



The Town of Fenwick Island

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REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

Friday, July 25, 2025

MEETING HELD VIA TELECONFERENCE

MINUTES

In Attendance

Town Council Members:

Mayor Magdeburger, Treasurer Rymer, Council Member Brennan, Council Member Wilson, Council Member Bortner, Secretary Napolitano, Council Member Zanelotti

Staff in Attendance:

Town Clerk Ellinger, Beach Patrol Captain Rykaczewski, Building Official Locke, Police Chief Michael Morrissey, Finance Director Green, Administrative Assistant Grab

Others in Attendance:

Along with the Town Council and Staff, there were an additional 4 on Zoom and 7 in-person participants.

Call to order and flag salute at 1:00 PM.

1. President's Report - Mayor Magdeburger

The Town Bonfire was a success, and the recent Movie Night was a big hit. A request was made to consider showing classic films at future movie nights. The “Fenwick Nurtures Nature” event was also successful.

The Police Department recently underwent its state-required accreditation inspection, which Chief Morrissey oversaw from the ground up. Although the official results will not be available until the fall, the initial feedback from the accreditors was very positive. They were particularly impressed with the department’s comprehensive water rescue gear, noting that it is the only department in the state fully equipped for rescue—an especially important distinction for a coastal town. Master Corporals Story and Majewski worked closely with the Chief throughout the accreditation process. The department remains ahead of the required deadline for completion.

2. Approval of Minutes

a. Motion: To approve the minutes of June 27, 2025, Regular Town Council Meeting with modifications.

Moved by: Bill Rymer

Seconded by: Natalie Magdeburger

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

b. Motion: To approve the minutes of June 18, 2025, Special Town Council Meeting.

Moved by: Bill Rymer

Seconded by: Jacque Napolitano

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

c. Motion: To approve the minutes of June 24, 2025, Public Hearing.

Moved by: Susan Brennan

Seconded by: Jacque Napolitano

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

d. Motion: To approve the minutes of Executive Sessions of 2023 (July – December).

Bill Rymer, Janice Bortner, Jacque Napolitano and Natalie Magdeburger voted in favor.

Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger

Seconded by: Bill Rymer

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

e. Motion: to approve the minutes of the July – August 2024 Executive Sessions.

Bill Rymer, Janice Bortner, Jacque Napolitano and Natalie Magdeburger voted in favor.

Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger

Seconded by: Bill Rymer

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

f. Motion: to approve the minutes of August 2024 – January 2025 Executive Session.

Bill Rymer, Janice Bortner, Jacque Napolitano, Natalie Magdeburger and Susan Brennan voted in favor.

Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger

Seconded by: Jacque Napolitano

g. Motion: to approve the minutes of February 2025 - June 2025.

All Council Members voted in favor.

Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger

Seconded by: Bill Rymer

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

3. For Discussion and Possible Action:

a. **FIBP shed purchase and electrical installation**

Beach Patrol Captain Ryk requested the replacement of the existing small shed located at the Essex Street dune lot due to insufficient space. The current shed will be relocated to the Police Department lot at a cost of \$250. A new, larger shed will be purchased to replace it, with installation being provided at no cost. The cost of the new shed is \$6,000 and will be funded through the Beach Committee budget.

Motion: To approve the Beach Committee funds be used for the new shed on Essex Street in the amount of \$6,463.

Moved by: Jacque Napolitano

Seconded by: Natalie Magdeburger

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

There will be a \$4,150 charge to run electricity to the area, as code requires a light to be installed. There is no fee for the Delmarva Power setup. The installation will also provide a power source for future Town movie nights and bonfire events.

Motion: To approve installation of electric service to the Bayard Street shed.

Moved by: Jacque Napolitano

Seconded by: Bill Rymer

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

b. **Planning Commission – Committee restructuring recommendations focusing on efficiency and redundancy**

Councilmember Susan Brennan explained that when the plan was initially created, a key objective was to ensure it could track progress and support an active implementation process, emphasizing that it is intended to be a living document. To date, the Town has accumulated 18 months of committee reports, which are requested every six months in alignment with the requirement to submit the Municipal Comprehensive Land Use Plan. These reports help provide context and documentation of ongoing efforts.

