

**TOWN OF SOUTH BETHANY
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 14, 2025
9:00 A.M.**

Meeting Called to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Dondero called the November 14, 2025, Town Council meeting to order at 9:05 a.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance and Absences

In attendance were Mayor Edie Dondero and Councilmembers Randy Bartholomew, Bob Biciocchi, Mark Giler, Chris Keefe, Bob Shields (via Zoom) and Cindy Van Horn; Town Manager Maureen Hartman, Town Finance Director Renee McDorman, Chief Jason Lovins, and Town Clerk Matt Amerling. Public attendees: 2. Virtual attendees: 12.

Adoption of Minutes

Councilman Randy Bartholomew motioned to approve the October 11, 2025, Town Council meeting minutes, seconded by Councilwoman Cindy Van Horn. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilwoman Chris Keefe motioned to approve the October 24, 2025, Town Council Workshop meeting minutes, seconded by Councilman Bob Biciocchi. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Comment

John Cuddy, 106 Anchorage Drive, stated, with regards to the trash pick-up topic, he wanted to encourage Council to think through if the Town is going to reduce the amount of trash pickup we have, then what are the impacts of that to residents. Mr. Cuddy also stated he would like Council to consider if they are thinking of reducing yard waste pickup, to consider lawn clippings sitting around for a week or so and the stench it produces.

Discussion and possible vote to approve the bid documents for trash hauling services for 2026 to 2031 contract (Dondero/Hartman)

Council discussed trash collection services and reviewed bid documents for a new contract. Concerns were raised about the potential of a 6 a.m. start time; safety and practicality issues for part-time residents and rental properties; storm damage and service disruptions; and logistics regarding bins that do not roll. After a lengthy discussion, Council agreed to request bids for both automated and manual collection services to make an informed decision, with Option A, which involves fully automated pick-up of 95-gallon containers; and Option B, which offers contractor-provided 95-gallon trash & recycling containers but maintains the current system of the contractor being responsible for removing trash and recycling containers from the trash bins and returning the containers back to the bins. Council debated the feasibility of 95-gallon containers, considering the weight limit, both residents and the garbage collectors moving and lifting the 95-gallon container, and the need for modifications to existing bins and corrals. Councilman Mark Giler proposed a third option (Option C) of the contractor being responsible for removing rollout trash and recycling containers from the trash corrals and returning the containers back to the corrals but no contractor-provided trash container. This discussion highlighted the cost implications for homeowners to make their corrals have an accessible door or opening for the bin to roll into. Council also agreed to set yard waste collection to twice monthly year-round, with a pickup schedule of the first and third Wednesdays, weekly recycling collection switching from Friday to Thursday, and reducing trash collection to twice weekly (Monday and Friday) during June through September, with one day (Monday) per week collection from October through May.

Councilman Biciocchi motioned to approve the bid documents as revised and adding Option C as discussed, seconded by Councilman Bartholomew. Motion carried 7-0.

Discussion of the Budget & Finance Committee's request to revise the Investment Policy to 1) all investment options for higher returns without significant increased risk and 2) investment options requiring policy changes (Bartholomew)

Councilman Bartholomew stated the Budget and Finance Committee (B&F) wanted to review this policy again since it's been three years since the last review. The Town goal here is to take a look at the cash available, what needs there are, try to define a near-term strategy and a longer-term strategy and match various investment options with that. In doing all that, the Town may need to tweak the policy a little bit. Councilman Bartholomew stated his purpose today is simply to make sure no one has any issues with B&F taking a look at the policy and recommending changes, with a focus on higher returns without significant increased risk. Council authorized the B&F to move forward on the Investment Policy review.

Leadership Reports

Mayor's Report – Report submitted. Mayor Dondero gave congratulations to the South Bethany Police Department (SBPD) for receiving its accreditation. Also, the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) will be coming to South Bethany in early December to repair the beach crossovers.

Town Manager Report – Report submitted.

Police Chief Report – Report submitted.

Treasurer Report – Report submitted.

Committee and Commission Reports

Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety Committee – Report submitted.

Budget and Finance Committee – No report submitted.

Canal Water Quality Committee – Report submitted.

Charter and Code Committee – Report submitted.

Community Planning Advisory Group – No report submitted but waiting on the final report from the University of Delaware's Institute of Public Administration (IPA) before presenting it to Council.

Community Relations Committee – Report submitted.

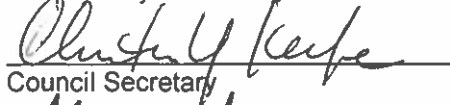
Planning Commission – No report submitted.

Resiliency Committee – Report submitted.

Adjournment

Motion by Councilman Biciocchi, seconded by Councilwoman Keefe, to adjourn the November 14, 2025, Town Council Regular Meeting at 10:32 a.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,


Council Secretary


Town Clerk

1/9/2026
Date of Approval