## Minutes of the Regular Town Council Meeting

**Monday, July 11, 2022**

1. **Reorganization Meeting**: Town Council members, 6:45pm.

Acting Mayor Bob Wood called the meeting to order and requested that council members nominate each councilperson for a position to hold for FY2023.

Benjamin Monastero was sworn in as the newest councilperson for the town of Slaughter Beach. After completing the Oath of Office, it was agreed that all current members would re-read the Oath of Office as well.

Harry Ward made a **Motion** to appoint Bob Wood as the Mayor for FY2023 and it was seconded by Joanne Plescia. Joanne Plescia made a **Motion** to appoint Harry Ward as Vice Mayor and Ben Monastero seconded. Harry Ward made a **Motion** to appoint Joanne Plescia as Treasurer and was seconded by Ben Monastero. Harry Ward made a **Motion** to appoint Ben Monastero as Secretary to Town Council and Joanne Plescia seconded. Harry Ward made a **Motion** to appoint Larry Meinert to Councilperson at Large and Ben Monastero seconded.

All **Motions passed 4-0** as Larry Meinert was traveling and could not be present for the Reorganization meeting.

Next it was discussed that employees of the town should have a direct report on Town Council and job descriptions should be finalized as soon as possible. Harry Ward volunteered to take the first pass at the job descriptions.

Kathy McFadden, Town Clerk advised she would send out a notification to the email list of all current positions.

1. **Call Meeting to Order**:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Mayor Bob Wood. Council members in attendance were Joanne Plescia, Harry Ward, Benjamin Monastero and Larry Meinert joined via zoom. Due to the Covid-19 virus the meeting was held via Zoom link and in-person. Community members in attendance are shown on the attached sign in sheets.

Mayor Wood thanked everyone for attending and requested everyone remain on mute unless asked for input from the public. For record keeping, residents must give their name and street address prior to addressing everyone in attendance.

1. **Approval of the June 4, 2022 Annual Town Meeting Minutes**:

Motion: A Motion was made by Harry Ward and seconded by Ben Monastero to approve the June 4, 2022 Annual Town Meeting Minutes. The Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

1. **Approval of the June 20, 2022, Town Meeting Minutes:**

**Motion:** A Motion was made by Joanne Plescia and seconded by Ben Monastero to approve the June 20, 2022, Town Council Meeting Minutes. **The Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.**

1. **Approval of the July 11, 2022, Meeting Agenda:**

**Motion:** A Motion was made by Joanne Plescia and seconded by Ben Monastero to approve the July 11, 2022, Town Council Meeting Agenda. **The motion carried unanimously 5-0.**

1. **Introduction of Council positions for FY 2023:**

**Bob Wood – Mayor; Harry Ward – Vice Mayor; Joanne Plescia – Treasurer; Ben Monastero – Secretary; and Larry Meinert – Councilperson at Large**

1. **Correspondence:** none to read
2. **Reports:**
3. **Treasurer’s Report:**

Joanne Plescia, reviewed the Treasurer’s Reports, attached.

A **Motion** was made by Harry Ward to approve the June 2022 Treasurer’s Report pending audit and seconded by Ben Monastero. **The Motion passed 5-0**

The Tax collector’s report includes approximately $6000 not paid, one of which is over $3000. Joanne will work with Jul and Jennifer to bring all due monies. Bills are mailed by July 31 each year and are due October 1 of the same year.

1. **Building Inspector’s Report:**

Harry Ward reviewed the report, attached. Construction and permit requests have slowed.

1. **Streets Report:**

Bob Wood advised that the speed signs (one is not working properly) will be checked and we’ll have an idea of costs to replace either the battery or the entire unit. We are considering getting a third one of those signs. We are looking into getting a few more speed humps along Bay Avenue to try to slow traffic and prevent speeding that is still taking place.

Jimmy Dalton, Bob Wood and Harry Ward reviewed proposals to widen and lay crushed concrete on the streets off Passwaters. Four companies submitted bids and a contract was chosen based on ability to get crushed concrete and price. **A Motion** was made by Harry Ward to use Custom Paving to finish the six streets off Passwaters; Blue Heron, Horseshoe Crab, Sandpiper, Marina Dr, Driftwood and White Gull for $39,000 with varying lengths and was seconded by Ben Monastero.

**The Motion passed 5-0.**

1. **Memorial Fire Company:**

Bill Tobin advised that the fire company is hosting a crab feast on Friday, August 12th to raise money for Dave Wilson and a band will be present. Tickets will be $50 each or $90 for a couple and all money is tax exempt – and the tickets will be sold by Jul in the Town office.

The fire company is very thankful for the traffic control unit that the Town has purchased for the fire company through a grant from Dave Wilson and will be picked up and operational within a month.

The lift for the new boat is not operational yet – parts are on back order.

For June there were 28 transports, 2 patient refusals, assisted four agencies, 3 public service calls at the beach and one patient standby. Thirteen times out of district and 15 times in district.

