

**TOWN OF SOUTH BETHANY  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 13, 2024  
9:00 A.M.**

**Meeting Called to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Dondero called the September 13, 2024, Town Council meeting to order at 9:02 a.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Attendance and Absences**

In attendance were Mayor Edie Dondero and Councilmembers Bob Biciocchi, Chris Keefe, Bob Shields, and Cindy Van Horn; Town Manager Maureen Hartman, and Town Clerk Matt Amerling. Councilmembers Randy Bartholomew and Tim Shaw were absent. Public attendees: 6. Virtual attendees: 7.

**Public Comment**

Tim Saxton, 24 Peterson Drive, stated he wanted to thank the Council for presenting the capital needs plan and keeping it a priority. Regarding the stormwater infrastructure project, it has potential to affect the York Road and Cat Hill projects, so maintaining it on the timeline is important. Mr. Saxton stated he hopes the review will include both in-house personnel needs and potential outside vendor support as needed. He supports Councilwoman Keefe's comment to refer the plan to the Budget and Finance Committee (B&F) since the committee was created to assist with Town finances and make recommendations to the Town Council.

Rob Gensler, 806 S. Ocean Drive, stated he would like Council to be informed that, regarding the presentation later today on the GIS, he is involved with the nonprofit contractor who is presenting.

**Adoption of Minutes**

Councilman Bob Shields motioned to approve the August 9, 2024, Town Council meeting minutes, seconded by Councilman Bob Biciocchi. Motion carried 5-0.

Councilwoman Chris Keefe requested on page two, the third line down of the August 23, 2024, Council workshop meeting, the words "stormwater drainage" should be stricken after the word "infrastructure" as they were wrongfully stated at the meeting. Councilman Shields motioned to approve the August 23, 2024, Town Council Workshop meeting minutes with the amendment proposed, seconded by Councilman Biciocchi. Motion carried 5-0.

**Presentation by Justin Madron, Associate Director of Center for Geospatial Solutions, regarding the Public GIS program for the Town**

Justin Madron, of the Center for Geospatial Solutions, walked through the publicly accessible GIS mapping data that will soon be available on the Town's website. Geographic information system (GIS) technology takes data from the flat, physical paper view and turns it into digital data.

**Appointment of Patricia Jaicks to a three-year term on the Board of Adjustment**

Mayor Dondero stated one member of the Board of Adjustment (BOA) stepped down, so she would like to nominate Patricia Jaicks, who previously applied to a vacancy on the BOA, to fill the empty seat. Councilman Bob Biciocchi motioned to appoint Patricia Jaicks to a three-year term on the BOA, seconded by Councilman Shields. Motion carried 5-0.

### **Discussion and possible vote to establish a beach curfew of 10:00 pm for juveniles (Shields/Lovins)**

Councilman Bob Shields stated he spoke with Chief Jason Lovins, who indicated that over the course of this past summer, there were several occasions when there were a lot of hijinks going on at the beach in the late evening, so they both are requesting an ordinance to create a curfew of ten p.m. for anyone under the age of 18. Councilman Shields asked Chief Lovins how this curfew would be enforced, to which Chief Lovins stated this would be more of a deterrent and "an extra tool" to help maintain orderly conduct and safety on the beach after hours.

Councilwoman Chris Keefe stated she wished that Chief Lovins was present to help answer questions. Councilman Bob Biciocchi stated he would like to hear a little more data on why this is necessary. Mayor Dondero stated she also has concerns about how this would be enforced. Councilman Biciocchi suggested leaving this with the Mayor to follow up on with Chief Lovins and then decide whether or not to have this at a future meeting. Council agreed.

### **Discussion and possible vote on establishing a Safety Committee (Shields)**

Councilman Shields proposed the creation of a Safety Committee to look at highway, pedestrian, bicycle, boating, and water safety issues in the Town. The scope of the committee is essentially the same as that of the former Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Committee, but with additional areas of interest and enforcement.

After a lengthy discussion, Council agreed to continue to keep an eye on safety issues and address them as needed, but did not feel the creation of a committee was necessary at this time.

### **Discussion and possible vote to recommend the creation of a noise ordinance (Dondero)**

Mayor Dondero stated she is bringing up this item at the request of residents. Mayor Dondero stated she is looking for a simple ordinance that establishes a cut-off time in the evening, after which noise disturbances can be shut down by the police department. Council can discuss details later, but her goal here today is to see if there is enough interest from the Council in pushing this forward.

Councilman Biciocchi questioned if this ordinance would also address early morning construction noise. Mayor Dondero stated noise associated with construction sites is already addressed in the Code. Councilwoman Keefe stated she likes the idea of the noise ordinance because it also would cover the previously introduced concerns regarding a curfew. Councilwoman Van Horn stated she also likes the idea of a noise ordinance.

Town Manager Hartman asked if Council was looking to create a stand-alone ordinance or to amend the Peace and Good Order ordinance. Mayor Dondero stated that would depend on the recommendation of Mr. Hinks, the police department and the Charter & Code Committee, and whatever they think is the most enforceable for the police department. Council agreed to move forward with assigning this to Mr. Hinks and the Charter & Code Committee.

### **Leadership Reports**

Mayor's Report – Report submitted. Mayor Dondero reported the Town received word in late August from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) that they have officially reinstated the Back Bay study, something the Town has been hoping and pushing for quite some time. This is a much larger scale, regional study that is looking at flood mitigation measures in the inland bays, and it's being funded almost exclusively by the USACE, with a small portion from DNREC.

Town Manager Report – Report submitted. Town Manager Hartman gave kudos to the South Bethany Beach Patrol (SBBP) 2024 lifeguard of the year, Meg Macauly.

Police Chief Report – Report submitted.  
Treasurer Report – Report submitted.

**Committee and Commission Reports**

Budget and Finance Committee – No report submitted.  
Canal Water Quality Committee – No report submitted but their next meeting is Monday, September 16, at 10 a.m.  
Charter and Code Committee – Report submitted.  
Community Relations Committee – Report submitted, and their next meeting is Wednesday, October 2, at 10 a.m.  
Planning Commission – Report submitted. The Planning Commission met September 6 to discuss the splitting of a lot on Ocean Drive.  
Resiliency Committee – Report submitted. The Resiliency Committee met September 4, with the project manager from AECOM, who is leading the York Road flood mitigation projects. The project is continuing and it's a bit challenging in that the elevations of York Road are even lower than anticipated, being as much as one foot lower than what they were listed in the last lidar data graph. The options for what can be done there are limited, coupled with the fact that, as anticipated, the soil beneath York Road is very poor, particularly at the first bend in York Road. AECOM will be presenting its data at a Council meeting either in October or November.

**Adjournment**

Motion by Councilman Shields, seconded by Councilman Biciocchi, to adjourn the September 13, 2024, Town Council Regular Meeting at 10:12 a.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

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Council Secretary

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Town Clerk

10/11/2024  
Date of Approval