



The Town of Fenwick Island

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REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

Friday, August 22, 2025

MEETING HELD VIA TELECONFERENCE

MINUTES

In Attendance

Town Council Members:

Mayor Magdeburger, Treasurer Rymer, Council Member Brennan, Council Member Wilson, Secretary Napolitano, Council Member Zanelotti, Council Member Wilder (via Zoom)

Staff in Attendance:

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

Others in Attendance:

Along with the Town Council and Staff, there were an additional 11 on Zoom and 4 in-person participants.

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

1. President's Report - Mayor Magdeburger

Zoom Security Update

- Due to repeated Zoom disruptions, new security measures have been implemented. Public participants are unable to use video or audio unless recognized to speak. The Town will continue to prioritize open access while ensuring orderly meetings.

Storm & Safety Updates

- Hurricane Erin and the preceding northeaster brought hazardous conditions. The beach was temporarily closed to swimming based on guidance from the National Weather Service, lifeguard input, and regional coordination. Closures were made solely for public and lifeguard safety.
- Flooding occurred on the bay side as anticipated. Public Works posted signs, including "no wake" reminders, to reduce roadway flooding impacts. High tide conditions remain a concern.
- Lifeguards remained on duty throughout the storms.
- Special recognition was given for their assistance transporting over 160 beachgoers with mobility needs, and for their first-place finish at the U.S. Lifeguard Association Nationals.
- Captain Ryk also placed first nationally in his division.

Other Updates

- The Mayor continues monthly discussions with the Governor's Office and raised concerns about the unsafe conditions in the West Main Channel in the Little Assawoman Bay. Despite repeated efforts, DNREC has delayed dredging due to funding. The Town will continue to press for action, exploring possible county and state funding sources for DNREC.
- **Wind Farm Projects:**
 - Federally, the Town (with Ocean City) is party to ongoing litigation. A filing is expected by September 5, with potential motions that could delay or require re-review of permits.
 - In Delaware, the Town (with the Caesar Rodney Institute) is challenging DNREC's approvals for permits at 3Rs Beach and Indian River Bay. If access is denied, U.S. Wind may be unable to proceed with its plan.
 - Councilmember Colleen Wilson was recognized and thanked for her longstanding leadership and advocacy on the wind farm issue, having raised concerns and organized the first local symposium several years ago.

2. Approval of Minutes

a. Motion: To approve the minutes of July 25, 2025, Regular Town Council Meeting.

Moved by: Bill Rymer

Seconded by: Colleen Wilson

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the July 25, 2025, Regular Town Council Meeting with modifications #7 page 8. Correct the spelling of Kathy Grab.

Moved by: Bill Rymer

Seconded by: Jacque Napolitano

Result: Motion passed unanimously

b. Motion: To approve the minutes of August 12, 2025, Special Town Council Swearing In & Reorganization Meeting.

Moved by: Kurt Zanelotti

Seconded by: Susan Brennan

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

3. For Discussion and Possible Action:

a. Wagamon's Technology Recommendations

Allan Wagamon presented two proposals:

1. Extend wireless coverage to the north side of Town Hall to improve iPad camera access and transition the network controller to the cloud for updates.
2. Replace Windows 10 workstations through the State of Delaware Cybersecurity Grant, which requires purchase through Dell's state program. Windows 10 support ends in October.
 - The grant is reimbursement-based: the Town must purchase the PCs upfront (approx. \$7,704) and will be reimbursed once installation and updates are complete. Approval has been secured at the federal and state levels, with final state processing expected within 30 days.
 - The telephone system replacement will be addressed at a later meeting. Current Polycom phones continue to function but are no longer supported by the manufacturer, creating a security concern.
 - Reported ongoing work to address repeated Zoom bombing incidents, noting that other municipalities are experiencing similar issues, with activity traced to Eastern Europe.

Motion to approve the recommendations Allan Wagamon has presented on the PC purchases and the upgrade on Windows workstations.

Moved by: Bill Rymer

Seconded by: Natalie Magdeburger

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

b. Approval of the purchase and installation of five computers, to be fully reimbursed through a grant

This topic was addressed above under the previous agenda item.

c. Action Form 2025-006 – Additional tables for Town events

Council discussed the recurring shortage of tables during Town events, such as the bonfire and large birthday celebrations. It was noted that the purchase of additional tables would benefit multiple events throughout the year. A proposal was made to purchase five tables at a cost of \$350. The Town has storage space available for the tables. It was clarified that the expense would be a general operating cost, not specific to the Beach Committee.

