



# The Town of Fenwick Island

800 Coastal Highway, Fenwick Island, DE 19944-4409  
302-539-3011 ~ 302-539-1305 fax  
www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov

---

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL AUGUST 23, 2019

### MINUTES

#### **In Attendance**

##### Town Council Members:

Mayor Langan, Vice Mayor Mais, Treasurer Bunting, Secretary Merritt, Council Member Carmean, Council Member Houser, Council Member Weistling

##### Staff in Attendance:

Town Manager Tieman, Building Official Schuchman, Chief Boyden, Beach Patrol Captain Rykaczewski, Finance Manager Gary, Town Clerk Martin

Mayor Langan began the meeting at 3:30 PM.

#### **President's Report**

Mayor Langan welcomed the new Council Members, and thanked Julie Lee and Roy Williams for their time on Town Council.

Offshore drilling and seismic testing is still on hold.

Mayor Langan is concerned about pedestrian safety and asked the Pedestrian Safety Committee to resolve the problems with the crosswalks in Town.

#### **For Discussion and Possible Action**

##### Hiring an Engineer for Dredging

Secretary Merritt presented the engineering contract for Ram Mohan (from Anchor QEA).

A MOTION was made by Secretary Merritt, seconded by Vice Mayor Mais, to approve authorizing money up to \$60,000 and to have the engineer proceed forward with his work. The MOTION passed unanimously.

Mr. Mohan noted that this project is a focused dredging which will clear 3,000-4,000' of the channel. A hydraulic dredge will be used since it is more cost-effective. Around 12,000 cubic yards of sediment will be dredged and the project will take 2-3 weeks to complete.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

A MOTION was made by Treasurer Bunting, seconded by Council Member Houser, to accept the minutes from the July 17, 2019 Special Council Meeting. The MOTION passed by majority, with Council Member Houser and Council Member Weistling abstaining.

A MOTION was made by Council Member Carmean, seconded by Vice Mayor Mais, to accept the minutes from the July 26, 2019 Special Council Meeting. The MOTION passed by majority, with Council Member Houser and Council Member Weistling abstaining.

A MOTION was made by Secretary Merritt, seconded by Vice Mayor Mais, to accept the minutes from the July 26, 2019 Regular Council Meeting. The MOTION passed by majority, with Council Member Houser and Council Member Weistling abstaining.

A MOTION was made by Treasurer Bunting, seconded by Secretary Merritt, to accept the minutes from the August 2, 2019 Special Council Meeting. The MOTION passed by majority, with Council Member Houser and Council Member Weistling abstaining.

A MOTION was made by Vice Mayor Mais, seconded by Council Member Carmean, to accept the minutes from the August 12, 2019 Organizational Meeting. The MOTION passed unanimously.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Bunting presented the report for period ending July 31, 2019. He commented that it looks like the Town made the year, but more will be known after the auditor's report. The Town received an additional \$79,425 in RTT in July.

A MOTION was made by Vice Mayor Mais, seconded by Secretary Merritt, to accept the Treasurer's Report. The MOTION passed unanimously.

Council Member Carmean questioned about the Town's bank account yields. Town Manager Tieman replied that she has already spoken to the bank and they have raised the rate to 2.25%.

### **Town Manager's Report**

Town Manager Tieman submitted her report.

### **Department Reports**

#### **Building**

Building Official Schuchman submitted her report, which included 16 permits that were issued in July. In addition, 5 business licenses were issued.

#### **Public Works**

Town Manager Tieman submitted the report on behalf of Public Works Manager Locke.

Council Member Weistling asked for an update on the equipment that was sold and purchased. Town Manager Tieman replied that the dump truck, skid steer and pick-up truck were sold last month. The Town purchased a new skid steer that will go over the dunes and has also cut back on the time to complete projects. The dump truck was also replaced with a Ford F250, which also can go on the beach.

#### **Beach Patrol**

Beach Patrol Captain Rykaczewski submitted his report. He added that the side-by-side is now equipped with sirens and an a/v system, which has helped with clearing the beach during storms.

Police Department

Chief Boyden submitted his report.

**Committee Reports**

Ad Hoc Commercial District Planning

Vice Mayor Mais reported that the Town has retained the service of an architect, and since May the Committee has been meeting on several issues in regards to the business district, including voluntary guidelines, zoning modifications, and the process for approving site development and plans.

Beach

No report.

Business Development

No report.

Dredging

Secretary Merritt noted that the Committee will meet sometime in September.

Environmental

Mary Ellen Langan reported that the Committee is working on the Sustainability Study and will hopefully be ready to present to the Town Council in September.

Finance

Vice Mayor Mais questioned if there is a need for the Finance Committee to meet in regards to rates. Mayor Langan replied that he thinks the Committee still should meet.

Pedestrian Safety

Council Member Carmean reported that the Committee met on August 12<sup>th</sup> about the \$250,000 received from the bond bill. It was also discussed that the sidewalk project would take 2-3 years to complete. Kercher Engineering will be providing the proposal at the end of October. Once the proposal is received, owners will be contacted in regards to the project.

