**Minutes of the Regular Town Council Meeting**

**Monday, May 10, 2021**

1. **Call Meeting to order**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00pm by Kathleen Lock, Mayor. Council members in attendance were Bob Wood, Gary Plescia, Ivan Lanier and Larry Meinert. Community members in attendance are shown on the attached electronic sign-in sheet and the Mayor acknowledged all for joining, requested they mute until such time as they have something to add, and sign-in on the “chat” to be properly recorded.

1. **Approval of the May 10, 2021 Town Meeting Agenda**

**Motion**: A motion was made by Ivan Lanier to approve the May 10, 2021 Town Meeting Agenda and seconded by Gary Plescia.

**The motion carried unanimously 5-0**.

1. **Approval of the April 12, 2021 Town Meeting Minutes**

**Motion**: A motion was made by Larry Meinert to approve the April 12, 2021 Town Meeting Minutes and seconded by Ivan Lanier.

**The motion carried unanimously 5-0**.

1. **Request to Rezone Lot 40 from C/A to R2**.

Mayor Lock introduced Barrett Edwards, Attorney for the Town as Moderator for this part of the Meeting, and Mr. Forest Ramsey, owner of Lot 40, so both could address participants directly. Julia Geha shared the timeline for the request (attached).

Mr. Ramsey was given approximately twelve minutes to advise why he made this application and why he felt the best use of his Lot would be Residential 2 and found no one speaking in support of his application. Response was made by three residents against this Lot being used to build a residence regardless of size. Mr. Ramsey was then given an opportunity to respond to all comments for six minutes. Mr. Barrett then closed the Public Hearing and turned it over to the Town Council to deliberate and vote.

**Motion**: A motion was made by Larry Meinert that the Town Council approve the request to rezone Lot 40 to R2 from C/A, and seconded by Gary Plescia.

**The motion was denied unanimously 5-0**.

1. **Reports**
2. Correspondence – there were none to discuss.
3. Treasurer’s Report – Gary Plescia submitted his report. If you would like a copy emailed to you please message treasurer@slaughterbeachde.com

Of note is a potential increase in recycling charges based on what Rehoboth Beach is being charged, however, Kathy Lock advised we have a five-year fixed price contract with Republic so we have three years left on that contract. Larry Meinert asked that we check if we can notify residents of reasons for recycling to be considered unusable – Bob Wood will follow up.

**Motion**: A motion was made by Bob Wood to approve the Treasurer’s Report, pending Audit, and seconded by Larry Meinert.

**Motion carried unanimously 5-0**.

1. Building Enforcement/Floodplain Administrator – Ivan Lanier is meeting with Bob Clendaniel later this week to review permitting processes. Bob Wood advised that Bob Clendaniel has been in contact with the homeowners of the garage at 375/77 and they are working on a resolution.
2. Tax Collector Report – Angela Tibbett has sent a list of homeowner names to Gary Plescia for Council to start making calls to find out what the delay is in paying; 98% of homeowners have already paid.
3. Town Street Committee – Jimmy Dalton, no updates until we know how much money we will have to work with; Cedar Creek Bridge repairs should be done end of this week and the new build is still scheduled for 2023.
4. RASCL/SCAT – Bob Wood advised SCAT was last Friday and the Chief Administrator at Beebe said they are trying very hard to serve different areas outside of Lewes; also Sussex County should expand by one Senator and one Legislator.
5. **Old Business**
6. **Grants**
7. Univ of DE hydrology study funded by DEMA – Larry Meinert advised there is no progress or update, their report will be delivered by June 1, 2021.
8. NFWS/Pew Charitable Trust – the economic study is being peer-reviewed by the Univ of DE economics department, and we expect that study to be available in early June 2021.
9. Sea Grant – no update.
10. DBI – Anchor Engineering – interim report due this week.
11. Sand on the beach, as advised last month, we had a meeting with DNREC, Mayors of Lewes and Bowers, our two State Senators, Alliance of Bay Communities, and USACE. We will have a follow up meeting but are waiting for the Corps to come up with Authorities that would not require additional studies which they were to turnover to the Senator’s offices. We will schedule the second meeting within a month.
12. Demolition of 458 Bay Avenue - waiting on a new court date.
13. 5G Wireless, we are holding off until we see what the City of Lewes does. Keeping it on the Agenda so we can keep track.
14. Phragmites Control – letters will go to all property owners that have property backing to the Milford Neck Conservation Area because the state would like to use a helicopter to spray the phragmites but need permission from homeowners.
15. **Upcoming Events**
16. The 5K run/walk on September 19, 2021, Sunday – the race will be followed by a day of family fun events with participation from the Volunteer Fire Department and their Auxiliary, Mispillion Brewery will be donating beer for the bar, and we have had residents offer to run games and organize press releases. If you would like to participate, please email townmanager@slaughterbeachde.com
17. Security Cameras – Gary Plescia is working on researching the best options for the beach and planning to not make a financial decision until he has all information. Likely will have it ready for June or possibly the July meeting.
18. Yard Waste Dumpsters – we will have six this year and the first will be May 29th on Bridgeham. The Annual Yard Sale will be May 29th, and the big item pick up will be June 1st.
19. Election – Ivan Lanier and Larry Meinert’s seats are up for re-election this July 2021. If you are interested in running for Town Council, you must submit by Friday, June 4th at noon. Please email townclerk@slaughterbeachde.com to get a form or ask questions.
20. The Annual Town Council Meeting is 12noon, Saturday, June 5th at the firehall.

**Open Forum discussion**:

1. Resident asked if they need to complete the online form (on the town website) for Phragmites spray annually – YES, complete that form every single year as we apply for grants to help pay for the spraying in town and need documentation from homeowners that is signed within the year.
2. The American Recovery Act Funds information was released to the Mayor just today and we are expecting to get approximately $122,000 to spend – it will arrive in two separate checks, one this month for 60,000 and the other next year. We will need to figure out how we will spend the money and the limitations are fairly strict. The Council will need to figure out how to partner with Sussex County or the State to allocate the funds.
3. The Coast Guard Auxiliary is moving their operations from Bowers Beach to our beach. An email blast was sent to residents. We’ve been hoping for this opportunity for awhile and it’s a big deal for our Beach. They’ll do safety inspections up at the ramps as well as at the firehall. Unfortunately they hold their meetings on the second Monday of each month – but they won’t start until July and we likely can work something out.

**Adjournment**

**Motion**: A motion was made by Larry Meinert to adjourn and was seconded by Bob Wood at approximately 9:00pm.

**Motion passed unanimously, 5-0**.