The Planning Commission submitted a memorandum with recommendations regarding the structure of committees. It was noted that Town staff are currently attending numerous monthly meetings, each requiring approximately three hours of preparation and support work. The Commission emphasized the need to consider efficiency and avoid redundancy in committee operations.

As part of this recommendation, the Commission suggested consolidating certain committees to reduce staff workload and eliminate overlapping functions. While committee restructuring typically takes place after the August Town Council meeting, it may be prudent to allow the newly seated Council to vote on and implement any changes.

The Commission recommended that the following boards and commissions remain, some of which are required by Town Charter:

- Charter & Ordinance Committee
- Infrastructure Committee
- Environmental Committee
- Budget & Finance Committee
- Audit Committee
- Beach Committee (rename and expand to a Community Outreach Committee)

It was recommended to disband the following committees:

- Dredging Committee
- Emergency Management Committee
- Technology Committee
- Pedestrian Safety Committee

It was suggested that the Beach Committee and Business Concerns Committee be rebranded as “Fenwick Community Outreach” to provide a broader community focus.

Regarding reorganization, the Business Concerns Committee has experienced a lack of quorum and participation. The recommendation is for interested members to participate in the restructured Beach Committee/Community Outreach Committee, as there is overlap in focus areas. It was noted that businesses already have direct access to Council and staff.

Similarly, members of the Residential Concerns Committee also have direct access to Council and staff. Community concerns may be more effectively directed to staff and Council to prevent confusion, while committee tasks were difficult to identify within the matrix.

The Green Infrastructure Working Group could be merged into either the Environmental or Infrastructure Committee, where it aligns naturally.

The Dark Sky Committee is recommended to remain an ad hoc committee. As the issue develops, the Charter & Ordinance and Environmental Committees can become involved.

The ad hoc section of the matrix allows short-term committees to be listed separately, enabling standing committees to more effectively, manage matrix goals and improve staff efficiency, while still offering residents meaningful opportunities to contribute.

Motion: to table this discussion pending the swearing in of new Council members and the reorganization meeting of Town Council.
Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger

Seconded by: Bill Rymer
Result: Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion: Councilmember Janice Bortner expressed her belief that the Residential Concerns Committee (RCC) is essential to preserving Fenwick's unique character. She highlighted several initiatives the committee has been involved in, including dumpsters, parking, welcome packets, benches on Bunting Avenue, the banning of marijuana facilities, the use of parking hang tags rather than stickers, Dark Sky efforts, the Route 54 bridge project, the Fenwick Nurtures Nature event, the first phase of the Faucett Okie Family Nature Preserve, and the noise ordinance.

Councilmember Bortner also read a letter from RCC member George Stone, who expressed his support for retaining the committee. In his letter, Mr. Stone emphasized that the RCC has addressed several important issues and serves as a valuable way for residents to stay informed. He stated that he believes the committee's value is well justified.

c. **Environmental Committee – Sidewalk and median plantings maintenance**

Councilmember Colleen Wilson noted concerns regarding the maintenance of plantings in the medians and along the sidewalks. Weeding has been performed by Brother Nature Landscaping, and a site walk-through was conducted with Councilmember Susan Brennan and Natalie Magdeburger. An estimate was submitted by Brother Nature for relocating some existing plants and improving the layout. Proposed additions include white and pink hardy hibiscus and yucca, and ornamental grasses will be rearranged to create a more organized planting design. The total estimate for the work is \$1,835.

Councilmember Janice Bortner recommended the use of drought-tolerant plants to reduce the watering burden on Public Works, noting that such plantings can also serve as a buffer for pedestrians along the sidewalks.