1. **Tony Pratt/Sand on the Beach/Bay Beach Working Group:**

Tony Pratt advised that the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) is still being pushed by Senator Carper and his staff. Hoping for an update in the next two weeks. Section 1-11 study of the Mispillion by the USACE has been frustratingly slow and the most recent update was that it fell to the wayside and the Corps will re-visit that study in September. Tony called the Senator’s office to see if they could put pressure on to move this along. The lack of maintenance and dredging of the jetty and channel will help us to get the work needed that will help our beach with detritus. The tubeworms are not a threat to sand or wave movement. The colonies are very common on the Bay bottom but they are destroyed if there is an icy winter – they easily re-establish themselves quickly and do not have an affect on beach replenishment or sand movement.

1. **Mayoral and Council updates:**

Resilient and Sustainable Communities League (RASCL) – Bob Wood will attend the next meeting on Thursday of this week.

Association of Coastal Towns – no update

Sussex County Association of Towns (SCAT) – no meetings in summer

Delaware League of Local Governments (DLLG) – no update

1. **Grants and on-going projects:**
2. **Sea Grant** – University of Delaware is working with us on a grant of $25,000 for our Town to raise oyster larvae, we are actively working to put the tanks in Slaughter Beach
3. **WIIN Project/PEW Charitable Trust** – there have been town meetings to develop a more purposeful study for use of the Mispillion and Cedar Creek watersheds to potentially increase perceived value of our Town/area for state and federal funds. Bob Wood has an interview with a guy from DE State News and that interview got caught by AP and went national.
4. **Stairs on the Beach** – Harry Ward is continuing to work on this project.
5. **Yard Waste Dumpster** – So far Republic has reported that they are being used appropriately for yard waste so they will continue to work with us. A question was raised by a resident as to how locations are chosen and a request was made to alternate to other roads, rather than repeat each year.
6. **Paving & Setting Streets off Passwaters** – The County grant for $100,000 that has already been deposited in our accounts will be used to finish six (6) streets in addition to other projects. As above, the Motion was passed and this will count for $39,000 of this money.
7. **Town Speed Cameras** – Gary Plescia is working on the replacement of the two cameras at the fire house.
8. **Detritus** – Until the USACE completes their Section 1-11 study we have no update.
9. **5G Wireless** – on hold until other beach towns move forward.
10. **Sewer District -** Mayor Wood advised our Application and Notice of Intent was submitted to the Water Infrastructure Advisory Council (WIAC). We are hopeful to be on the September meeting Agenda.
11. **Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)** – Joanne Plescia stated that the EOP is done and was only waiting til after the election and reorganization meeting as council members need to be listed. This will be submitted next week. Harry Ward advised we have all but one slot, 341-380, filled for the Seaside Envoy program. The program was sent via email blast to the town contacts on file. If you don’t receive town emails, request to be added by emailing townmanager@slaughterbeachde.com
12. **Grant Proposal Writer –** Julia Geha advised we met with Jenny Egan and she will be pleased to work with us and find available money for the town.
13. **Drainage Issues in the 590 Block** – Harry Ward advised that he is had a meeting with DelDOT that got cancelled so it’s rescheduled and more at the next meeting; question from 469 asking to be included.
14. **Artesian –** they did not get the grant they originally applied for, however, they will apply again around the first of the year and change the reasoning in hopes of getting the grants.
15. **Playground Upgrade –** Bob Wood advised they are considering improvements to the tennis and basketball courts as well as using a second grant to potentially improve the design of the “play” area and upgrade equipment as well as possibly include a walking track around the play area. A question was asked about adding pickleball courts – all ideas are being considered.
16. **New Business:**

A larger party was held on Fri or Sat night and no one in town was notified. All residents need to understand they can call members on town council when they see a problem, and they can call the state police and request a visit/drive-thru.

There is a burn ban in Delaware from May 1 to October 1, 2022.

Propane tank tie-downs have been addressed with Southern States. All residents need to recognize that the Town has a “Flood Ordinance” in addition to the Town Code that requires propane tanks be tied down. See the website, slaughterbeach.delaware.gov, under Government, under Town Code/Charter.

1. **Upcoming Events:**
* August 12, 2022 fundraiser/crab feast at the firehouse – tickets sold via town manager.
* Town Council Meeting September 8, 2022 at 7:00pm
* 5K Greenhead race – September 18, 2022 at 8:00am – we are looking for volunteers!
1. **Open Forum**: Harry Ward expressed thanks to all those that turned out for the July 4th Sail Club Regatta which was well attended and a terrific success. Next year we may request an out-house at the end of Delaware Ave so people have options. We had support from the fire department and are grateful for everyone’s participation.
2. **Adjournment:**

**Motion**: A Motion was made by Joanne Plescia to adjourn the Meeting and was seconded by Harry Ward at 8:28pm. **The Motion passed unanimously, 5-0**