

**TOWN OF SOUTH BETHANY
TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES
AUGUST 26, 2021
3:00 P.M.**

Call Meeting to Order

Mayor Saxton called the August 26, 2021, Town Council Budget Workshop to order at 3:02 p.m.

Announcement of Attendance and Absences

In attendance were Mayor Saxton, Councilmembers Randy Bartholomew, Sue Callaway, Dick Oliver, and Tim Shaw; Chief Lovins, Code Enforcement Officer Joseph Hinks, Town Manager Maureen Hartman, and Administrative Specialist, Janet Powell. Attending virtually; Councilwoman Edie Dondero, and excused absence; Councilman Derek Abbott, Public attendance: 0 Virtual attendance: 4

Public Comment

No public comment.

Discussion of FEMA-provided information regarding draft Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM)

Code Enforcement Officer Joe Hinks briefly reviewed the FEMA submitted 30-Day Data Submission Notification validating the draft Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) database for the Town of South Bethany. The engineering data will form the basis of the new digital flood insurance rate map. Mr. Hinks noted this is all in draft format with the subject to change and available on the FEMA website for review. Mayor Saxton stated the data, once finalized, will be the basis to issue the new LOMRs for the Town.

Discussion of potential American Rescue Plan (ARPA) projects, reimbursement of premium pay and possible action on moving forward with the creation of a stormwater plan

Town Manager Hartman mentioned ARPA will reimburse COVID related premium pay, which was previously distributed to two employees. Council agreed that the premium pay has already processed through the Operating Budget and to use the ARPA funds for bigger projects such as a stormwater plan, which Council agreed it could exceed the ARPA funding of \$287,000. Councilman Shaw noted the Resiliency Implementation Plan proposal does not give a total estimate cost of a stormwater plan. Mr. Brent Jett, Engineer from George, Miles & Buhr, LLC explained the proposal submitted is to provide engineering services with phases and project scopes in the amount of \$58,275 but the cost of the final stormwater plan will depend on the level of risk and a 50% projection for the year 2050 or a 90% projection for the year 2100. Council agreed a Resiliency Implementation Plan is needed to initiate the project. Councilwoman Callaway suggested some of the ARPA funds could support updating the audio/visual system in the Council room.

Discussion and possible action on moving forward with architectural designs and bid documents for Town Hall renovations

Mayor Saxton noted the audio/visual technology should be upgraded during the Town Hall renovations and Councilman Shaw offered his technical services. Motion by Councilman Shaw, seconded by Councilman Oliver to move forward with the architectural designs and obtain construction bid documents based on schematic designs provided at the Town Council August 13, 2021 meeting. Motion carried 6-0.

Discussion of remote participation at Town Council and Committee meetings

Mayor Saxton opened a discussion regarding the current Council and Committee guidelines and remote participation. Some of the comments were to consider purchasing individual microphones vs using table mics at the Dias, review different audio and visual platforms, research the cause of the audio problems in the current system, review other internet resources, the direction of audio or visual in the future, and consider a short-term fix along with the long-term renovations of Town Hall. Mayor Saxton stated this discussion will be reviewed again at the Town Council Workshop meeting on September 23, 2021.

Discussion of fines for proposed Ordinance 203-21

Upon further review of the First reading of Ordinance 203-21, §42-16, it is noted the civil penalties do not have a dollar value. Chief Lovins commented when an officer writes a citation for a violation of an Ordinance, it would be informative to include a dollar amount. He also stated most of the Town code states criminal penalties, which makes it hard to support since State and Federal law recognizes most Town ordinances and penalties fall under a civil act. Councilman Shaw suggested the Charter and Code Committee review the Town Code where criminal penalties should be reviewed and considered changed to civil penalties, upon review from the Town Solicitor, Code Enforcement Officer, Chief and Council. Council unanimously agreed to adopt a Resolution to revise and add fines to the Schedule of Fees at the Town Council meeting on September 10, 2021.

Adjournment

Motion by Councilman Oliver, seconded by Councilman Shaw, to adjourn the August 26, 2021, Town Council Workshop at 3: 58 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.