

**TOWN OF SOUTH BETHANY
TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES
OCTOBER 28, 2021
3:00 P.M.**

Call Meeting to Order

Mayor Saxton called the October 28, 2021, Town Council Budget Workshop to order at 3:00 p.m.

Announcement of Attendance and Absences

In attendance were Mayor Saxton, Councilmembers Derek Abbott, Randy Bartholomew, Edie Dondero, Dick Oliver, and Tim Shaw, Town Manager Maureen Hartman, Administrative Specialist Janet Powell, Code Enforcement Officer Joe Hinks, and Beach Patrol Captain Dacey. Sue Callaway attended remotely. Public attendance: 4. Virtual attendance: 5.

Public Comment

Nina Link, 114 Elizabeth Way, asked why there is a discussion regarding lighting on S. Anchorage Drive on today's agenda when most of the property owners are not in favor of additional lighting. Mayor Saxton stated the lighting issue will be discussed in today's meeting.

Discussion of keeping one beach access walk open and designating as an emergency egress

Captain Dacey approached the Council requesting to keep one beach access walk open and designate as an emergency egress to allow for SBBP and BBVFC emergency equipment to access the beach, recommending S 1st Street. Council agreed with the request, and Mayor Saxton asked Town Manager Hartman to work with DNREC regarding the allowable width of a wooden walkway at S 1st Street which will allow pedestrian and emergency access.

Discussion and possible action of GMB and Anchor QEA proposals for town-wide stormwater projects utilizing ARPA funds

Mayor Saxton opened the discussion of GMB and Anchor QEA's proposals for town-wide stormwater projects utilizing ARPA funds. The majority of the councilmembers decided to move forward with the GMB proposal. Motion by Councilwoman Dondero, seconded by Councilman Shaw, to accept GMB's proposal budgeted utilizing ARPA funds up to \$60,000. Motion carried 6-1, Councilman Oliver dissenting.

Discussion of lighting on S Anchorage Drive

Mayor Saxton opened the discussion for lighting on S Anchorage Drive per a public comment at the Town Council October 8, 2021 meeting and eight inquiries from residents. Mayor Saxton stated the Planning Commission's Comprehensive Plan 5-year survey results state that 60% of the property owners do not want additional lighting, but noted the survey was directional data. Councilwoman Callaway suggested the Council create a specific survey to residents on S Anchorage Drive only. Councilman Shaw recommended that if lighting is based on safety issues it should be taken into consideration. Councilmembers Bartholomew and Oliver suggested property owners install motion activated lighting on their homes. Councilwoman Dondero questioned what the safety issues were and suggested collecting the comments and having a discussion with the

police. Chief Lovins stated there has been no crime or incidences due to poor lighting in Town. Mayor Saxton asked if a property owner could place a decorative street pole and light on their property. Code Enforcement Officer Joe Hinks stated that a pole on a residential property is a structure and will need to abide to the setbacks of the zoning code. Councilwoman Dondero noted having decorative streetlights could possibly have a greater impact on light pollution and night sky visibility than installing a single streetlight. Mayor Saxton recommended Town Manager Hartman contact Delmarva Power regarding streetlight options on S Anchorage Drive prior to taking any further action.

Discussion of lowering the current speed limit along the Route 1 corridor from 35 mph to 30 mph from May 1 – October 15

Mayor Rosemary Hardiman, Town of Bethany Beach, has contacted surrounding towns and the Town of South Bethany requesting DelDOT lower the current speed from 35 to 30 mph on Route 1 during May 1st thru October 15th. Chief Lovins stated if you lower the speed from 35 to 30 mph you are saving 27 feet of stopping time which allows the operator of a vehicle to observe and react to an accident. Chief Lovins noted that since 2016 until the present, there has not been one speed related collision on Route 1 in South Bethany; most of the collisions are distracted drivers. Councilwoman Dondero also noted in her research on vehicle and pedestrian collision and survivability, the chances of an accident being fatal more than doubles between 40 mph vs 30 mph. It was agreed that if the Town supports lowering the speed limit it should be year-round. Mayor Saxton stated he will go back to Mayor Hardiman proposing reducing from 35 mph to 30 mph year round.

Adjournment

Motion by Councilman Shaw, seconded by Councilman Abbott, to adjourn the October 28, 2021, Town Council Workshop at 4:17 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.