## Minutes of the Regular Town Council Meeting

**Monday, January 11, 2021**

1. **Call Meeting to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm by Kathy Lock. Council members in attendance were Gary Plescia and Bob Wood. Joining late were Ivan Lanier and Larry Meinert due to technical difficulties. Due to the Governor’s mandate because of the Covid-19 virus, the meeting was held via Zoom.

Community members in attendance are shown on the attached electronic sign-in sheet. Kathy Lock, Mayor, acknowledged and thanked everyone for their attendance and support.

1. **Approval of the January 11, 2021 meeting agenda**

**Motion:** A motion was made by Larry Meinert and seconded by Bob Wood to approve the January 11, 2021 meeting agenda. **The motion carried unanimously 3-0.**

1. **Approval of the December 14, 2020, Town Minutes**

**Motion:** A motion was made by Bob Wood and seconded by Larry Meinert. **The motion carried unanimously, 3-0.**

1. **Correspondence and Update on Beach Replenishment**
2. Children’s Library: The Mayor, Kathy Lock, received a letter from Jacob Kniep, a 7 year old resident of the Town, who requested approval from the Council to place a children’s library on the west side of Delaware Avenue north since we have an adult Boat library already. Jason helped his grandfather, Harry Ward, construct the library. This new structure would have only children’s books, and a request to approve was voted on at the Council’s January 7, 2021 meeting. This new structure will be up in approximately 60 (sixty) days.
3. The Mayor further advised that due to the public’s efforts in writing letters to Governor Carney and DNREC Secretary Shawn Garvin, requesting State approval of the US Army Corps of Engineers Chief’s report for the “Beneficial Use of Dredged Material”, the U.S. Congress authorized the project. Funding from the federal government is contingent on the State approving funding for a cost share with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). This translates to beach renourishment every 6 years for 50 years.
4. **Consultant Tony Pratt**

Tony Pratt, a consultant for the Town, provided a more detailed explanation of his work toward gaining approval for beach replenishment.

According to the Mayor we are 75% (seventy five percent) on the way to gaining approval for beach replenishment, and she noted that thanks for this progress should include our former Mayor, Harry Ward, all council members active and former, as well as the entire community for their tireless efforts.

1. **Reports**
2. Gary Plescia presented the Treasurer’s Report for December 2020 - there were no questions. Report had been sent to all in an email prior to the Meeting.

**Motion:** A Motion to approve the December 2020 Treasurer’s Report, subject to audit, was made by Bob Wood and seconded by Ivan … **The motion carried, 5-0.**

1. Building Enforcement Officer/Floodplain Administrator

Bob Wood presented the report, advising Bob Clendaniel had issued two building permits, one to start work and one to update a home. He worked 15 hours and 50 minutes in December 2020.

**Motion:** Gary Plescia made a motion to approve the Building Enforcement / Floodplain Administrator report and seconded by Ivan …. **Motion was carried unanimously, 5-0**.

1. Gary Plescia presented the Tax Collector report and concluded that in December of 2020 we were approximately 97% up-to-date on collections.
2. Town Street Committee

Jimmy Dalton reported that the only activity has been street light replacement. If you see a light out, Jimmy is happy to take care of that for you, or as the Mayor advised, you can get on the Delmarva Power App and report a light out to them directly.

1. Mayoral and Council updates

Resilient and Sustainable Communities League (RASCL) – no update

Sussex County Association of Towns (SCAT) – no update

Delaware League of Local Governments (DLLG) – no update

1. **Old Business**
2. **Sand on the Beach** – reviewed above, Mayor will advise community about possible letter writing at a later date. Further, she reminded all that if you have a residence in another part of the State of Delaware, you should consider writing to that Legislator as well to gain coverage at the State level.
3. **Beach Grass** – Bob Wood advised he has made an order for 100 bundles and will have dates for delivery at a later meeting.
4. **Grants and on-going projects**
5. University of Delaware Hydrology Study – no update, expected completion June 2021
6. WIIN Project. This is a 3 phased effort and includes the National Fish and Wildlife Federation (NFWF), the Pew Charitable Trusts, and DE SeaGrant. The WIIN team is comprised of several entities, including Slaughter Beach, the City of Milford, RASCL, Sussex County, Kent County, NOAA, Delaware Nature Society, the Partnership for Delaware Estuaries, DESeaGrant, and others. The PEW Charitable Trusts grant effort (phase I) began last summer, the NFWF effort (phase 2) will begin in February, and the DESeaGrant grant (phase 3 if our proposal is successful) will also begin in February. The project will produce a natural resource economic valuation and management plan for the Cedar Creek and Mispillion watersheds. At the conclusion of the project, the region will have an ecotourism and nature-based investment strategy for conservation, climate adaptation, and community resilience. Both watersheds are under increasing pressure from climate change and development.
7. Anchor Engineering QEA, submitted a proposal for detritus removal and beach management plan at a cost of $15,000. The town was notified that the Delaware Bayshore Initiative will fund 50% of the cost, and the town applied for a grant from DNREC’s Section 319, clean water fund for an additional $7,500.
8. **Ordinances**

In process. The Town expects to hold a public meeting in February to discuss and vote on adopting.

1. **458 Bay Avenue.** A demolition order was issued several months ago.
2. **223 Bay** **Avenue**. The building inspector issued a demolition permit to the owner and we expect the house will be demolished in the near future.
3. **5G Wireless** – the Town is hoping to have an Ordinance in place requiring wireless firms to apply for a permit for 5G wireless service, patterned after the Lewes ordinance. More at a future meeting.
4. **Map Storage** – Gary Plescia has been doing research with the Archives and has found that they will supply us with the acid free sleeves to store the maps we have going back more than fifty (50) years. Julia Geha has taken two of the more recent color maps to Staples to see if we are able to scan them clearly to a USB key and will update at the next meeting.
5. **Office Clean Up** –Julia Geha will replace Cameron Quinn.
6. **Fire Department of Slaughter Beach**

Terry Jester, Fire Chief, has scheduled a fire safety class for January 18, 2021 at 6pm at the main dining hall. The class will also be live streamed via zoom.

1. **Open Forum**

**Covid-19**

Bob Wood advised that the Delaware Vaccination Schedule was sent to all residents on this day, January 11, 2021 via email. This link was provided by Jane Starr and contains the most accurate information to-date.

**Trash**

Ivan Lanier reminded everyone in attendance that the overflow of trash continues to be a problem and suggested the Town send a letter to abusers and attach a copy of the Town Ordinance.

**Beautification Committee**

Ivan reminded everyone that a note went out via NextDoor from a neighbor inviting all residents to participate in a ‘garden club’. This group is hoping to start by adding organized plantings to the sign at the entrance to the beach on Slaughter Beach Road.

**Executive Session, January 7, 2021**

A resident asked about the purpose of the executive session. The Town has several legal issues that required a meeting with the Town Attorney.

**Town Calendar**

One resident expressed satisfaction with the town calendar.

1. **Adjournment**

Motion: Larry … made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Ivan Lanier at 8:12pm. **The Motion passed unanimously, 5-0**