

**TOWN OF BETHANY BEACH
TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 16, 2018 – MINUTES**

The Bethany Beach Town Council held a regular meeting at 2:00 p.m. on March 16, 2018 in the Town Meeting Room, 214 Garfield Parkway, Bethany Beach, DE 19930.

Members present for the meeting were: Jack Gordon, Mayor, who presided; Lew Killmer; Jerry Morris; Bruce Frye; Joseph Healy; Rosemary Hardiman; and Patrick Sheplee.

Also present were: Cliff Graviet, Town Manager; Lisa Kail, Administrative Assistant/Town Clerk; and interested members of the public.

Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Killmer made a motion to delete the First Reading of an Ordinance to Regulate Wireless Facilities from the agenda. He stated that a workshop would be scheduled on the subject in April. If appropriate, it will be listed on the Town Council regular agenda for a first reading in April. There were no objections. He made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Ms. Hardiman seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Approval of minutes of regular meeting held on February 16, 2018

Mr. Killmer made a motion to approve the minutes. Seconded by Ms. Hardiman, the motion was unanimously approved.

Approval of Financial Report

Mr. Morris advised that this report covers the fiscal year-to-date performance through the month of February.

Operating Budget Revenues

The Town collected 106.1% of the budgeted revenue compared to 103.9% at this time last year.

Operating Budget Expenses

The Town expended 85.6% of its budgeted expenses compared to 88.8% expended this time last year.

Recognizing that this report is subject to audit, Mr. Morris respectfully moved that the Council accept and approve this unaudited report. Ms. Hardiman seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Announcements/Recognition of Visitors and Public Comment

- Ms. Karen Marveso, property owner, was recognized. She raised concerns regarding the traffic in the 200 block of Central Boulevard.

- She noted that business parking is allowed on both sides of the street whereas it is only allowed on one side on other streets. She specifically asked if something could be done to prohibit the parking of large busses from outside communities on the street.

Mr. Gravier advised that busses should not be parking on Central Boulevard and he would have that addressed. He also said that he would look into how to mitigate traffic and he will revisit the business parking in that area.

Ms. Marveso also raised concerns about flooding in Town. She was provided a summary of the many attempts the Town has taken to reduce flooding.

- Ms. Bonnie Metz, representative from Verizon, was recognized. She explained that Verizon is working to upgrade its services in Town. Work is underway to possibly have Bethany Beach used as a test community for new services.

Mr. Gravier advised that he would work with Ms. Metz to hopefully accomplish this, since it would be beneficial to the community.

Report from Cultural and Historic Affairs Committee (CHAC)

Ms. Carol Olmstead, Chair of the Committee, was recognized. She advised that plans for the upcoming Cultural Evening on Tuesday, April 10, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. were finalized.

Ed Oconowitz, local well know storyteller will be presenting a program of “Tall Tales and Boldface Lies” recounting the days when folks would gather at local establishments to share their versions of the news of the day or the local gossip.

Périers Day, July 27th is a Friday this year and once again the music group La Vie en Rose will be on the bandstand at 7:30 p.m.. The committee discussed possible activities to add to the day’s festivities.

A Mission Statement with Interpretive Goals and Objectives was discussed as we move forward with plans for the new museum. Elaine Faye recommended this, a local Museum designer we are now working with. This will assist in deciding what will be included and how displays are presented.

Report from the Planning and Zoning Commission

Mr. John Gaughan, member of the Planning and Zoning Commission, advised that at their last meeting, the members reviewed a proposal to amend the Town’s zoning regulations pertaining to alcohol tastings. The members will continue their review at tomorrow’s meeting and also consider a partitioning request at 201 Third Street.

Report from the Town Manager

Mr. Gravier gave the following report:

South Atlantic Avenue

South Atlantic Avenue construction is well under way. With the exception of a few rainy days, construction is moving along at a good pace. Letters were sent to all property owners on South Atlantic Avenue as well as Cedarwood Street regarding the construction and access to their properties. This information is also available on the Town's website. The project is requiring significantly more stone than the engineer estimated, 67% more stone. This will result in a \$64,000 cost overrun. This may be offset during the course of the construction by other savings. For instance George & Lynch is using significantly fewer "flagger" hours than anticipated. Hopefully, costs end up a wash at the end of the project.

You have all noticed the piles of earth located in the fenced portion of the Park. This is from the South Atlantic Streetscape Project and the engineer estimates we will end up with fill worth over \$100K that we will be able to use as base material when park development begins.

Beach Replenishment

Within the next few weeks, the dredging company responsible for replenishment will begin to mobilize in Bethany Beach. There will be some equipment/piping left on our beach and some street ends. There has been no change in schedule and we still anticipate construction to begin in the middle of May. I cannot stress enough that this work is contingent on wind and wave action, separate of rainy weather. So let's all hope for calm seas from May to June.