Motion: To purchase additional tables from the general fund.

Moved by: Jacque Napolitano

Seconded by: Bill Rymer

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

d. Action Form 2025-007 – Classic movie night on the beach

Council considered a request from the Beach Committee to add a classic movie night in addition to the three children's movies typically shown in June, July, and August. The proposed cost is \$1,377 per movie. The committee noted strong community support for the children's movie nights, which regularly draw 100–300 attendees, and expressed that a classic film could attract even more participation.

Council discussed possible timing (summer 2026, with the specific month to be determined by the Beach Committee) and agreed that wording in the approval should remain flexible to allow for scheduling. Suggestions for film titles included *Casablanca* and *Pirates of the Caribbean*.

It was also noted that a resident offered to sponsor a movie, and there is potential for local business sponsorship or advertisements to help offset costs.

Motion: To approve the expenditure for an additional classic movie night.

Moved by: Jacque Napolitano

Seconded by: Natalie Magdeburger

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

e. **Committee reorganization discussion**

Councilmember Susan Brennan reported that the Planning Commission has reviewed the implementation matrix, incorporating 1.5 years of committee report data. The updated recommendations were included in the Council packet. Notable changes include: the Technology Committee is no longer active; the Pedestrian Safety Committee is now overseen by the Police Department; and the dredging project has been completed. Several areas of overlap were identified where committees could be consolidated. The revised preliminary matrix now includes an ad hoc column. Tasks and recommendations from the Business Concerns Committee and Residential Concerns Committee have been dispersed, with some proposed to be absorbed into a potential new Community Engagement Committee.

Mayor Magdeburger noted that the Beach Committee may transition into the Community Engagement Committee. She emphasized the importance of restructuring for greater efficiency and focus, while also highlighting the need for more volunteers to support the committee. The Mayor encouraged community involvement, noting that all are welcome at Town Council meetings, and messaging is available through the Town website. Councilmembers are also accessible to residents, and informal opportunities such as “coffee with a Councilmember” were suggested. The Mayor added that this structure can be adjusted in the future if necessary.

Motion: To adopt the recommendations of the Planning Commission

Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger

Seconded by: Susan Brennan

Result: Motion passed unanimously with modifications set forth below based upon discussion.

Discussion:

Council Secretary Jacque Napolitano expressed support for combining some committees but recommended that the Business Concerns Committee and Residential Concerns Committee not be merged with the Beach Committee, noting that the Beach Committee already carries significant year-round responsibilities. She reported that three members resigned this year due to health issues and emphasized the need for additional volunteers rather than restructuring.

Council Treasurer Bill Rymer agreed the Beach Committee has a heavy workload and asked if adding co-chairs from Council would be helpful. Secretary Napolitano responded that more volunteer members would address the need. Councilmember

Kurt Zanelotti added that many members of the Business Committee wish to remain active, stressing the importance of maintaining their voice. Mayor Magdeburger suggested that “working groups” could be an option and explained that the discussion is about rethinking committee organization rather than eliminating access for businesses or residents.

Councilmember Susan Brennan noted the implementation matrix was created two years. She provided background that the Business Concerns Committee began as the Parking Committee in 2012 before evolving into its current form. Councilmember Colleen Wilson observed that business issues are especially relevant at this time.

Mayor Magdeburger remarked that it has been difficult to achieve a quorum for Business Concerns Committee meetings and reiterated the desire to move away from dividing business and residential concerns. Kurt Zanelotti agreed saying that the committees were often at odds with one another’s initiatives.

Treasurer Rymer noted that many of these issues are already addressed by Town Council, with opportunities for public participation.

The Mayor also highlighted the significant staff time required to support each committee meeting and observed that staff are often able to resolve

complaints directly in a timely manner, whereas funneling them through a committee can create unnecessary conflict, delay and confusion.

The Audit Committee, Budget & Finance Committee, Charter & Ordinance, and Board of Elections will continue.

Mayor Magdeburger noted that committees exist to support the Council and stated that the Business Concerns Committee will be restructured, with the option of appointing a business liaison and/or a “Coffee With” opportunity to present business issues with a similar opportunity for any residential concerns.

