

**TOWN OF SOUTH BETHANY  
TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES  
JULY 27, 2022  
5:00 p.m.**

**Meeting Called to Order**

Mayor Saxton called the July 27, 2022, Town Council Workshop Meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**Attendance and Absences**

In attendance were Mayor Tim Saxton and Councilmembers Derek Abbott, Randall Bartholomew, Bob Biciocchi, Edie Dondero, Dick Oliver, Tim Shaw; and Town Manager Maureen Hartman, Administrative Specialist Janet Powell, and Chief Jason Lovins. Public attendee: 47, remote attendees: 31.

**Public Comment**

No Public Comment.

**Presentation by US Wind on Offshore Wind Project**

Mike Dunmyer from US Wind presented an overview on the offshore wind project stating 76 turbines will be in an offshore leasing area 12-27 miles from Ocean City, Md with three offshore substations in Delaware noting US Wind sought the least disruptive path guided by environmental and technical studies. Mr. Dunmyer pointed out that horizontal directional drilling and cables will be buried to avoid contact with the beaches, dunes, and wetlands. The project's next step is to be assessed against all federal environmental laws through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Construction is projected to start in 2024 and the offshore wind project is expected to provide energy to more than 340,000 homes, numerous job opportunities, and investments to the local communities. Mr. Dunmyer provided a U Tube Timelapse Simulation of Wind Turbines viewed from 84<sup>th</sup> Street, Ocean City, Maryland and noted the US Wind Construction and Operations Plan (COP) is located on the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) website and that many questions can be answered from information provided at [www.boem.gov](http://www.boem.gov).

Mr. Dunmyer answered several questions from the Town of South Bethany and Fenwick Island property owners, noting the State of Maryland initiated the project with a stipulation that jobs be created in Maryland, with some work force in Delaware. Other information provided is as follows: Maryland rate payers will be utilizing and paying for the energy provided, an operations and maintenance facility will be located in Ocean City, Maryland; the mono piles (platforms) will be built and barged down the Chesapeake Bay to the Atlantic Ocean and installed during a period of time when marine mammals are least likely to be in the area, a NOAA certified observer will be on board to verify the area is completely clear of marine mammals for sixty minutes prior to mono pile installation, the turbines will provide marine navigational lighting and sound marking five nautical miles out for boats and ships to navigate safely, turbine material is recyclable, turbine life expectancy is a minimum of 25 years, turbines are tolerable to high winds, harsh conditions, certified to withstand a direct hit of a Category 2 hurricane, will be visible on the horizon at nighttime, and cable installation (working with the Army Corp of Engineers) will be installed underground at two preferred locations around the Indian River Inlet: 3Rs or Tower Road beaches. Mr. Dunmyer concluded by stating if there is a wind drought, the goal of renewable energy is to provide geothermal, on-shore and off-shore wind, and solar technology with fossil fuel as a backup to create a greater diversity of renewable energy in the future.

Mayor Saxton thanked Mr. Dunmyer for the informative presentation and noted the US Wind documents and the Town Council workshop meeting audio recording will be posted on the town website.

Town Council unanimously agreed to endorse Mayor Saxton's continued work with the Association of Coastal Town (ACT) to support the town's interest to keep informed with US Wind, Orsted, and the State of Delaware.

**Adjournment**

Motion by Councilwoman Dondero, seconded by Councilman Oliver to adjourn the July 27, 2022 Town Council Workshop meeting at 6:35 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

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Council Secretary

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Administrative Specialist

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Date of Approval