Also discussed at the last meeting was the need for additional lighting and signage at crosswalks. Chief Boyden has agreed to come to the next Pedestrian Safety Meeting to discuss both topics.

Chief Boyden added that as for the signs, DeIDOT requires the Town to sign an agreement and the signs (totaling \$3,000) would have to be purchased and installed by the Town. He added that he highly recommends individuals express their safety concerns to DeIDOT and the Secretary of Transportation. He has also spoken to DeIDOT in the past about his concerns of the crosswalk at Route 54 and Route 1. As for the lighting, he has spoken to Delmarva Power about converting the existing lights to LED's and they told him that they don't change the lights until they burn out.

A MOTION was made by Vice Mayor Mais, seconded by Treasurer Bunting, to purchase the crosswalk signs and have them installed by Public Works. The MOTION passed unanimously.

#### Planning

Town Manager Tieman reported that the State has received and approved the annual Comprehensive Plan update.

#### Technology

Mayor Langan noted that the lifeguards continue to use Twitter daily for surf conditions. For the Town's website, there were 39,134 visitors over the last year and in July alone, there were 6,313 visitors with most being new visitors.

So far this summer, 362 parking permits were obtained using the kiosk, while 895 were obtained using the new Park Mobile app. Council Member Weistling commented that if the kiosk numbers continue to decline that maybe it can be eliminated.

#### Charter & Ordinance

No report.

#### **Old Business**

None.

#### **New Business**

None.

#### **Upcoming Events and Meetings**

Mayor Langan confirmed the upcoming events and meetings as stated on the agenda.

#### **Public Participation**

##### Julie Lee, 703 Bunting Avenue

Ms. Lee questioned who paid for the crosswalk signs in Bethany Beach and South Bethany. Chief Boyden replied that each individual town is paying for their signs.

##### Nadia Butler, 7 W. Essex Street

Ms. Butler questioned what businesses have obtained licenses this year. Building Official Schuchman replied that she could provide the list to Ms. Butler on Monday, but most are renewals with no new businesses in Town.

Ms. Butler then asked why there will be no engineering report for dredging project. Mr. Mohan replied that the report is provided for bigger projects, but he will be providing documents with plans and specs.

##### Roy Williams, 9 E. Essex Street

Mr. Williams questioned if the Town should be spending money on dredging since it is outside of Town limits. Mayor Langan commented that money is spent on beach replenishment and the Town does not own the beach. Town Manager Tieman added that she has conferred with the

Town Solicitor who stated that the Town is getting a property enhancement benefit and safety benefit out of the dredging project. Mr. Williams then questioned how much has been spent on dredging so far. Town Manager Tieman replied that she can provide the amount later, but so far two tests have been performed along with the consultation fees provided by Tony Pratt and Evelyn Maurmeyer. Mr. Williams then asked if the Town has received the fee to perform the dredging. Secretary Merritt said not yet.

Mr. Williams noted that \$14,000 has been received so far for sidewalks and \$496,000 was put in the bond bill. Council Member Carmean responded that the Town asked for \$500,000 from the bond bill but only received \$250,000. Mr. Williams added that in the Town Code it states that the Town Council has the right to put in sidewalks and charge residents for the installation. Council Member Weistling responded that the Town can do so on local streets but not on Route 1 since it is State-owned.

As for the special bank account listed in Section 24 of the Town Charter, it states that all RTT received is designated to go towards beach replenishment. Mayor Langan replied that the Town used to designate money for beach replenishment and at one time had an assessment that was reimbursed to owners since the money was not needed. Town Manager Tieman added that per the Town Solicitor, Section 24 of the Charter will need to be changed.

Mr. Williams noticed that the RTT account is \$130,000 under budget for the year. Treasurer Bunting commented that the County always is a couple months behind on submitting the RTT funds to the Town. He added that the budget number was an estimate on what the Town thought they would receive for the fiscal year.

Mr. Williams then asked that since the microsurfacing was completed if a sweeper can still go over the roadway. Town Manager Tieman replied yes. Mayor Langan added that due to the conditions of the microsurfacing, the contractor plans to redo the streets in the fall.

#### Diane Tingle, 1603 Coastal Highway

Ms. Tingle noted that Senator Hocker and Representative Gray have pictures of the pedestrian safety issues and the County Council have also been notified. She encouraged everyone to attend the next "Coffee With" event that Senator Hocker or Representative Gray host so they can hear everyone's concerns.

#### Nadia Butler, 7 W. Essex Street

Ms. Butler questioned once the dredging is done of the Bay about how long it will last until it is filled with sediment again. Secretary Merritt replied that since the Bay has never been dredged it is not certain how long it will last.

### **Adjournment**

A MOTION was made by Secretary Merritt, seconded by Council Member Houser, to adjourn the meeting. The MOTION passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 4:31 PM.