Motion: To proceed as recommended by the Planning Commission with exception of changing the name of the Beach Committee.

Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger

Seconded by: Susan Brennan

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

f. **Request for monetary contribution to legal fund for challenging DNREC’s actions re: permit disturbing subaqueous and aqueous lands to run transmission lines**

Council reviewed a request from the Caesar Rodney Institute for a monetary contribution to the legal fund supporting the Town’s joint legal action challenging DNREC’s permit approvals related to the 3Rs Beach project and subaqueous permitting for cable connections across Indian River Bay. The case is currently in the appeals phase and requires additional funding for legal research and writing.

Mayor Magdeburger recommended contributing \$10,000 toward the legal fund, noting that Fenwick Island is a plaintiff in the action.

Council members expressed strong support, emphasizing the importance of protecting the Town’s beach as its primary asset, the history of Caesar Rodney Institute’s involvement and leadership, and the alignment with Sussex County’s stance on the issue. The consensus was that contributing to the fund is in the best interest of Fenwick Island and Delaware as a whole.

Motion: The Town contribute \$10,000 toward the legal fund, of which Fenwick Island is a plaintiff, in the action challenging DNREC’s permit approvals

Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger

Seconded by: Kurt Zanelotti

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

g. **Business key chains from Jim Simpson discussion**

Council revisited a proposal from the Business Concerns Committee regarding the purchase of key fobs linked to a QR code directing users to a business listing website. The concern previously raised was that the QR code linked to a site that is not managed by the Town. In the interim, the list of Fenwick Island businesses compiled by Mr. Simpson was added to the Town's website, limited to businesses within the incorporated limits of the Town.

It was noted that Mr. Simpson independently purchased and provided key fobs for potential distribution. Council discussed whether the Town should distribute them and reiterated concerns about linking residents and visitors to a website outside of the Town's control. No motion was made to distribute the key fobs, and Council determined they should be returned to Mr. Simpson for distribution as he sees fit.

Result: No Motion was made.

h. **Faucett Okie Family Nature Preserve sign discussion and approval**

Council reviewed the proposed sign for the Faucett Okie Family Nature Preserve. Mayor Magdeburger said Mr. Okie provided specific language and design preferences, and a vendor quoted a cost of \$3,320 for a permanent metal sign. Donations totaling \$4,300 have already been received for this project, including a \$2,500 contribution from Mr. Nason. Any remaining balance will be covered through the Parks and Recreation fund.

Motion: To approve purchase of the sign, funded by \$4,300 in donations with any remaining balance from Parks & Recreation funds.

Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger

Seconded by: Susan Brennan

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

i. **Farmington Street Infrastructure project**

Councilmember Susan Brennan presented a revised proposal for the Farmington Street project, developed with input from Jay Ryan and Public Works Director Mike Locke. The Infrastructure Committee reviewed the plan and determined it to be a more feasible and less complex option than the earlier version. The project is intended as a demonstration initiative to address flooding concerns and provide an example of strategies that could be applied on private properties.

The estimated cost of supplies is approximately \$700. Council discussed the importance of outreach to neighboring property owners prior to

implementation. It was confirmed that the project is consistent with the Town's resiliency planning efforts and does not require relocating existing barricades.

Motion: To budget up to \$700 to move forward with the project.

Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger

Seconded by: Susan Brennan

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

j. **Infrastructure Committee – Consideration of storm water and flood resiliency fund for public infrastructure**

Councilmember Susan Brennan reported that the Comprehensive Plan recommends developing a resiliency plan. The Infrastructure Committee discussed establishing a dedicated Resiliency Fund to support future flood- and resiliency-related projects.

Council discussed funding options and agreed to begin by earmarking 3% of Realty Transfer Tax (RTT) revenues. Members noted:

- The Dedicated Street Fund currently receives 15% of RTT and is well funded (approximately ten years of needs covered).
- With the dredging project concluding, roughly \$200,000 in RTT-sourced funds may be available to reassign in the future.
- RTT allocations can be reallocated by Council as priorities evolve.

Council emphasized keeping the fund's uses broadly defined until the Town's resiliency master plan is finalized (consultation with Straughan Environmental, Inc. is ongoing). There was also discussion about grant leverage, with some preference to track funds in a way that preserves flexibility.

