**Minutes of the Regular Town Council Meeting**

**Monday, March 8, 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 Gary Plescia, Bob Wood, Ivan Lanier and Larry Meinert. 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 and the Mayor acknowledged and thanked everyone for their attendance and support.

1. **Approval of the March 8, 2021, Town Meeting Agenda**.

**Motion**:A motion was made by Ivan Lanier and seconded by Bob Wood to approve the March 8, 2021 meeting Agenda. **The motion carried unanimously 5-0.**

1. **Approval of the February 8, 2021, Town Meeting Minutes**

**Motion:** A motion was made by Larry Meinert and seconded by Bob Wood to approve the February 8, 2021 Town Meeting Minutes. **The motion carried unanimously 5-0**.

1. **Correspondence and an update on Beach Replenishment.**

The Council was invited to attend a virtual Webinar by DelDot to discuss the bridge on Cedar Creek. DelDot is looking at a project that would require shutting the bridge down for a full year, possibly in 2023. Larry Meinert summarized the tentative DelDOT plans that include a hydraulic system and a new gatehouse.  The plans will likely be made available to the public in another month or two.

FEMA has advised they will hold a Webinar on March 10, 2021 that Council will attend to discuss a new “Limit of Moderate Wave Action” (LIMWA). LIMWA determines your flood zone – AE or VE – which affects your flood insurance costs. Council will give an update at the next Meeting in April.

The Town Council is aware of the derelict garage at 373/375 Bay Avenue. Bob Clendaniel is in contact with both homeowners and hoping to find a resolution quickly.

Council has heard from Delmarva Power regarding moving the power lines along Passwaters and Beach Plum. These lines were originally placed on privately owned land, and they need to move the structures off within sixty (60) days. This move will affect electricity in that area and we have been assured that Delmarva power will keep the affected homeowners up-to-date.

1. **Reports**
   1. Treasurer submitted his report and there were no questions. If you would like a copy emailed to you, please message [treasurer@slaughterbeachde.com](mailto:treasurer@slaughterbeachde.com)

A **Motion** was made to approve the Treasurer’s Report, pending Audit, by Larry Meinert and seconded by Bob Wood. **Motion** **carried unanimously 5-0.**

* 1. Building Enforcement Officer/Floodplain Administrator – Bob Wood reviewed Bob Clendaniel’s latest report, and advised there are approximately sixteen (16) homes to be built in the coming year.
  2. Tax Collector Report was available from Angela Tibbett showing approximately 98% of all tax have been collected, and there were no questions to Gary Plescia.
  3. Town Street Committee Report – James Dalton, Jimmy offered to get ahead of planning for the next streets to be done starting in July and advised he spoke with DelDot when they were patching the road at Cedar Creek Bridge about the pipe under the street needing to be replaced. Gary advised he brought this up at the Bridge meeting as well and they are waiting on permits.
  4. Mayoral and Council updates; Bob Wood will register for upcoming RASCL, SCAT, meetings which are held in person. He didn’t want to attend before getting vaccinated.

1. **Old Business:**
   1. Sand on the Beach – The Town previously approved a $75,000 outlay to purchase emergency sand after the February Nor’easter. Council has been working with DNREC and they have guaranteed the engineers and assistance with distribution of sand where needed, in addition to plantings of beach grass once the work is completed. This is a short-term solution.
   2. For a long-term fix, the Mayor with assistance from Tony Pratt, our consultant, has put together a group of beach-affected community leaders and state/federal officials to meet and discuss next steps, including DNREC and USACE. The only plan we have is the Beneficial Use of Dredged Materials, which has stalled. We anticipate the meeting will take place before the end of March and will update again at the April Meeting.
   3. Detritus on the beach has reached Cohee Drive and the town has contracted Anchor Engineering to research cause and suggest management.
   4. Grants
      1. University of Delaware hydrology study funded by DEMA – digging has been taking place as expected.
      2. Update on NFWS grant –Larry Meinert summarized plans for an economic study of ecosystem services provided by our refuges and preserves to show why the State should be paying attention to towns like Slaughter Beach, and not just focusing on the bigger commercial towns along the ocean and bay.
      3. Update on Pew Charitable Trusts grant – a final draft is expected in the next month.
      4. University of Delaware SeaGrant grant – no update
      5. Update on Delaware Bayshore Initiative grant – Town Council has awarded a contract to Anchor for the study of the detritus on the north end of the beach.
      6. Update on DNREC’s Section 319 grant – still in progress.
   5. Demolition of 458 Bay Avenue – we have a court date of March 18, 2021.
   6. Demolition of 223 Bay Avenue is completed.
   7. Discussion of 5G wireless – Bob Wood advised that Dewey Beach was quick to sign on for antennas and structures to accommodate 5G and they are now having issues with the public. Lewes has been working on an Ordinance, and we are hoping to work from what they put together shortly.
   8. Vote on Ordinances 21-01, 21-02, 21-03 and 21-04.

