

**TOWN OF SOUTH BETHANY
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 10, 2026
9:00 A.M.**

Meeting Called to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Dondero called the April 10, 2026, Town Council meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance and Absences

In attendance were Mayor Edie Dondero and Councilmembers Randy Bartholomew, Mark Giler (via Zoom), Chris Keefe, Bob Shields and Cindy Van Horn (via Zoom); Town Manager Maureen Hartman (via Zoom), Town Finance Director Renee McDorman, Town Clerk Matt Amerling, and SBPD Corporal Ken Huff. Bob Biciocchi was absent. Public attendees: 2. Virtual attendees: 7.

Adoption of Minutes

Councilman Randy Bartholomew stated there were a few numerical edits, of which he gave to Town Clerk Matt Amerling and were distributed to Council. Councilman Bartholomew motioned to approve the March 13, 2026, Town Council meeting minutes with amendments, seconded by Councilman Bob Shields. Motion carried 6-0.

Councilman Bartholomew stated there should be the words "which increased by \$21,275" in the first sentence on the first item on page 2, and Councilwoman Chris Keefe stated to add the word "daily" within the kiosk parking permit motion. Councilwoman Keefe motioned to approve the March 27, 2026, Town Council Budget Workshop meeting minutes as amended, seconded by Councilman Bartholomew. Motion carried 6-0.

Public Comment

Simon Moore, 309 W. 6th Street, stated, regarding town investments discussed at the March 13th Council meeting, he had concerns about the lack of a capital plan and the decision to delay investments due to market uncertainty, arguing that these reasons were not valid grounds for postponement. Mr. Moore emphasized that a capital needs plan exists and highlighted the importance of a balanced investment strategy to mitigate risks and urged for a more comprehensive discussion on the topic.

Discussion and possible action to approve the FY 2027 draft budget (Bartholomew)

Councilman Bartholomew stated the fiscal year 2027 draft budget has been reviewed at three prior Council meetings, incorporating changes from said meetings, and shows a total revenue and expense balanced budget of approximately \$3,558,000. Council confirmed that approval would be handled through a separate resolution.

Discussion and possible action on Resolution 1-26, to set the FY 2027 property tax rate and rental tax rate.

Councilman Bartholomew motioned to approve Resolution 1-26, seconded by Councilwoman Keefe. Motion carried 6-0.

Discussion and possible action on Resolution 2-26, to revise South Bethany's schedule of fees.

Councilman Bob Shields motioned to approve Resolution 2-26, seconded by Councilwoman Keefe. Motion carried 6-0.

Discussion and possible action on Resolution 3-26, adopting an operating and capital budget and reserve allocations for FY 2027.

Councilman Bartholomew motioned to approve Resolution 3-26, seconded by Councilman Shields. Motion carried 6-0.

Leadership Reports

Mayor's Report – Report submitted. DNREC is expected to be here over the course of the next couple of weeks to open all the beach crossovers except for the ADA ramp, which will most likely not be restored for this season.

Town Manager Report – Report submitted.

Police Chief Report – No report submitted.

Treasurer Report – Report submitted.

Committee and Commission Reports

Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety Committee – Report submitted. The committee will hold a meeting on April 23 to discuss the upcoming July bike rodeo and more.

Budget and Finance Committee – Report submitted.

Canal Water Quality Committee – No report submitted.

Charter and Code Committee – No report submitted.

Community Relations Committee – No report submitted. The CRC will host the next Coffee & Conversation on April 17 at 10 a.m., as well as a spring bonfire on April 17th, and Earth Day activities on April 25th, which will be a "Clean Up Your Neighborhood Day." The committee will have gloves and bags at Town Hall (or people may bring their own) so that a property owner can clean up around their neighborhood. The committee also plans to distribute flyers on boating safety and kayaking safety tips. There is also a 250th American Birthday celebration planned for late June.

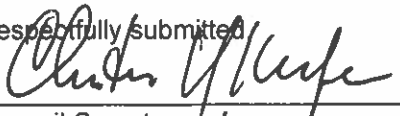
Planning Commission – No report submitted.

Resiliency Committee – Report submitted. The committee received positive news about the reinstatement of the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program, including potential funding for the Cat Hill flood mitigation project.

Adjournment

Motion by Councilwoman Keefe, seconded by Councilman Bartholomew, to adjourn the April 10, 2026, Town Council Regular Meeting at 9:32 a.m. Motion carried 6-0.

Respectfully submitted



Council Secretary



Town Clerk

5/8/2026
Date of Approval