

**TOWN OF SOUTH BETHANY
TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 8, 2022
10:00 A.M.**

Meeting Called to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Saxton called the April 8, 2022, Town Council Regular Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Attendance and Absences

In attendance were Mayor Tim Saxton and Councilmembers Randall Bartholomew, Sue Callaway, Edie Dondero, Dick Oliver, Tim Shaw; and Town Manager, Maureen Hartman, Administrative Specialist, Janet Powell; and Chief Jason Lovins. Councilman Derek Abbott had an excused absence. Public attendees: 0; remote attendees: 7.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Adoption of Minutes

Motion by Councilman Shaw, seconded by Councilwoman Dondero; to adopt the March 11, 2022 Town Council Regular Meeting minutes. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Councilman Oliver, seconded by Councilman Shaw to adopt the March 24, 2022 Town Council Workshop Meeting minutes. Motion carried 6-0.

Comcast Update

Code Enforcement Officer Joe Hinks and Town Manager Maureen Hartman expressed concerns regarding the submittal of Comcast permit applications that involved the potential for 126 roadcuts at various intersections and asked Comcast representatives Chris Comer and Alex Hodjatzadeh to provide updates. Mr. Comer explained that the roadcuts are required to provide homes located on the opposite side of the road with service, since poles are not located on both sides of the streets.

Mr. Hodjatzadeh provided other avenues that Comcast can establish, such as conducting an outreach campaign to survey which property owners are interested in their services and only do road cuts in those specific locations; and return later to do additional service requests. Mayor Saxton and Council unanimously agreed to complete all roadcuts now versus returning later. Councilmembers asked when cable packages and rates will be available, and voiced concern of any damages from the roadcuts to the streets. Mr. Hodiatazadeh answered that the marketing department will be providing all property owners with information as the services become available, the roadcuts will not be complete in May, all roadcuts will have temporary patchwork so the streets are drivable, and Comcast commits to all final road repairs with GMB engineer Andrew Lyons reviewing the repaired road work for approval.

Discussion and possible action on Resolution 2-22, to set the FY 2023 Property Tax and Rental Tax Rates

Motioned by Councilman Shaw, seconded by Councilman Oliver to adopt Resolution 2-22, to set the FY 2023 Property Tax and Rental Tax Rates. Motion carried 6-0.

Action on Resolution 3-22 to approve the FY 2023 Budget and Capital Budget

Motioned by Councilman Shaw, seconded by Councilman Oliver, to approve the FY 2023 Budget and Capital Budget. Motion carried 6-0.

Discussion and possible action on the Sussex County Rental Transfer Tax Grant application

Mayor Saxton stated the Town has been awarded \$117,966 from the Sussex County Rental Transfer Tax grant with the stipulation that the Town will match anything over \$100,000, which is \$17,966. Council unanimously agreed to use the grant for the Town Hall building renovations and once a bid has been awarded, the Town will submit the grant application.

Discussion and possible action with the Comprehensive Plan Update

Council submitted edits and unanimously agreed that all edits be kept to a minimum on the draft five-year CP Update. Mayor Saxton proposed Councilmembers Dick Oliver and Edie Dondero work with Planning Commission Chair Joe Conway to update the draft with minimum updates only.

Leadership Reports

Mayor's Report – no report but added the ACT meeting had a presentation on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and there may be opportunities for flood mitigation grants.

Town Manager Report – report submitted and added ARPA will be distributing a second tranche to the State in June and the State will have 30 days to distribute the money to the municipalities; and noted an error in the Coastal Point stating Jay Vending will be providing services on Ocean Drive, which is incorrect, Jay Vending will be providing services on the beach.

Police Chief Report – report submitted.

Treasurer Report – report submitted.

Committee and Commission Reports

Budget and Finance Committee – report submitted.

Canal Water Quality Committee – no report.

Charter and Code Committee – no report.

Communications and Public Relations Committee – report submitted.

Community Enhancement Committee – report submitted and noted the Sandpiper Village Homeowners Association will be donating \$500 for FY2023 to the CEC for beautification efforts.

Planning Commission – no report.

Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety Ad Hoc Committee –report submitted.

Adjournment

Motion by Councilman Oliver, seconded by Councilwoman Dondero to adjourn the April 8, 2022 Town Council Regular Meeting at 11:05 a.m. Motion carried 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Council Secretary

Administrative Specialist

Date of Approval