

**TOWN OF SOUTH BETHANY  
TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 24, 2025  
9:00 A.M.**

**Meeting Called to Order**

Mayor Dondero called the October 24, 2025, Town Council Workshop meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

**Attendance and Absences**

In attendance were Mayor Edie Dondero and Councilmembers Randy Bartholomew, Bob Biciocchi, Mark Giler, Chris Keefe, Bob Shields, and Cindy Van Horn; Town Solicitor Elio Batista, Police Chief Jason Lovins, and Town Clerk Matt Amerling. Town Manager Maureen Hartman was absent. Public attendees: 15. Virtual attendees: 15.

**State of the canals presentation and discussion (Biciocchi)**

Canal Water Quality Committee (CWQ) member Chris Vanuga and Councilman Bob Biciocchi highlighted the need for a shift from experimental solutions to engineering-driven approaches to address water quality issues, including structural improvements and enhanced stormwater management. The CWQ recommended forming a task force to explore engineering solutions and evaluate the benefits and costs of potential projects. Council members discussed the possibility of authorizing an engineering study to develop a plan for improving canal water quality and infrastructure. Council agreed to consider CWQ's recommendations and whether to explore further actions to address the canal system's challenges.

**Discussion of possible amendment of Code Chapter 17, Participation in Meetings by Remote Electronic Access for Council, Committee and Commission Members, §17.3 and §17.4 (Giler)**

After a lengthy discussion, Council agreed to have Town Solicitor Elio Batista amend the ordinance to remove restrictions on the number of remote committee member participants for committee meetings, the percentage of committee meetings a committee member can attend remotely, in Chapter 17-2, deleting the term "unavoidable circumstances," and striking the part in Chapter 17-3(F) about a member not being able to participate if they join the meeting late; but keep the requirement for a quorum to be physically present since Council was divided on that issue and they can discuss it further at the first ordinance reading.

**Discussion of recommendation by B&PSC to reduce speed limit town-wide (Shields)**

Councilman Bob Shields and the Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety Committee (B&PSC) recommended reducing the town-wide speed limit to 15 miles per hour (mph) – except for Route 1 and Kent Avenue. Police Chief Jason Lovins stated he was not in agreement that the reduction of the speed limit was needed. Mayor Dondero stated she received four emails from property owners saying they were adamantly opposed to the speed limit reduction, and one person was in favor of it. Council decided to not move forward with the speed limit reduction unless Chief Lovins were to provide more data to deem such a change necessary.

**Public Comment**

Dennis Roberts, 107 Canal Drive, stated he is a member of the Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety Committee (B&PSC), and he thinks more police officers need to be hired, and the speed limit should be reduced as proposed.

Mark O'Brien, 209 Anchorage Drive, stated he is a member of the B&PSC, and he thinks the speed limit should be reduced as proposed.

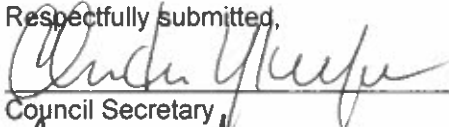
Rick Rosso, 106 Elizabeth Way, stated his wife, Beth, is a member of the B&PSC, and he thinks the speed limit should be reduced as proposed.

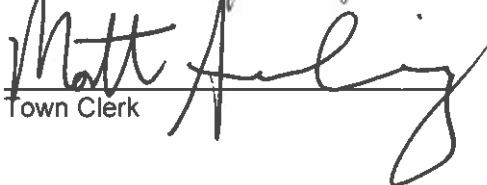
Robert Merriam, 134 Evergreen Road, stated he doesn't think individual behavior is going to be changed by reducing the speed limit. He thinks the digital speed limit sign that shows the speed does help somewhat, but thinks it may be more effective to get the signs that have the red and blue police blinking lights on them, because a driver's first instinct is that there may be a police officer there, which gets people's attention and is more of an incentive to slow them down.

#### **Adjournment**

Motion by Councilman Biciocchi, seconded by Councilwoman Keefe, to adjourn the October 24, 2025, Town Council Workshop Meeting at 11:01 a.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Council Secretary

  
Town Clerk

11/14/2025  
Date of Approval