbott participated virtually; Town Manager Maureen Hartman; Chief Jason Lovins; and Administrative Specialist, Janet Powell. Remote attendees: 17.

Adoption of Minutes

Motion by Councilman Oliver, seconded by Councilwoman Callaway, to adopt the April 8, 2021 Council workshop meeting minutes. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Councilman Oliver, seconded by Councilwoman Callaway, to adopt the April 9, 2021 Council meeting minutes. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Councilman Oliver, seconded by Councilman Stevenson to adopt the April 22, 2021 Council workshop meeting minutes. Motion carried 7-0.

Discussion and possible action regarding cost overrun on six beach walkways

Motion by Councilman Oliver, seconded by Councilman Abbott to approve the cost overrun on six beach walkways to \$21,250 cost overrun per receipt of appropriate documentation. Motion carried 7-0.

Discussion and possible action of Bid 21-03 Exercise concession

Mayor Saxton stated due to COVID restricting business to work in town last year; Mayor Saxton proposed to forego the Exercise Concession Bid process to allow vendors to do business in the Town with a Mercantile license and liability insurance and no bid process. Motion by Councilman Abbott, seconded by Councilman Callaway moved to approve the Mayor's proposal to forego the Exercise Concession Bid process this year. Motion carried 7-0.

Discussion and possible action regarding backyard structures in setback(s)

Councilman Abbott has been approached by several property owners regarding the Town's backyard structures in setbacks. Certain structures are permitted; but many building structures are exempt, such as pergolas, hot tubs, outside seating, outdoor kitchens. Councilman Abbott motioned, seconded by Oliver for Charter and Code review the property owners' requests. Motion 7-0.

Discussion and possible action regarding bidding on renovations to Town Hall

Council discussed and reviewed the renovations and possible redesign to Town Hall to include a community area. Councilwoman Callaway and the Town Manager will contact Lauren Wandel from

GMB Engineers for suggestions to redesign the current draft plans to add a community room. Mayor Saxton suggested the bidding on renovations be placed on hold since redesign has been suggested.

Discussion and possible action regarding FEMA Ad Hoc Committee, and AHC March 31, 2021, memo to Council

Councilmember Bartholomew presented South Bethany Response to Coastal LOMR Questions memo with the following questions to be asked.

1 Why have there been three varying coastal FIRMS issued and retracted?

#2 Why do the FIRMS not use the same data and methodologies as the surrounding neighboring communities?

#3 What is the difference between FEMA's "Standard Erosion Methodology" and the nonstandard "Modified Erosion Methodology" used in the South Bethany LOMR?

#4 How has the Modified Erosion Methodology been used in other FEMA coastal flood studies applicable to South Bethany?

#5 Do flood zones and BFEs have to match across community boundaries? How are differences handled?

Mayor Saxton suggested Council submit edits to Councilman Bartholomew to review. Councilman Bartholomew motion to modify the draft South Bethany Response to Coastal LOMR Questions memo by the Mayor, Town Manager and Councilman Bartholomew with the Council's edits. Motion by Councilman Oliver, seconded by Councilman Abbott to modify the draft AHC March 31, 2021, memo. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Bartholomew reviewed the FEMA Ad Hoc committee previous request to the Town Council to approve the funding of \$10,000 for a consultant to review the LOMR's. Motion by Councilman Abbott, seconded by Councilman Oliver to table the funding of \$10,000 since a verified consultant has not yet been identified, reserving the rights to make some other decisions and other proposals at another time, when available to review the LOMR's. Motion carried 6-0, Councilman Bartholomew abstained.

Leadership Reports – Reports Posted Online

The Mayor had no addition to his report.

The Town Manager had no addition to her report.

The Treasurer had no addition to his report.

Committee and Commission Reports – Reports Posted Online

The Budget and Finance Committee – no report submitted.

Canal Water Quality Committee – no report submitted.

Charter and Code Committee – no report submitted. Councilman Weisgerber stated that the contract with Solitude Lake Management has been signed. Solitude Lake Management will patrol the canals twice a month and review the University of Delaware water tests that are collected in town and report the University of Delaware test results to the Town Manager.

Communications and Public Relations Committee – report submitted.

Community Enhancement Committees – report submitted.

Planning Commission – no report submitted.

FEMA Ad Hoc Committee – no report submitted.

Public Comment

Christine Keefe, 6 N 3rd St, asked what safety precautions will be placed in Town Hall since it was mentioned in today's meeting to delay the renovations of Town Hall due to the increased cost of

lumber and adding new renovations to the design. Ms. Keefe suggested to not delay the safety of the town staff due to the increase cost of lumber and renovation alterations. Town Manager stated the safety precautions are part of the Town Hall renovations and would be delayed at this time. Mayor Saxton suggested looking into ways to provide safety while also providing the renovations of the design of Town Hall.

Adjournment

Motion by Councilman Oliver, seconded by Councilman Abbott, to adjourn the May 14, 2021, Town Council Regular Meeting at 11:47 a.m. Motion carried 7-0.