Councilmember Brennan emphasized the importance of salt tolerance in plant selection and expressed support for incorporating yucca. She further clarified that the plant selections were drought tolerant but would need watering by Public Works. The Environmental Committee, led by Councilmember Wilson, will oversee the project.

Motion: to authorize payment up to \$1,835, but discuss plant selection and purchase with Brothers Nature. A review of the size of plants being selected should be clarified with Brothers Nature before beginning project.

Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger

Seconded by: Colleen Wilson
Result: Motion passed unanimously.

d. **Discussion regarding the Council decision to join the American Coastal Coalition**

The Mayor shared that she received this request via email. She noted that the organization is a lobbying group and expressed that she does not see participation as beneficial at this time, as the Town's dunes are currently in good condition.

No motion was made on this item.

e. **Infrastructure Committee -Updates on Resiliency Contract with Straughan Engineering**

Councilmember Susan Brennan reported that the Town Solicitor has reviewed the contract and made minor revisions. The project is anticipated to commence in August.

f. **Discussion regarding parking violation fees**

The Parking Enforcement Officer raised concerns regarding beach-end parking, noting that some individuals are opting to park illegally and pay the \$75 fine rather than seek alternative parking.

Motion: To refer the matter to the Charter & Ordinance Committee to collaborate with Chief Morrissey and subsequently refer it to the Budget and Finance Committee.

Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger

Seconded by: Jacque Napolitano

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

g. **General Parking Discussion**

Mayor Magdeburger noted that specific areas in Town are experiencing parking issues, with Surf Bagel being a primary concern. Public safety issues have arisen due to vehicles stopping in the street, prompting the Police Department to place cones in areas being misused. In response, Surf Bagel has requested a referral to the Charter & Ordinance Committee to review the Unimproved Lot Ordinance, which may offer a safer alternative by allowing parking on vacant lots. This matter will be addressed by the Committee. Additionally, vehicles have been observed blocking private driveways. The Mayor emphasized the importance of balancing the needs of local businesses and residents, while prioritizing public safety.

The Town is also aware of instances of commercial parking occurring in residential zones and is actively taking enforcement steps. Letters have been sent to the relevant business owners. The Mayor also reported that she reached out to St. Matthew's by the Sea United Methodist Church, who expressed a willingness to work with local businesses to provide overflow parking and offered to donate their parking passes if needed.

h. Go Melvo Snowballs contract renewal discussion

Go Melvo requested a four-year renewal of his current contract. The Mayor noted that the potential purchase of the lighthouse property by the State should be taken into consideration. She recommended proceeding with a one-year renewal and opening the contract to bid next year to ensure fairness.

Councilmember Rymer suggested limiting the service area to the State Line Beach and supported a contract term of one to two years. The Mayor added that Go Melvo has been a pleasure to work with and performs his duties well. It was noted that a formal RFP process will be required upon contract expiration.

Councilmember Napolitano expressed support for a two-year term. January was identified as an appropriate time to reevaluate the contract and begin the bid process.

i. Emergency Management Plan review

It was noted that the Police Department is responsible for issuing evacuation orders. Ocean City is included in the Town's evacuation plan, and Route 54 is also part of their designated evacuation route. It is estimated that a full evacuation of Ocean City would take a minimum of three days. In the event of an impending storm, coordination meetings are held with representatives from DelDOT, local mayors, police chiefs, and Delmarva Power. The Mayor encouraged all residents to sign up for the CodeRed emergency notification system.

j. Request to refer parking ordinance preventing parking on unimproved lots in business district to Charter and Ordinance Committee for review

Motion: to refer parking ordinance preventing parking on unimproved lots in the business district to the Charter & Ordinance committee

Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger

Seconded by: Jacque Napolitano

Result: The motion passed by a vote of 5-2, with Councilmembers Bill Rymer and Janice Bortner opposed.

