



## The Town of Fenwick Island

800 Coastal Highway, Fenwick Island, DE 19944-4409

302-539-3011 ~ 302-539-1305 fax

[www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov](http://www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov)

### CHARTER & ORDINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

May 20, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

Town Hall

Minutes

**Members Present:** Natalie Magdeburger, Ann Riley, Dave Reifschneider, John Nason, Jacque Napolitano

**Others Present:** Kathy Grab, Scott Mumford

Flag Salute and call to order at 9:00 AM.

### Approval of the Minutes of November 22, 2024, meeting.

**A MOTION to approve the minutes of November 22, 2024, meeting.**

**Moved by:** Natalie Magdeburger

**Seconded by:** Jacque Napolitano

**Result:** Motion passed unanimously.

### Follow-ups / Status Updates

- **Noise Ordinance:** Committee's recommended updates (civil fines, etc.) were **adopted by Council**.
- **Electronic Signage / Construction Signage:** Previous recommendation to modify §61-3(F) (removing construction limitation) and to **exempt the Town from the electronic signage prohibition** was **adopted by Council**.

### Charter Changes — Discussion (tabled pending legislator input)

- **Process/Timing:** Mayor Magdeburger has **draft language** but has **not yet connected** with Senator Hocker and Representative Gray.
  - **Action:** Committee agreed to **table specific language** until the Mayor consults both legislators and reports back.

**Topics under consideration (no votes taken)**



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- **Election Date/Season Length**

- Dave Reifschneider: Supports keeping the **August** election date (“if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it”), citing time for voters to meet candidates in person.
- Mayor Magdeburger: Open to shortening the **summer-long campaign** but mindful of not reducing needed campaign time too much.
- John Nason: Suggested exploring **late June** as a compromise; noted possible political feasibility limits.
- General sentiment: Need to balance in-person engagement with limiting prolonged campaign tensions; recognized any big change may need voter input.

- **Residency / Proximity Requirement for Council**

- Current framework references a **50-mile** proximity requirement for a majority of council seats.
- Consideration to increase to **200 miles** to broaden eligibility but maintain reasonable availability.
- **Public Q (Geri)**: Asked whether NYC would qualify; clarified that beyond 200 miles would remain ineligible.
- **Status**: Tabled pending legislative discussion.

- **Term Limits**

- Draft concept: **3 consecutive 2-year terms (6 years)**, then a **1-year break** before running again.
- Staggered terms (2-2-2) remain; no other election cycle overhaul proposed.
- **Status**: Tabled pending legislative discussion.

## Ordinance Work — Business-to-Business Shared Parking (Action Taken)

- Committee reviewed draft amendments to allow **business-to-business shared parking agreements**.

### Key clarifications and edits:

- Add phrase “**by requesting business**” at the end of Section B.
- Replace “value” with “**value for consideration.**”
- **Delete** what is currently labeled **Section C**.
- Clarified: shared spaces under an agreement may not be used by the requesting business for general public parking; owner’s normal customer use remains allowed.



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Enforcement/marketing handled privately, Town not a party to the contract beyond ordinance framework.

**Motion: Recommend the amendment to Council with changes noted.**

**Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger**

**Seconded by: Ann Riley**

**Result: Motion passed unanimously.**

### Next Steps:

- As a **zoning ordinance**, it requires **public hearing** and **second reading** before final adoption. Staff to prepare for Council's first reading.

## Public Participation

- **Geri Verlaque:** Asked about impact of proposed 200-mile proximity requirement; clarified it allows Delaware-wide but not distant out-of-state locales.
- **Rosemary Hoy:** Asked about specific flood/elevation number discussed previously.
  - Response: A **2021–2022 draft** existed but was **never formally adopted**. Town will rely on upcoming **BRIC grant engineering** to establish a definitive number before future ordinance updates.

## Adjournment

**Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 10:20 AM**

**Moved by: Dave Reifschneider**

**Seconded by: Natalie Magdeburger**

**Result: Motion passed unanimously.**