

TOWN OF FENWICK ISLAND, DELAWARE

Minutes of the March 24, 2017, Regular Council Meeting

Call to Order and Flag Salute at 3:30 p.m. by Mayor Langan

Town Council Members in Attendance:

Gene Langan, Richard Mais, Gardner Bunting, Vicki Carmean, Julie Lee, Bernie Merritt, Roy Williams

Staff in Attendance:

Town Manager Tieman, Chief Boyden, Building Official Schuchman, Public Works Supervisor Reed, Finance Administrator Brittingham

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Mayor Langan began the meeting by making reference to the winter 2017 edition of the *Inland Bays Journal* published by the Delaware Center for Inland Bays which includes a summary of the state of the inland bays.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- Town Manager Tieman introduced Terri DeSanto, DFIT Program Administrator, who explained that the program offers an insurance alternative to help municipal governments reduce workmen's compensation costs. Currently the premium paid is \$75,881. DFIT offered the Town a rate reduction of \$7,000 which may increase of up to \$13,000 once our classification of high risk due to previous claims expires. Ms. DeSanto also advised that training and educational seminars are available which offer safety training throughout the year.
 - **Motion** – Motion to **approve** the Workmen's Compensation insurance be moved to DFIT – Council Member Bunting
 - **Second** – Council Member Mais
 - **Discussion** – none
 - **Vote: (7-0)**
- Building Official Schuchman read for the record Resolution #79-2017 proclaiming April 22, 2017 as Earth Day 2017.
 - **Motion** – Motion to **approve** the Resolution proclaiming April 22, 2017 Earth Day 2017 - Council Member Mais
 - **Second** – Council Member Bunting
 - **Discussion** – none
 - **Vote: (7-0)**

- Town Manager Tieman read for the record Resolution #80-2017 proclaiming April 27, 2017 as Arbor Day 2017.
 - **Motion** – Motion to approve the Resolution proclaiming April 27, 2017 Arbor Day 2017 - Council Member Carmean
 - **Second** – Council Member Lee
 - **Discussion** – none
 - **Vote: (7-0)**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion – Motion made to approve the Minutes - Council Member Mais

Second – Council Member Carmean

Discussion – None

Vote – (7-0)

TREASURER’S REPORT

- The monthly report is a summary of all account balances through **February 24, 2017** and other pertinent financial information since the prior month’s Town Council meeting.

Motion – Motion made to accept the Treasurer’s Report – Council Member Carmean

Second – Council Member Merritt

Discussion – none

Vote: (7-0)

Treasurer’s Report accepted by Council.

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

- Town Manager Tieman’s monthly report was included in Council meeting packet. Ms. Tieman added that the sales of lifeguard chair advertisement has surpassed last year’s amount and thanked Finance Administrator Kristy Brittingham and Police Clerk Erin Ellinger for their efforts in soliciting sales from local businesses. Donations for the Fenwick Flicks are also half way to meeting our goal to pay for the cost of three feature films.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- **Building Official** – The monthly report was included in the Council meeting packet. There were 5 rental licenses, 1 residential merchant license and 14 outside contractor licenses during the month of February. Ms. Schuchman added that notices were sent to all commercial property owners and business owners who will be affected by the smoke testing to be conducted by Sussex County Engineering Department on April 3rd, 4th and 5th. The Town Appraiser will be in Town on May 8th and 9th doing the annual re-assessment of Town properties for the 2017-2018 tax year.

- **Public Works** – The monthly report was included in the Council meeting packet. Public Works Supervisor Reed added his department will assist Sussex County Engineering Department with checking sewer connections to determine if there are leaks. Resurfacing of beach ends is nearly complete with 11 of 12 beach ends done.
- **Beach Patrol** – No report.
- **Police Department** – The monthly report was included in the Council meeting packet. Chief Boyden added that the department has seen an increase of nearly double the time expended assisting the state police.

TOWN COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Beach Committee** – No report.
- **Environmental Committee** – Chair Wilson stated the next meeting will be on Thursday, April 13, 2017 at 2:30 p.m., with discussion of final plans for Earth Day event.
- **Technology Committee** – No report.
- **Business Development Committee** – Chair Tim Collins reported on the successful Fenwick Island Business Owners meeting held on March 23, 2017. The committee along with the Chamber of Commerce presented to the business owners in attendance events planned for the Fall such as the “*Homegrown Harvest Festival*” and “*Fenwick Fridays*” and enlisted their support to kick off these events in October.
- **Ad hoc Election Committee** – Chair Lee reported that the committee met on March 23, 2017 with Mayor Langan and our town solicitor to discuss amending Charter Section 9 (Voting) and requested that Town Council forward to the Charter & Ordinance Committee for further discussion.
- **Planning Commission** – Chair Mais reported that revisions to the plan are on track and will be presented to the public at the workshop scheduled for May 20, 2017.
- **Charter and Ordinance** – Chair Bill Weistling reported the Charter & Ordinance Committee will meet on Friday, April 7, 2017 to discuss the following:
 - Chapter 160 (Zoning) – Mechanical Equipment in Setbacks
 - Chapter 160 (Zoning) – Cell Phone Towers/Antennas
 - Chapter 160 (Zoning) – Commercials Pools - Setbacks

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Council Member Williams stated he would like to see if an ordinance can be drafted to prohibit drones in Town. C&O Chair Weistling answered he would research this matter.

Council Member Lee requested permission to be absent from the April 28, 2017 Town Council meeting.

Motion – Motion made to accept Council Member Lee’s request for absence – Council Member Carmean

Second – Council Member Merritt

Discussion – none

Vote: (7-0)

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Mayor Langan announced the following upcoming meetings and events as follows:

- a. Apr 07 9:30 a.m. Charter & Ordinance Committee Meeting
- b. Apr 13 2:30 p.m. Environmental Committee Meeting
- c. Apr 14 Town Hall Closed Good Friday
- d. Apr 19 2:00 p.m. Business Development Committee Meeting
- e. Apr 28 3:30 p.m. Regular Council Meeting

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mayor Langan mentioned the passing of resident Dallas Green who was also past manager of the Phillies, Mets and Cubs professional baseball teams and offered his condolence.

Mr. Bill Weistling inquired if the police officers carry NARCAN in their vehicles. Chief Boyden answered that he found that medics are usually on the scene of a suspected overdose before an officer would have time to administer the dose and the special handling required makes it difficult to carry.

Mr. Richard Benn inquired about a false alarm at his house.

Council Member Lee reminded those present that the “*Town Talks*” will be held on Saturday, March 25, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

Motion to Adjourn – Council Member Carmean

Second – Council Member Mais

Discussion – None

Vote – (7-0)

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

**Transcribed by Pat Schuchman, Bldg. Off.,
for Council Member Bernie Merritt,
Secretary*