6. Treasurer's Report

Council Treasurer Bill Rymer reported the Town's overall cash balance as of June 30 was \$4.1 million which is a \$106,000 decrease from May. This decrease was anticipated and typical for our town during the summer months. We expect the cash levels to decrease in July as well. Year-to-date building permit revenues now exceed \$780,000 as compared to the annual budget of \$325,000. Year-to-date RTT revenues now total \$674,000 as compared to the annual budget of only \$350,000. We continue to maintain overall operating expenses consistent with the annual budget. FY2025 continues to be a very strong year financially for the town and we now expect the combination of operating results and RTT revenues will exceed the original budget by more than \$650,000.

Motion: to accept the June 2025 Treasurer's Report.

Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger

Seconded by: Colleen Wilson

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

7. Committee Reports - Audit, Beach & Recreation, Budget & Finance, Commercial Planning & Building Review, Business Concerns, C&O, DarkSky, Dredging, Emergency Mgmt., Environmental, Planning Commission, Residential Concerns

Audit – None

Beach – Councilmember Jacque Napolitano reported that the Town Bonfire was a great success, raising over \$15,000 for the Beach Patrol. She expressed her gratitude to the Beach Committee for their tireless efforts in organizing auction baskets, t-shirts, and raffle items. Erin Ellinger and Kathy Grab were recognized for managing advertisements, ordering supplies, wrapping baskets, and coordinating donations.

Public Works was thanked for handling setup, takedown, delivery of baskets, and construction of the lifeguard stand. Chief Morrissey was acknowledged for providing police presence at the event and for locating vintage photos stored in the Police Department attic. The Beach Patrol participated by playing games and selling raffle tickets, and Captain Ryk was commended for his positive attitude and strong support throughout the event.

Jerry Green was recognized for ensuring the financial aspects of the event ran smoothly. Appreciation was also extended to the Mayor and Town Council for their support, DJ Sky Brady for his energetic presence, and Jim Simpson for donating Mardi Gras beads, which were handed out to guests as they departed. Special thanks were given to all the local businesses who generously donated, making the event possible.

Regarding Fenwick Flicks, Jacque noted that Kelly Rymer has taken the lead in organizing the event. The most recent movie night was described as a magical evening, featuring games led by the lifeguards and a large turnout.

The Committee welcomed feedback on a suggestion made by John Nason to feature a classic movie night in the future. The final movie of the season, *Up*, is scheduled for August 15.

The Committee recently provided watermelons to the Beach Patrol and plans to do something further for the guards later in the season.

Jacque emphasized that the Beach Committee is in need of additional volunteers. The next committee meeting is scheduled for August 1 at 9:30 AM. The current fund balance is \$59,814.

Planning is underway for the annual Beach Patrol dinner with a request that the dinner be held at a Fenwick Island business.

Budget & Finance – No report

Business Concerns – No report as July meeting was cancelled at request of the members.

C&O – The Mayor stated that the charter amendments related to elections and candidate qualifications are still in progress and currently awaiting discussion with Senator Hocker. A meeting is expected to be scheduled in August/September to discuss the new referrals that are being made during this meeting.

DarkSky – On August 5th, the CEO of DarkSky International will speak at the event, along with local experts, including representatives from Channel Pointe, which is designated to become a Dark Sky Community. The event will also be available via Zoom.

Dredging – Bill Rymer said the dredging project is now officially done.

The last channel marker was installed around 4pm on Wednesday afternoon. Like other aspects of this project, the channel marker process was a little more difficult than anticipated. The original locations provided by our engineering consultants were wider than ultimately what made sense for our channels. With help from the Magdeburger family, the original markers were relocated and the markers in the South Channel were also reviewed for appropriateness. Ultimately, we have the markers in the correct locations, and they look wonderful. Big thanks to the Public Works team who created the reflective markers to ensure they could be successfully affixed to the PVC poles. Jack Pyne, Jack Armstrong, Steve Magdeburger, Andy Emerson and Steve Ross were also recognized for their hard work and resiliency to complete this project. It was a complicated, multi-year, multi-million-dollar project that is now complete because of their efforts and many other folks including Representative Ron Gray, Senator Gerald Hocker and the Sussex County leadership team of Doug Hudson, John Reiley and Todd Lawson.