21-01 – Kathy Lock read the synopsis out and asked for comments or questions. There were none.

**A Motion** was made by Ivan Lanier and seconded by Gary Plescia to adopt the Ordinance 21-01 as drafted and reviewed at this Meeting. **Motion was passed unanimously 5-0.**

21-02 – Kathy Lock read the synopsis out and asked for comments and questions. There were none.

**A Motion** was made by Larry Meinert and seconded by Gary Plescia to adopt the Ordinance 21-02 as drafted and reviewed at this Meeting. **Motion was passed unanimously 5-0.**

21-03 – Kathy Lock read the synopsis out and asked for comments and questions. One question referred to the date of the Residential Code from 2012, and it was confirmed that the most recent Code was from 2012.

**A Motion** was made by Larry Meinert and seconded by Gary Plescia to adopt the Ordinance 21-03 as drafted and reviewed at this Meeting. **Motion was passed unanimously 5-0.**

21-04 – Kathy Lock read the synopsis out and asked for comments and questions. She then suggested potential problems within the Ordinance and addressed potential changes, including;

Under 11.6.1 changing “once each calendar year” has been stricken.

**A Motion** was made by Larry Meinert and seconded by Gary Plescia that all references to time limitations be changed to read “one hour before sunrise” and “11:00pm” throughout the documents for consistency. **Motion was passed unanimously 5-0.**

Under 11.6.2 section C the address shows State Route 36 and has been changed to show State Route 224.

Under 11.6.2 section D the wording became “The beach except for the owners, residents and/or guests thereof.”

Under 11.6.3 section C title “b.” has been adjusted by adding “without prior notification to the Town Manager.” And striking ‘except when the same is actually being loaded or unloaded’.

**A Motion** was made by Bob Wood and seconded by Gary Plescia to adopt the Ordinance 21-04 as drafted, amended and reviewed at this Meeting. **Motion was passed unanimously 5-0.**

1. **New Business** 
   1. Board of Elections; the Mayor swore in our new election officials:

Laurie Dennis

Ken Lewis

Cameron Quinn

* 1. Two council seats will be up for re-election, currently held by Ivan Lanier (Secretary) and Larry Meinert (Councilman at large). For information on town elections, questions should be addressed to the Town Clerk, Kathy McFadden; townclerk@slaughterbeachde.com
  2. Phragmites control – the Town Council held a meeting in February with the Delaware Dept of Agriculture, Prime Hook, Forest Service, DNREC and our Volunteer Fire department to see if we could get an action plan for treating and possibly burning the Marsh to lessen the damage from Phragmites. Ken Lewis is acting as lead for the Town on this project and is hoping to contact a resident of Prime Hook that launched a successful fight against Phrags in that community. More updates at the next meeting.

1. **Upcoming events**
   1. The next Town Council meeting will be April 12, 7:00 PM (via Zoom)
   2. The 5k Run from the Greenheads is now scheduled for September 19, 2021, a Sunday. The race will follow the same plan as previous years; we will work with the same sports/event company, TriSports and we will make an attempt to grow the family fun side of the event for our local families/residents to enjoy. If you are interested in helping to organize or participate on the day of the event, please send a message to Julia Geha at [townmanager@slaughterbeachde.com](mailto:townmanager@slaughterbeachde.com)
   3. Beach grass will be provided by the Town, managed again by Bob Wood. All will be notified when it’s available. If you have not registered an email address with the Town, please do so as soon as possible.
2. **Open Forum discussion**

Ivan Lanier made the recommendation that the Town consider an impact fee based on the type and size of new construction. It was recommended that he discuss this with Bob Clendaniel, review what is being done in other towns and make a proposal at the next meeting for review.

Gary Plescia proposed we continue the dumpsters for brush this Spring and the Mayor advised it was approved in the budget so just needs to be scheduled.

**Adjournment**

**Motion** was made by Bob Wood to adjourn and was seconded by Gary Plescia at approximately 8:10pm. **Motion passed unanimously, 5-0**

Prepared by: Julia Geha, Town Manager