Motion: To create a resiliency fund of 3% of Realty Transfer Tax.

Moved by: Susan Brennan

Seconded by: Natalie Magdeburger

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

k. **Residential Concerns Committee -**

- i. **Creation of a small library at Town Hall on subject matter books pertaining to native plants, green infrastructure, dark skies and any other issues that are relevant and beneficial to residents to educate the community**

Motion: To adopt the RCC recommendations.

Moved by: Bill Rymer

Seconded by: Natalie Magdeburger

Result: Motion failed. None in favor, all opposed.

Discussion:

Council considered a recommendation to create a small collection of educational books at Town Hall (e.g., native plants, green infrastructure, Dark Sky, and related topics). Due to space constraints, Council favored a limited selection on an existing shelf and an informal honor-system borrowing approach; staff will not manage a formal lending program.

ii. Permanent spot at Town Hall for the rendering of the Okie preserve created by the landscape architect

Council considered establishing a permanent display location at Town Hall for the landscape architect's rendering of the Faucett Okie Family Nature Preserve. The Mayor noted a preference for canvas (no glass) for safety, durability and sound buffering for virtual meeting. A PDF file is needed to produce a right-sized canvas; the previously framed print was too large. Clarification was made that "permanent" would mean a display in place indefinitely.

Outcome: No motion was made; no action taken to designate a permanent location.

Direction: Upon receipt of the PDF, staff will produce a smaller canvas print and display it in a suitable location as long as relevant, and space allows.

iii. The RCC recommended an evaluation of the Town's website landing page for enhanced communication with the community and for information about Zoom contact information for meetings at Town Hall

Outcome: No motion was made; no action taken.

iv. The RCC recommended that the Town consider wherever possible, using native plants and non-native non-invasive plants in Town on public spaces per the recommendation in the 2024 Comprehensive Plan, Section 3.7 page 25

Outcome: No motion was made; no action taken.

v. The RCC recommended to postpone the decision to eliminate the RCC pending input from the community

Outcome: No motion was made; no action taken.

1. **Beach Committee – DJ Sky Brady retainer for 2026 Town Bonfire**

Council considered retaining DJ Sky Brady for the 2026 Bonfire. An invoice was presented for a total fee of \$1,200 (\$600 deposit; \$600 balance). The proposed event date is Friday, July 3, 2026, with a rain date of Sunday, July 5, 2026 (covered by Bonfire proceeds).

Motion: To retain Sky Brady for the town bonfire in 2026.

Moved by: Jacque Napolitano

Seconded by: Natalie Magdeburger

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

m. **Environmental Committee – Little library to be constructed and installed in the Pollinator Park in the spring**

Councilmember Colleen Wilson reported resident interest in constructing a small “little library” at the Pollinator Park for nature-themed materials (plants, pollinators; children’s nook suggested). Concerns were raised about maintenance, weather exposure, proximity to existing public libraries, and potential for overflow/dumping.

An alternative concept—a seasonal seed library—was discussed as lower-maintenance and aligned with the park’s mission.

Action: The pending motion to construct the little library was withdrawn. Item tabled and referred back to the Environmental Committee to return with a specific proposal (book vs. seed library), maintenance plan, seasonal approach, and materials policy.

n. **Planning Commission – Nomination of Stuart Rubenstein to serve for a 5-year term**

Mayor Magdeburger nominated Stuart Rubenstein to the Planning Commission for a five-year term

Motion: To confirm the Mayor’s nomination of Stuart Rubenstein.

Moved by: Susan Brennan

Seconded by: Colleen Wilson

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

Roll Call Vote:

- Kurt Zanelotti: Aye - Knows the nominee and stated he has served Fenwick well.

- Susan Brennan: Aye - Cited Rubenstein's ongoing involvement in Town affairs and said he would be an excellent asset to the Commission.
- Natalie Magdeburger: Aye - Nominated him based on his qualifications/benefits to the Town; expressed appreciation for his willingness to serve.
- Jacque Napolitano: Aye - Has known him for many years and believes he would be a major asset to the Planning Commission.
- Colleen Wilson: Aye - Offered a strong personal endorsement, calling him an excellent person to serve.
- Bill Rymer: Aye - Noted Rubenstein's strong performance on the Budget & Finance Committee and that the Planning Commission Chair supports his nomination.