Please be safe out there and please avoid hitting those good-looking channel markers.

The Mayor acknowledged the Town's awareness of the condition of the main channel and noted that she has personally been raising the issue with DNREC for the past five years. She offered DNREC the opportunity to collaborate on the Town's dredging project, which would have significantly reduced their costs, particularly for soil testing and barge expenses. Councilmember Bill Rymer also extended an invitation for DNREC to participate in the project. The Mayor noted that the main channel is experiencing sediment buildup and continues to be a concern. She meets monthly with the Governor's staff and has raised this issue with the Governor. Moreover, Representative Ron Gray is also involved in the discussions and fund raising through the Bond bill. It was emphasized that the main channel is maintained by DNREC, and the Town does not have the authority to dredge in that area.

Emergency Management – No report

Environmental – Councilmember Colleen Wilson reported that there are currently three monarch caterpillars in the pollinator garden. She thanked Councilmember Susan Brennan for assisting with garden cleanup and expressed appreciation to Public Works for filling the cistern.

Colleen also thanked Councilmember Janice Bortner for her continued support of the Faucett Okie Family Nature Preserve. She noted that a grant meeting related to the park is scheduled soon and that the signage for the preserve has been installed. The next Environmental Committee meeting is scheduled for August 13 at 9:00 a.m.

Councilmember Jacque Napolitano asked how the Town could send a thank-you note to Mr. Okie and encouraged residents to forward any personal notes of appreciation to Town Hall, which will then be shared with him. Mayor Magdeburger suggested preparing a card for all to sign at the grand opening. It was also noted that a sign in keeping with Mr. Okie's wishes is being developed for the preserve, which will include a brief historical narrative.

Infrastructure – Councilmember Susan Brennan reported that the Infrastructure Committee is moving forward with its third annual *Resilience Information & Discussion Session*, titled "Fenwick and You: Our Shared Responsibility in Resiliency – Preparedness, Planning, Implementation." The session will take place on Thursday, August 21, from 1:00–3:30 p.m. at Town Hall and will also be available via Zoom.

Confirmed speakers include:

- Danielle Swallow, Delaware Sea Grant – presenting on Sea Level Rise and Emergency Preparedness
- Kathy Potter, DNREC – presenting on the National Flood Insurance Program

- Larry Trout, Straughan Environmental, Inc. – providing an overview of Fenwick Island’s new Flood and Stormwater Planning and Design Scope

Time will be allotted for questions throughout the session.

Councilmember Brennan also shared a grant and training opportunity through the University of Maryland’s Environmental Finance Center (EFC), in connection with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation’s National Coastal Resilience Fund. The opportunity, titled *Resilience Action Planning for Delaware’s Coastal Communities*, is a community capacity building and planning project designed to help local jurisdictions respond to flood threats and build a pipeline of projects that reduce coastal hazard vulnerabilities while enhancing fish and wildlife habitat.

Following discussion with the Infrastructure Committee, it was decided to move forward with the opportunity. A Letter of Interest was completed in coordination with Mayor Magdeburger.

The next Infrastructure Committee meeting is scheduled for August 12 at 10:00 a.m. Additionally, DNREC is currently soliciting project proposals for Surface Water Matching Planning Grants. Delaware counties, municipal governments, conservation districts, and estuary programs are eligible to submit proposals for planning, engineering, and feasibility studies related to surface water and drainage projects. Eligible project types include stormwater retrofits, green infrastructure practices, stream and wetland restoration, and source water pollution control efforts.

Grant applications of up to \$50,000 will be considered, with a 1:1 cash match requirement. Up to 10% of funds may be used for administrative costs. The cumulative annual cap per applicant is \$100,000. Proposals must be submitted to DNREC by 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 20, 2025.

Planning Commission – Councilmember Susan Brennan announced that the next Planning Commission meeting will be held on August 7 at 9:00 a.m. She also noted that Stu Rubenstein will be nominated at the August Town Council meeting to join the Planning Commission, citing his prior involvement in several Town committees over the years.

