

**Town of Fenwick Island
Minutes of the Charter & Ordinance Committee Meeting
March 8, 2016**

Call to Order at 9:30 a.m.

Present: Committee Members Bill Weistling, Winnie Lewis, Mike Quinn, Buzz Henifin, Diane Tingle, Doug Lopez, Merritt Burke and Pat Schuchman

Absent: Ben Waide, Roy Williams

Public in Attendance: Gene Langan, Mary Ellen Langan, Vicki Carmean, Wayne Carmean, Virginia Childers-Davidson, Dottie Lopez, Pam Pridgeon, Alex Daly, John Rymer

Minutes:

- Diane Tingle made a motion to approve the minutes of January 5, 2016 seconded Buzz Henifin. Motion passed.

Issues for Discussion & Possible Action:

- Bill Weistling began discussion with Chapter 160-4B (Residential) and Chapter 160-5B (Commercial) which was approved by Town Council at the February 26, 2016 Town Council Meeting.
- Doug Lopez stated he was not informed of the First Reading of this amendment until the day before the Town Council Meeting. It was on the agenda for the February 26 meeting and he asked why it had not been discussed prior to having a First Reading.
- Mr. Weistling answered that there has been discussion on proposed changes in freeboard, height and the moratorium on motel/hotels over at least the last year or more.
- Although most proposed amendments are discussed by the C&O Committee prior to a First Reading, Chapter 24-2 does state that Town Council will approve a First Reading and then forward it to C&O for discussion. Either has been accepted practice.
- Mr. Lopez further stated his concern that this amendments will pass during a time of year when most property owners are not in Town.
- Mr. Weistling answered that there has been plenty of discussion of an amendment regarding freeboard and height and that the results of the survey sent to property owners showed that although close, more property owners favored a freeboard requirement with a height increase.
- He added he would also like to see lots required to elevate properties 6 to 12 inches in order to be allowed the height increase when adhering to freeboard.
- Mike Quinn stated that most homes are already at an 18” to 24” freeboard and added that he would want this allowance of freeboard and height for new construction only.
- Mr. Weistling answered that this could prevent a property owner who wanted to elevate an existing house.
- Committee members Bill Weistling, Diane Tingle and Winnie Lewis voted to keep the amendment as written, while Buzz Henifin, Doug Lopez and Mike Quinn voted against supporting it as written.
- Buzz Henifin stated his concern that freeboard and height should be addressed separately.
- Mr. Quinn made a motion to have move the Public Hearing and Second Reading scheduled for April 1, 2016 to the July Town Council meeting, seconded by Mr. Lopez. Mr. Weistling, Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. Tingle voted “no”, Mr. Henifin abstained. Motion failed.
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- Discussion continued on the next item on the agenda, Chapter 116 – Gun Ordinance.
- Mr. Weistling explained the proposed amendment is in response to a complaint by a property owner on Bay Street who was concerned that people were hunting at the end of her street.
- After some discussion on what type of guns would be banned in Town the committee agreed that the ordinance should simply prohibit hunting in Town.

- A draft ordinance will be given to Chief Boyden for his comments.

Comprehensive Plan:

- Winnie Lewis stated that there would be a Planning Commission meeting this afternoon (March 8th) from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm the Planning Commission will conduct the second of three working sessions. Any questions for the Planning Commission should be submitted after the meeting and will be addressed at the following meeting. There will be Public Workshops planned for the Summer for the public comments on the revised Comprehensive Plan.

Next Meeting:

- April 5, 2016
 - Chapter 116 – Article III – Gun Ordinance
 - Chapter 160 – Height Regulations (Possible)

Old:

- None.

New:

- Mary Ellen Langan stated that the Environmental Committee has been discussing diseased trees in Town. She has researched information from the Arbor Day Foundation and has received a sample ordinance that would require the removal of such trees.
- After the last meeting, the committee members were in favor of educating the public of how to identify and dispose of disease trees and would monitor any increase in the diseased trees over the Summer.
- Merritt Burke asked that the C&O committee address street drainage with a drainage ordinance in 2016 as was recommended by Senate Bill 64.
- He also reported that all agendas and minutes can be accessed through the website or by going to www.generalcode.com. His goal is to have the new website up and available by Memorial Day.

Adjourn:

- Buss Henifin made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Diane Tingle. The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.