



Minutes of the Regular Town Council Meeting

August 13, 2018

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm in the upstairs meeting room of the Slaughter Beach Memorial Volunteer Fire Company by Mayor Harry Ward. Council members present were Bob Wood, Ken Lewis, Kathy Lock and Rebecca Craft. Town Counsel Barratt Edwards was also present. Community members in attendance are shown on the attached sign-in sheet.

II. Approval of the July 9, 2018 meeting minutes

A motion was made by Kathy Lock to approve the July 9, 2018 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Ken Lewis. **The motion carried unanimously, 5-0.**

III. Approval of the August 13, 2018 meeting agenda

A motion was made by Ken Lewis to approve the August 13, 2018 meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Kathy Lock. **The motion carried unanimously, 5-0.**

IV. New Business: Comcast Contract Renewal

The agenda was adjusted in order to allow Town Council to review the status of negotiations with the Comcast Service Agreement. He advised that it is not an exclusive agreement. He reviewed the prior agreement and the new one, comparing provisions. Questions were raised regarding the possibility of wires going underground. Harry indicated that he had spoken with Delmarva Power and that due to flood plain issues, it was unlikely that Comcast would undertake such action. If they do, the cost of doing so will be passed along to residents, per the agreement.

In the event roadwork needs to be done by Comcast, language in Section 3.2.3 indicates that he would prefer repair work be done to DelDOT standards but acknowledged that he has not been successful. The expectation is that repairs will be "reasonably comparable".

Barrett will fight to ensure that liquidated damages will be incorporated up to \$20,000, up from the current level of \$5,000.

Barrett concluded his report to indicate that he would continue to negotiate with Comcast and bring it back once everything is ready for a vote.

V. Reading of the Correspondence

Bill McSpadden passed along recent correspondence he received from the Wildlife National Habitat Community.

VI. Reports

a. Treasurer report and vote

There was no Treasurer report due to recent travel. The report will be provided at the September meeting.

b. Building enforcement Officer/Floodplain Administrator Report

Vice Mayor Lewis presented the Building Enforcement Officer/Flood Plain Administrator's report. Bob reported that he worked 18.25 hours and provided a written report related to permits issued and an update regarding the property located at 393 Bay Avenue.

c. Tax Collector Report

There was no Tax Collector report presented."

d. Town Street Committee Report

There was no Street Committee report presented.

e. Mayoral and Council Updates

- i. SCAT – Councilperson Wood indicated that the next SCAT (Sussex County Association of Towns) meeting will be held in September.
- ii. DEMA Meeting – This meeting was discussion during the July meeting and can be removed from the agenda.
- iii. Miscellaneous – There we no miscellaneous updates reported.

VII. Old Business

a. Sand on the Beach – No update.

b. Update on Grants

- i. Wastewater Feasibility – Comments have been received from USDA. It is hoped that this will be completed this month.
- ii. Resiliency – Signage is expected to be installed soon by DelDOT. Once this has been done, the item can come off the agenda.
- iii. Boardwalk Project – All agreements have been signed with DelDOT. Cost of the project is now anticipated to be \$400,000. The town will have no additional financial responsibilities despite the increase in cost. The ground lease is now for a term of 99 years. Mayor Ward will send correspondence to Senator Gary and Rep. Kenton to line up their contributions to this project.

c. Comprehensive Land Use Plan Update

All recommended changes have been made except for maps, which are expected to be completed by the end of the month. Once they are complete, the document will be sent for signatures. The completed document is available on the Slaughter Beach website for community review. The document will be placed on a future meeting agenda for a final vote once it is complete.

d. Update on comprehensive cross-references of lot #'s

This item is ongoing and not in need of a vote, so it will be removed from future agendas.

e. FEMA/DEMA grant proposal update

No updates.

f. Camera install update

Installation of the cameras is complete, and all are working. Billing is being contested since the Town was billed for a period when the cameras were either not completely installed or were not in working order. Vice Mayor Lewis will follow-up with Comcast to resolve this issue.

g. Discussion of UD association of landscape architects' study

This partnership has been on hiatus until students return to school in the fall.

VIII. New Business

a. Further methods of ensuring maintenance of private residence updates

Sussex County is working on one property and will take care of mowing. Two more properties are being followed up on. Inability to reach property owners has been an issue. A total of 3-5 properties are of concern.

b. Pavillion parking lot Maintenance

The work on the lot was supposed to be completed in August but concern about weather put to work off. The project is expected to take 3 days to complete, during which time the parking lots will be closed to the general public.

IX. Open Forum Discussion

a. Councilperson Wood reported that the census project is complete. The project entailed ensuring that all new residences are included. There is some concern about the number of residences that do not have house numbers.

b. Councilperson Wood and Vice Mayor Lewis discussed their attendance at a meeting related to the FEMA and Homeland Security's Community Rating

System (CRS). If Slaughter Beach qualifies, it could result in a discount to homeowners' flood insurance policies. Since Bob Clendaniel is a certified Flood Plain Administrator, it might be worth reviewing the process to see if the Town can participate. Bob Wood will discuss with Bob Clendaniel and the topic will be discussed further at a future meeting.

- c. Vice Mayor Lewis is in the process of soliciting Phragmites contracts. The work will be completed in October. Two bids for spraying have been received including one from Solitude for \$1988 (spraying done by going into the marsh) and from Delmarva for \$1100 (spraying from the roadway).

A motion was made by Kathy Lock to award the contract to Solitude for an amount not to exceed \$2000. Mayor Ward seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.**

Vice Mayor Lewis will communicate with DNREC to discuss phragmite eradication plans and obtain quotes for cutting. An item will be added to a future meeting agenda to discuss when this has been completed.

X. Upcoming events

- a. Coastal Clean-up, Saturday, September 15, 2018
- b. October Town Council Meeting, Monday, October 8, 2018
- c. Boardwalk/Scenic Overlook Ground Breaking, Thursday, October 18, 2018.

- XI. Adjournment – A motion was made by Kathy Lock to adjourn the meeting at 8:32. Vice Mayor Ken Lewis seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.**