Residential Concerns – Councilmember Janice Bortner expressed her appreciation to Public Works, Deb Cowell, the administrative staff, and committee members for their support of the *Fenwick Nurtures Nature* event. She noted that the speakers provided valuable education to the community on a variety of resiliency topics, including the importance of planting even one tree and advancing Dark Sky efforts.

Janice also reported that Megan Fellows attended the most recent Residential Concerns Committee (RCC) meeting to discuss a potential grant opportunity through the Chesapeake Bay Fund, which would support phase two of the Faucett Okie Family Nature Preserve. The grant could assist with training, signage, and other related elements.

Additional topics discussed at the last RCC meeting included the parking enforcement officer, the crosswalk at Oyster Bay Drive, individuals sleeping in public areas, and the need for improved handicap ramps on Bayard Street. The next RCC meeting is scheduled for August 4 at 10:00 a.m.

Janice extended special thanks to Kathy Grab, members of Town Council, and her husband, Larry Bortner, for their support, and she thanked everyone who contributed to the event and committee efforts.

8. Department Highlights

Public Works – Mike Locke reported that DNREC is expected to return next week to complete the final two dune crossovers, including the installation of rope and poles. He noted that some beach grass was disturbed during the widening of the crossovers but believes the affected dune grass will regenerate. This may present an opportunity to request additional beach grass planting throughout Town, rather than limiting it to just three streets as in previous years.

He also reported that the Homeland Security grant-funded camera system is nearly complete. As part of the same grant, the vestibule in the Town Hall lobby will be reinforced to enhance security.

Additionally, a number of code violations are currently being addressed.

Beach Patrol – Captain Ryk reported that it has been a busy month for the Beach Patrol. Several competitions took place, with eight guards qualifying for regionals and four advancing to represent Fenwick Island at the SCLA Nationals. CPR, First Aid, and AED training was provided to staff and some Council members, which he described as a valuable opportunity. He also noted that the guards appreciated the watermelon provided to them by the committee.

An emergency occurred on Bayard Street during a morning workout, an injury took place on Fenwick Avenue, where Captain Ryk administered care. He emphasized the importance of having the ATV available, noting it is essential for assisting the Town's aging population in accessing the beach. He reported that the ramp at Bayard Street is not functional and that the Town continues to maintain the Mobi-Mats.

Captain Ryk also reported that 18 rescues were made in a single day—Wednesday—due to extremely rough surf conditions.

Police Department – Chief Morrissey provided an update on the Police Department's accreditation process. The onsite visit took place on Tuesday and went very well. The assessors assigned a few follow-up tasks, which are approximately 50% complete. The department has been placed on the agenda for the October 14, 2025, commission meeting in Dover, where it is expected to receive official accreditation. Chief Morrissey invited Council members to attend and noted that the accreditation team also

offered to provide a formal presentation to Town Council, either in October or November.

Chief Morrissey commended Master Corporals Majewski and Story for their significant contributions to the accreditation process, noting their near full-time commitment over the past year. He emphasized that this was a team effort and credited their dedication for the department's success.

He noted that prior to this process, the Town had not taken steps toward accreditation, and emphasized the importance of achieving and maintaining this status, particularly as the State is pushing all departments toward compliance by 2028. He also highlighted improvements made under his leadership, including completing the department's policy manual in under a year and organizing equipment for operational readiness.

Chief Morrissey shared that the department recently received a \$45,000 Sussex County Revenue Sharing Grant, which has been submitted to the Town's finance office. He also reported receipt of a \$5,500 reimbursement from the Delaware Criminal Justice Council (CJC), covering the cost of the new command center, which was funded entirely by grants.

Additionally, a second \$5,500 reimbursement was received from the CJC to partially fund the purchase of new bulletproof vests. Four vests, valued at approximately \$9,400, were replaced at no cost to the Town through the combination of multiple grant sources. The new vests are expected to last five years.

