

**TOWN OF SOUTH BETHANY
TOWN COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 24, 2023
5:00 p.m.**

Meeting Called to Order

Mayor Saxton called the May 24, 2023, Town Council Organizational 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, Tim Shaw; and Town Manager Maureen Hartman, and Town Clerk Matt Amerling. Public attendees: 3.

Public Comment

There were no comments.

Mayor Swearing In New Council Members: Tim Shaw & Edie Dondero

Councilman Shaw and Councilwoman Dondero were sworn in by Mayor Saxton.

Appointment and action for Mayor Pro-Tem, Secretary, and Treasurer

Mayor Saxton appointed Councilman Tim Shaw as Mayor Pro-Tem; Councilwoman Edie Dondero as Secretary; and Councilman Randy Bartholomew as Treasurer. Motion by Councilman Abbott to approve the appointment, seconded by Councilman Shaw. Motion carried 6-0.

Review and possible action to approve the Procedural Guidelines for Town Council

Councilman Abbott motioned to approve the Council Procedural Guidelines. Councilman Bartholomew seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Mayor Saxton stated he is adding to tonight's agenda the review and possible action to approve the Committee Guidelines. Mayor Saxton stated he would like to add on page three, under the "Responsibilities of the Liaison/Chairperson," "The Town Council Liaison is the Committee member responsible for communications with, and requests of, the Town Manager and Town staff." The council agreed. Councilman Shaw stated on page ten, under the Canal Water Quality (CWQ) section, he thinks the terms "fishable and swimmable" are not reasonable and would like to have them omitted. Councilman Abbott suggested ending the sentence after the word "network," so the first sentence now reads, "To improve water quality within the South Bethany canal network." Council agreed. Councilman Bob Biciocchi suggested changing that first sentence to "To improve water quality and protect navigability within the South Bethany canal network."

Councilman Abbott motioned to approve the Committee Guidelines with amendments as stated. Councilman Biciocchi seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Discussion and possible action to appoint a Town Council Liaison for the Planning Commission

Mayor Saxton tabled the item.

Discussion and possible action to appoint Planning Commission members for one- and two-year terms

Mayor Saxton tabled the item as there were not enough submissions.

Committee Assignments – Appointment and possible action on Chairpersons and Members

- A. **Budget & Finance Committee:** Councilman Shaw motioned to appoint Councilman Bartholomew as chairperson, with members Don Boteler, Colin Chasler, Steve Farrow, Rob Gensler, Joe Mormando, Chris Keefe, and Cindy Van Horn. Councilman Abbott seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.
- B. **Canal Water Quality Committee:** Councilman Abbott motioned to appoint Councilman Shaw as Liaison, Chris Vanuga as chairman, with members John Beaugard, Christopher Carlyle, Robert Fisher, Gary Lessing, Joan Marini, John Roberts, Peter Trelenberg, and David Wilson. Councilwoman Dondero seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.
- C. **Charter & Code Committee:** Councilman Shaw motioned to appoint Councilman Abbott as chairperson, with members Tom Barletta, Bob Biciocchi, Carl Bittenbender, and Steven Chantler. Councilman Abbott seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.
- D. **Community Relations Committee:** Councilman Shaw motioned to appoint Councilwoman Dondero as chairperson, with members Lisi Biciocchi, Ingrid Moore, and Catherine Peck. Councilman Abbott seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Review, discussion and possible action to appoint a candidate for the vacant Council seat

Mayor Saxton stated after reviewing the three applicants, while he commends all for wanting to be proactive with the Town, he nominates Christine Keefe as his choice for the Council seat. All Councilpersons agreed. Councilwoman Dondero expressed disappointment in the nomination process and thought that Council should have had the opportunity to interview the candidates during an open public meeting. Councilman Abbott motioned to appoint Christine Keefe to fill the Council seat. Councilman Shaw seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0. Councilwoman Keefe was sworn in by Mayor Saxton.

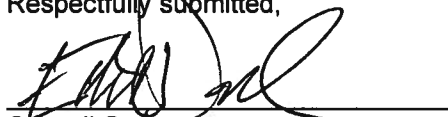
Review the 2023-2024 Meeting Schedule

Mayor Saxton asked Council if they would like to keep the workshop meetings at the current meet time of the fourth Wednesday of the month at 5 p.m. Councilman Abbott stated he would prefer changing the Council workshop meeting day and time to either the fourth Monday at either 9 a.m. or 5 p.m., or the fourth Friday at either 9 a.m. or 5 p.m. Council chose to hold the Council workshop meetings on the fourth Friday of the month at 9 a.m.


Adjournment

Motion by Councilman Shaw, seconded by Councilman Biciocchi to adjourn the May 24, 2023, Town Council Organizational meeting at 5:39 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Council Secretary



Town Clerk

6/9/2023
Date of Approval