

**TOWN OF SOUTH BETHANY
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 9, 2023
9:00 A.M.**

Meeting Called to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Saxton called the June 9, 2023, Town Council meeting to order at 9:02 a.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Attendance and Absences

In attendance were Mayor Tim Saxton and Councilmembers Randy Bartholomew, Bob Biciocchi, Edie Dondero, Chris Keefe, and Tim Shaw; Town Manager Maureen Hartman, Chief Jason Lovins, and Town Clerk Matt Amerling. Councilman Derek Abbott was absent. Public attendees: 7. Virtual attendees: 5.

Public Comment

Pam Boland, 400 N. Ocean Drive, requested that South Bethany allow dogs on the beach before the hours of 8 a.m. and after the hours of 6 p.m. during the summer months.

Dennis Franks, 2 N. 6th Street, stated he wanted to thank the Town for the bicycle racks. Dr. Franks stated there is the problem of pile driving and major construction during the time from May 15 to Labor Day and he is asking the Town to consider prohibiting such construction activity in the summer season as most towns do. Dr. Franks stated another issue is with the properties along Ocean Drive, the grass is growing high. Mayor Saxton stated in relation to the pile-driving and construction, that issue will be touched on at the June Council workshop meeting as the construction Code will be reviewed at that time.

Joy Franks, 2 N. 6th Street, stated she would like the Council to review possibly making certain restrictions on the amount of, or containment of, alcohol on the beach due to large crowds who also occasionally leave behind either trash bags full of cans or bottles.

Adoption of Minutes

Motion by Councilwoman Edie Dondero, second by Councilman Randy Bartholomew to adopt the May 12, 2023, Town Council Meeting minutes. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Councilwoman Dondero, second by Councilman Bartholomew to adopt the May 19, 2023, Town Council Special Meeting minutes. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilwoman Dondero requested, regard the May 24, 2023, Town Council Organizational Meeting minutes, the word "chose" is changed to "nominates" on page 2, and under the Council appointing a new Council member, the sentence be added after Council persons 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 Bob Biciocchi motioned to adopt the May 24, 2023, Town Council Organizational Meeting minutes, with amendments, seconded by Councilman Tim Shaw. Motion carried 7-0.

Discussion and possible action to adopt Resolution 5-23, Recognizing Councilman Dick Oliver (Mayor)

Councilwoman Dondero requested to add language to the second “whereas” paragraph, so it reads “Dick began his service to the Town on the Planning Commission, where he served for nine years.” Councilman Shaw motioned to adopt Resolution 5-23 with amendments, seconded by Councilwoman Dondero. Motion carried 7-0.

Discussion and possible action on revisions to the Purchasing Policy (Bartholomew/Hartman)

Councilman Randy Bartholomew stated he wanted to come back to Council with a purchasing policy draft which reflects a green policy in the Town’s purchasing efforts. Councilman Bartholomew stated he will provide language and this item will be discussed at the June 23 workshop. Mayor Saxton tabled this item.

Discussion and possible action to appoint Planning Commission members for staggered 2-year and 3-year terms, and to appoint a Town Council Point of Contact for the Commission (Mayor)

Mayor Saxton stated his suggestion for the Planning Commission members in terms of the 2-year or 3-year staggering membership is as follows: for two-year terms, Joe Conway, Rob Gensler, and Steven Chantler; and for three-year terms, Brian Gander, Steven Gallagher, Richard Dallaire, and Fred Reitzel. Mayor Saxton stated Commission member Jane Bonbright would retain her current term, which expires in May 2024. Councilwoman Dondero motioned to approve the nomination of members for their respective 2-year and 3-year terms, seconded by Councilman Shaw. Motion carried 7-0.

Mayor Saxton stated he would like to nominate Councilwoman Chris Keefe as the Council point of contact for the Planning Commission. Councilman Shaw motioned to approve Councilwoman Keefe as the Planning Commission Council Point of Contact. Councilman Bartholomew seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-1, with Councilman Biciocchi dissenting.

Discussion of potential fees and fines for violations of Town Code Chapter 42, Building Construction (Mayor)

After a lengthy discussion, Council agreed upon having Town Manager Hartman, Code Enforcement Officer Hinks, and the Town Solicitor draft an ordinance addressing fines so the first offense includes a stop-work order as well as a fine being charged to the responsible contractor, with a letter being sent to the property owner; and, when necessary, a second offense fine being billed directly to the property owner.

Leadership Reports

Mayor’s Report – Report submitted.
Town Manager Report – report submitted.
Police Chief Report – report submitted.
Treasurer Report – report submitted.

Committee and Commission Reports

Budget and Finance Committee – Report submitted.
Canal Water Quality Committee – Report submitted, and the CWQ will be meeting next week.
Charter and Code Committee – No report submitted.
Community Relations Committee – Report submitted.
Planning Commission – No report submitted.

Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety Ad Hoc Committee – Report submitted.

Adjournment

Motion by Councilman Shaw, second by Councilman Biciocchi, to adjourn the June 9, 2023, Town Council Regular Meeting at 10:35 a.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Council Secretary



Town Clerk

7/14/2023
Date of Approval