The Chief stated that the department continues to pursue funding opportunities and recently submitted a \$30,000 grant application for the 2026 State grant cycle to support future projects. Updates will be provided as grant awards are received.

Councilmember Napolitano and Mayor Magdeburger commended Chief Morrissey for the improvements made to the Police Department, particularly the transformation of the command center. The Mayor noted that the upgrades, all funded through grants, have significantly enhanced the department's capabilities and safety. The new furnishings and equipment were acquired cost-effectively, including a conference table and chairs purchased for \$300 via Facebook Marketplace.

Administration – Town Clerk Erin Ellinger reported that she and Kathy Grab attended 18 meetings during the month of June. In early July, the Town hosted the Waste and Recycling Group in Town Hall for an Appreciation Day and provided lunch in recognition of their efforts.

Website updates were completed during the month, including the addition of a Parks page and a business page, both of which had been requested.

Preparations are underway for the mailing of assessment notices, and staff is doing an excellent job managing the process. Tax bills are scheduled to be mailed on August 1.

Looking ahead, the team will resume work on QuickBase and continue efforts to make all Town forms and applications available online.

9. Old Business

None

10. New Business

None

11. Upcoming Events and Meetings:

August 1	Beach Committee	9:30 AM
August 4	Residential Concerns Committee	10:00 AM
August 5	DarkSky Webinar	8:30 AM
August 6	DarkSky Committee Meeting	9:00 AM
August 7	Planning Commission Meeting	9:00 AM
August 12	Infrastructure Committee Meeting	10:00 AM
August 12	Town Council Swearing In Meeting	2:00 PM
August 13	Environmental Committee Meeting	9:00 AM
August 14	Planning Commission Meeting	9:00 AM
August 15	Fenwick Flicks – Up	8:00 PM
August 21	Fenwick and You: Our Shared Responsibility in Resiliency Preparedness, Planning, Implementation	1:00 PM
August 22	Town Council Executive Session	11:00 AM
August 22	Town Council Regular Meeting	1:00 PM

12. Public Participation

Jim Simpson - addressed the Council, acknowledging that Councilmembers serve as volunteers and suggesting the Town consider hiring a Town Manager to provide a buffer between department heads and elected officials. He noted that the Town is in a strong financial position.

Mr. Simpson questioned whether the Council intends to dissolve the Business Concerns Committee. The Mayor responded that it has been difficult to maintain a

quorum for that committee and stated she plans to include a regular spot at each Council meeting to allow for input from both business owners and residents.

Mr. Simpson shared that he joined the committee because he believed it would be a good fit, but expressed concern that many ideas brought forward by the committee were quickly dismissed by Council, which may be discouraging participation. He suggested that reducing the size of the committee might make it easier to manage.

He referenced a previous email to the committee regarding the potential to add parking spaces on E. Essex Street, stating it would demonstrate cooperation from the Town. He also shared a personal experience where he almost received a parking citation at Surf Bagel despite having a hangtag, which led to a confrontation with the parking enforcement officer. He questioned why businesses are expected to assume liability for parking while the Town Hall lot is not open to the public after 5 p.m. and urged Council to take action on this issue.

The Mayor responded that the Town has reviewed the suggestion to add parking on E. Essex Street but determined it was not feasible due to safety concerns identified by the Police Department. She also noted that Council approved a reduction in the cost of employee parking passes and is actively reviewing the unimproved lot ordinance. She emphasized that Council remains open-minded and is working to find a fair balance between residential and business needs.

Recognition of Janice Bortner - Councilmember Janice Bortner was recognized by Mayor Magdeburger for her four years of service on the Town Council, as this meeting marked the end of her four-year term. Appreciation was expressed for her contributions and commitment to the community. Janice was actively involved in several committees, with a strong focus on the Residential Concerns Committee and support for the Faucett Okie Family Nature Preserve.

13. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 3:12 PM.

Moved by: Janice Bortner

Seconded by: Bill Rymer

Result: Motion passed unanimously.