



The Town of Fenwick Island

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REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL JANUARY 24, 2020

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, Public Works Manager Locke, Finance Manager Gary, Town Clerk Martin

Mayor Langan began the meeting at 3:30 PM.

President's Report

Mayor Langan noted at this morning's Association of Coastal Towns (ACT) Meeting, it was presented that the State is close to signing the back bay study.

For Discussion and Possible Action

2019 Town Audit

PKS presented the Town Audit for 2019.

A MOTION was made by Vice Mayor Mais, seconded by Council Member Carmean, to accept the audit. The MOTION passed unanimously.

Executive Order 13888 (Enhancing State and Local Involvement in Resettlement)

Town Manager Tieman noted that all communities received the executive order which allows refugees to be accepted into the Town. Since our community is not able to accommodate refugee resettlement due to lack of transportation and medical facilities, the Town has been instructed not to respond to the executive order which in turn construes that the Town does not want to participate in the program.

Council Member Weistling noted that although Delaware has not acted so far on the executive order, on January 15th a federal judge in Maryland has already blocked the order.

Approval of the FEMA Elevation Project

Building Official Schuchman noted that FEMA recently approved an elevation project at 15 Oyster Bay Drive. Per FEMA requirements, Town Council needs to approve the project in order to proceed.

A MOTION was made by Council Member Carmean, seconded by Council Member Weistling, to approve the FEMA elevation project. The MOTION passed unanimously.

Council Member Weistling commented that he thought the Town was not participating in any more elevation projects. Building Official Schuchman responded that this project is being funded from money remaining from Hurricane Sandy.

Mutual Assistance Agreement

Chief Boyden noted that the Mutual Assistance Agreement has already been approved by Ocean View and South Bethany. Also, a workshop was held on January 10th to answer any questions.

A MOTION was made by Vice Mayor Mais, seconded by Council Member Houser, to approve the Mutual Assistance Agreement.

Secretary Merritt commented that he is voting no since the status quo is working well and liability is where we need to be for the Town. Council Member Weistling agreed, adding that we have a small police force with only 5 officers and they serve our community well. Vice Mayor Mais noted that he is voting yes since any questions he had in the agreement were answered in the workshop held earlier this month and he sees no negatives but a lot of benefits to the agreement. Council Member Houser also voted yes due to the perception if Fenwick Island does not join into the agreement. Council Member Carmean voted no, since the coverage area is way too big for our limited staff. Treasurer Bunting noted that he is voting no since he feels there is no need for an agreement and what we currently have is working well. Mayor Langan also voted no, since he does not want our officers leaving town.

The MOTION to approve the Mutual Assistance Agreement was not approved (2-5).

Approval of Minutes

A MOTION was made by Vice Mayor Mais, seconded by Council Member Houser, to accept the minutes from the December 6, 2019 Regular Council Meeting. The MOTION passed unanimously.

A MOTION was made by Council Member Carmean, seconded by Vice Mayor Mais, to accept the minutes from the December 10, 2019 Council Orientation. The MOTION passed unanimously.

A MOTION was made by Treasurer Bunting, seconded by Council Member Houser, to accept the minutes from the January 10, 2020 Mutual Assistance Agreement Workshop. The MOTION passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Bunting presented the reports for period ending November 30, 2019 and December 31, 2019. He noted that he received a letter of appreciation from the Center for Inland Bays for the funding they received from the Town for the two projects. The Town received \$19,875 in RTT in November and \$12,795 in December, which make the account balance for the year at \$271,470.

A MOTION was made by Council Member Houser, seconded by Council Member Carmean, to accept the Treasurer's Report. The MOTION passed unanimously.

Town Manager's Report

Town Manager Tieman submitted her report.

Department Reports

Building

Building Official Schuchman reported that 102 licenses were issued in November and 180 licenses were issued in December. A total of 10 building permits were issued in November and 6 building permits were issued in December.

Public Works

Public Works Manager Locke submitted his report.

Police Department

Chief Boyden submitted his report. He added that a new officer was hired and should be starting in February. In addition, the Police Department recently received a new SUV, which was partially paid for by a County grant.

Committee Reports

Ad Hoc Commercial District Planning

Vice Mayor Mais reported that the Committee met earlier this week with the consultant to discuss possible ordinance changes. The Committee will review the design guidelines again, then a Council Workshop will be scheduled.

Beach

Becka McWilliams reported that the Annual Fenwick Freeze was a success. Although the t-shirts sold out, there are still beach towels available for \$15.

The next Beach Committee Meeting will be held in May to start planning for the Annual Town Bonfire.

Business Development

No report.

Dredging

Secretary Merritt reported that the dredging engineer has been working with Freeman engineers.

Environmental

Mary Ellen Langan reported that the Committee met this month to begin plans for the annual Earth Day Cleanup, which will be held on April 18, 2020.

Finance

Vice Mayor Mais reported that the Committee will meet on February 20, 2020 at 10:00 AM to discuss potential investment of reserve funds and surplus funds.

Pedestrian Safety

Council Member Carmean reported that the Century Engineering contract was signed and the surveyors are in the process of taking preliminary measurements for the sidewalks. The Town will be meeting with Century Engineering on January 28, 2020.

Council Member Carmean recently attended a Bike & Pedestrian Safety Meeting, where it was asked for each town to print posters to be displayed at local businesses and real estate offices. The representative from the Delaware Office of Highway Safety will attend the May Council Meeting to kick-off the campaign.

Mayor Langan questioned about the status of the crosswalk signs. Town Manager Tieman responded that she will follow up with Peter Hagg from DelDOT on the status of the signs. Council Member Carmean added that along with the installation of the signs hopefully the crosswalks will be repainted before the summer season.

Planning

No report.

Technology

Mayor Langan noted there were 37,901 unique visitors to the Town's website over the last year.

Mayor Langan also noted that he will be scheduling a Technology Committee Meeting soon to discuss a new survey program.

Charter & Ordinance

No report.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Mayor Langan noted that the February Council Meeting will be held on the 3rd Friday of February instead of the 4th Friday. Council Member Carmean and Secretary Merritt are unable to attend the meeting on February 21, 2020.

A MOTION was made by Vice Mayor Mais, seconded by Council Member Houser, to excuse both Council Member Carmean and Secretary Merritt from the February Council Meeting. The MOTION passed unanimously.

Upcoming Events and Meetings

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

Council Member Weistling reminded everyone of the Indian River School District referendum to be held on February 13, 2020.

Public Participation

Mike Quinn, 5 W. Houston Street

Mr. Quinn asked if our police officers can volunteer in other towns when they are off-duty. Chief Boyden replied not without an agreement.

Julie Lee, 703 Bunting Avenue

Ms. Lee questioned about the crosswalk signs that will be installed. Town Manager Tieman replied that each crosswalk will have a yellow crosswalk sign installed. The signs are being paid by DelDOT.

Adjournment

A MOTION was made by Council Member Houser, seconded by Vice Mayor Mais, to adjourn the meeting. The MOTION passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 4:12 PM.