Pedestrian/Traffic Concerns

Last summer, we noted a number of things that the Town intended to do to deal with citizen concerns regarding excessive traffic, pedestrian and cyclist safety. These were: place speed-reading signs on Oakwood Street and Wellington Parkway in the 300 block; place speed bumps on Gibson Avenue and Central Boulevard; and create a design that would allow pedestrians to safely use the choke point on Collins Street. To date the speed signs have been installed and data is being collected. Speeding doesn't seem to be as much of a problem on Oakwood Street and Wellington Parkway as much as the volume, since motorists use these streets as a cut through. I'll have a report on the data at the next meeting. The sites for the speed humps have been marked on Gibson Avenue and Central Boulevard. The Kercher Engineering Group has been tasked to design less intrusive humps and they will be installed before the summer. People in that area have been notified. The Kercher Group was also asked for a design for Collins Street but our South Atlantic Avenue and Cedarwood Street projects took priority in their schedule. We are expecting a design in the next month. As previously mentioned, once we have a design in hand we will begin a public dialog about the design and solicit public input.

University of Delaware Beach Erosion Project

We have worked with the University over a number of years as they study beach erosion from a scientific perspective. We recently helped them set up some measuring devices off our beach during our recent nor'wester/nor'easter.

Cooper House/Kent Avenue

Some of you will remember the ongoing complaints from a neighbor regarding the vacant Cooper House located on Kent Avenue. The home has been demolished and the lot cleared.

Dinker Cottage

Work continues on the Dinker Cottage both inside and outside. In the next few weeks, we will be replacing the roof out of an abundance of caution now that work in the attic is complete.

Recent Storms

We have been very fortunate that recent storms became stronger after they traveled north and past Delaware. We are also fortunate that we did not see the eight high tide cycles that some New England oceanfront communities dealt with. Our storm damage has been limited to some minor damage to steps and some movement of the ramp at Parkwood Street. All damage has been repaired.

The multiple days of tidal flooding we experienced resulted in culverts, swales, grates and outlets filling with debris as they always do and Public Works has been busy cleaning them.

Tidal Gauge at the Loop Canal

Mr. Gravier introduced and demonstrated a new tidal flood gauge application which is available on the Town's website. It shows real time tidal information in the Loop Canal and the flooding effect of these tides, at various heights, throughout the Town.

(First Reading) An Ordinance to Regulate Wireless Facilities

Synopsis

This Ordinance Regulates the Installation of Distributed Antenna Systems, Small Cell Technology, and Wireless Facilities in the Public Right-of-Way

This item was previously taken off the agenda.

Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Vote on Supplement to the FY 2018 General Fund Budget of \$299,252.00 for the South Atlantic Avenue Streetscape Project

Mr. Morris made a motion to make a Supplement to the FY 2018 General Fund Budget of \$299,252.00 for the South Atlantic Avenue Streetscape Project. Ms. Hardiman seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Vote on Budget for FY2019 and Schedule of Fees

Mr. Morris advised that the Budget & Finance Committee has held several public meetings over the past few months to discuss the results of past years, projections for the future and the proposed fiscal year 2019 budget. The budget has been available to the public on the Town's website and at Town Hall.

A public hearing was held this past Monday.

This proposed budget includes \$9,663,000 in revenue, \$8,130,000 in operating costs, \$821,000 in capital projects and \$488,000 in debt repayments.

The budget includes increasing water flat rates by \$30 per year for users within town limits and by \$45 per year for users outside of town limits. The increase will take effect on bills sent in October 2018.

He made a motion that Council approve the Budget and Schedule of Fees for FY 2019. Mr. Healy seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Vote on Awarding Concessions for Exercise Classes to be Held During the Summer Season on the Beach

Ms. Hardiman explained that this year's exercise schedule includes a good variety of classes including: yoga, boot camps, Pilates, ninja warrior junior fitness, and kickboxing. Also being offered are painting classes. These programs are great for residents and visitors. She made a motion to award the concessions for the summer exercise schedule as presented. Mr. Morris seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Vote on a Supplement to the FY 2018 General Fund Capital Budget of \$60,000 and Re-Allocation of Funds in the Fiscal Year 2018 Water Fund Capital Budget

Mr. Morris advised that this amendment is to use contingency funds to increase the General Fund Capital Budget and to re-allocate a portion of the Water Fund Capital Budget. He made a motion to approve a Supplement to the FY 2018 General Fund Capital Budget of \$60,000 and Re-Allocation of Funds in the FY 2018 Water Fund Capital Budget. Mr. Healy seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Vote Regarding Adjusting the FY 2018 Special Fund Budget to Match Grant Funds Actually Received

Mr. Morris advised that the Town applies for grant funds from Federal, State and other sources. The fiscal year 2018 budget was prepared over a year ago using estimates of the minimum grant funding we expected to receive during the year. Grant funds actually awarded to the Town have exceeded these early estimates. This amendment will adjust the revenue and expense budget of the Town's Special Fund to match the grant funds that we were awarded to the Town during the past year. He made a motion to adjust the FY 2018 Special Fund Budget to match grant funds actually received. Ms. Hardiman seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Mayor Gordon asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Hardiman so moved. Mr. Morris seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. Mayor Gordon adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Lisa A. Kail, MMC
Administrative Assistant/
Town Clerk