

**TOWN OF SOUTH BETHANY
TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES
MARCH 22, 2023
5:00 p.m.**

Meeting Called to Order

Mayor Saxton called the March 22, 2023, Town Council Workshop Meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Attendance and Absences

In attendance were Mayor Tim Saxton and Councilmembers Derek Abbott (via phone), Randall Bartholomew, Bob Biciocchi, Edie Dondero, Dick Oliver, Tim Shaw; and Town Manager Maureen Hartman, and Town Finance Director Renee McDorman. Public attendees: 4.

Mayor Saxton requested amending today's agenda to include an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters which must be held today. Councilman Dick Oliver motioned to approve amending the agenda to include an Executive Session. Councilman Tim Shaw seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters in which the names, competency and abilities of individual employees will be discussed. §29 DEL C. 1004(b)(9)

Councilwoman Edie Dondero motioned to go into Executive Session at 5:02 p.m. Councilman Shaw seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion to reconvene the Town Council meeting and discussion and possible action on matters discussed in Executive Session

Councilman Shaw motioned to exit Executive Session and reconvene the Town Council meeting at 5:25 p.m. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0. Councilman Shaw motioned to approve the item discussed during Executive Session. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

Mayor Saxton stated the Council would be discussing item four (4) on the agenda before item three (3).

Discussion and possible action to approve additional funds for the algae harvesting project that will be conducted by Solitude Lake Management.

Councilman Shaw stated the Canal Water Quality Committee (CWQ) wanted to verify that Solitude could get their equipment into the canals as well as locating some spots along the canals where it would be possible for Solitude to bring a "floating dumpster" to collect the algae as they move along the canal. Councilman Shaw confirmed there is a property where the equipment can launch from but there is an issue in that Solitude did not supply a barge since they usually have spots along a lake to dump; but since that won't work along South Bethany's canals, Solitude has quoted the Town a fee of two-thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) per day for use of a barge, which Councilman Shaw told them that price should've already been included in the original pricing quote. Councilman Shaw stated after a heated discussion with Solitude, they have agreed to revise the price to eleven-thousand-four-hundred-ninety-six dollars (\$11,496.00) for two (2) weeks (rather than the original \$20,000.00). Councilman Shaw stated the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) is going to allow the Town to use its truck and driver to haul the algae over to the dump site, so there will be no fee for that. Councilman Shaw stated the problem is that the Town's front-loader is not big enough to reach up into DNREC's truck, so the Town will have to rent a larger front-loader, of which the Town has a quote of one-thousand-three-hundred-sixty-four dollars and six cents (\$1,364.06) per week or two-thousand-seven-hundred-twenty-eight dollars and twelve cents (\$2,728.12) for two weeks. Councilman Shaw stated the Town has ten-thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) budgeted for this but they will now need a total of fourteen-thousand-

two-hundred-twenty-four dollars and twelve cents (\$14,224.12) for those additions, and Councilman Shaw is looking to increase the amount allocated for this budget by roughly five-thousand dollars (\$5,000.00).

Councilman Shaw motioned to add five-thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) to this budget item for additional needed equipment to harvest the algae in the canals. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

FY 2024 draft Operating budget, Capital budget and Reserve allocation review

Councilman Randy Bartholomew stated he doesn't really have any adjustments other than what was just approved for the CWQ, and Councilman Bartholomew recommends Council find said money out of the consultant line so the budget will still break even. Councilwoman Dondero asked if Councilman Bartholomew was mentioning the consultant line meant the third party contractor budget line in CWQ. Mayor Saxton stated Councilman Bartholomew is referencing the consultant line on page three (3) of the distributed report. Councilwoman Dondero asked, regarding page eleven (11), under the capital budget, with additional funds for street maintenance, is the thirty-thousand dollars (\$30,000.00) which got added in a part of year two (2) of the three (3)-year maintenance plan? Councilman Bartholomew stated yes, the thirty-thousand dollars (\$30,000.00) plus the Municipal Street Aid (MSA) brings it to eighty-five-thousand dollars (\$85,000.00). Councilwoman Dondero asked Town Manager Maureen Hartman to send her what specifically was in the plan.

Public Comment

Mr. Marlin Van Horn, 12 S. Anchorage Avenue, asked, regarding the algae removal, if Council waits to have the algae harvested until it covers the canal, or does Council wait until the algae starts collecting a certain amount and then have it harvested over a couple of weeks. Councilman Shaw stated it's difficult to guess when the algae is "going to hit," but CWQ tries to keep track of when it starts building; so, they pick the dates they do so they can get the canals quickly cleaned before residents' boats are in the water and have the availability of trucks by DNREC to remove the algae.

Adjournment

Motion by Councilman Shaw, seconded by Councilwoman Dondero to adjourn the March 22, 2023, Town Council Workshop meeting at 5:55 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Council Secretary

Town Clerk

Date of Approval