Councilmember Lucy Wilder was unavailable, having left the meeting prior to the vote.

o. **Planning Commission – After reviewing and reassigning tasks the Planning Commission recommends to Town council the attached matrix with recommended restructure committees**

As presented earlier, no additional action is required

p. **Colleen Wilson request for excused absence from September Town Council Meeting**

Motion: To allow Colleen Wildon an excused absence from the September Town Council Meeting.

Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger

Seconded by: Susan Brennan

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

6. Treasurer's Report

Council Treasurer Bill Rymer reported the Town's overall cash balance as of July 31 was slightly above \$4 million, which is a \$100,000 decrease from June. This decrease was anticipated and typical for our town during June and July.

We just completed our fiscal year ending July 31 so the following numbers relate to that twelve-month period.

Operating revenues for the entire year exceeded the budget by \$464,000, which was primarily driven by building permit revenues. Operating expenses for the year were \$56,000 lower than the annual budget. Total operating income was almost \$400,000 as

compared to a budgeted operating loss of \$110,000, which means the town exceeded the annual budget by \$520,000. Full year RTT revenues totaled \$702,000 which basically doubled the budgeted levels of \$350,000. The combination of RTT revenues and stronger than budgeted operations means the town beat its overall budget by more than \$870,000.

We are also going into the new year with more cash reserves on hand than originally anticipated when we completed the Fiscal Year 2026 budget. This is a nice cushion to start the year, especially if there is potential softness in the real estate market. Overall, Fiscal 2025 was an extremely strong year financially for our town.

Motion: To accept the July 2025 Treasurer's Report.

Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger

Seconded by: Susan Brennan

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 – No report.

Beach – Jacque Napolitano

- Fenwick Flicks: The season concluded on Friday, August 15, 2025. The finale was well attended and positive; appreciation was expressed to all participants throughout the season.
- Classic Movie Night (exploration): There is community interest in adding a Classic Movie Night next summer (in addition to the three children's films). Estimated licensing cost is approximately \$1,377 per film; details to be developed and brought back to Council.
- Fenwick Freeze – Save the Date: Scheduled for Thursday, January 1, 2026.
- Essex Street Shed / Bayard Street Electrical: Post-season, the Essex Street shed will be cleared and repurposed for Police Department storage; a replacement shed will be installed at Bayard Street, with electrical service added. Work will be coordinated to occur on weekdays after approximately Monday, September 15, 2025, to minimize beach impacts. Temporary storage will be arranged, and two short beach access closures will be required during installation.
- Lifeguard Appreciation: On Monday, August 18, 2025, the Beach Committee provided lunch for the Fenwick Island Beach Patrol in recognition of their service.

Congratulations were noted for the Patrol's win at the USLA National Lifesaving Championships in Huntington, California.

- **Volunteers & Meeting:** The Beach Committee is seeking new members. Applications are available on the Town website. Next meeting: Friday, September 5, 2025, at 9:30 AM.

Budget & Finance – No report.

C&O – Natalie Magdeburger

A pending referral will be taken up after the new committee structure is finalized. Because the matter may require several consecutive meetings, Mayor Magdeburger will schedule the next meeting once a full committee is seated, targeting September–early October to begin.

DarkSky – Rose Mary Hoy

- **Symposium (Aug 5, 2025):** Successful program with opening remarks from Mayor Magdeburger and a keynote by Ruskin Hartley, CEO of Dark Sky International (remote from Tucson). Key takeaway: the issue is lighting choices, not light itself—selecting appropriate fixtures/temperatures improves visibility, saves energy/costs, and protects the environment.
- **Community & Partners:** Brief remarks from Carl M. Freeman Companies noting that Channel Point is planned as a dark-sky community with compliant exterior lighting. Fenwick Hardware (John) hosted a lighting demo table; the Committee's display illustrated color temperature differences (Kelvin scale).
- **Ordinance & Q&A:** Discussion covered Fenwick's lighting ordinance (opportunities to update/clarify), lighting and safety (glare as the enemy of good lighting), streetlight design/quantity, and utility options.
- **Recording & Materials:** Due to a Zoom issue, remote access was unavailable; the event was recorded and will be posted to the Town website. Photos/demos may accompany the recording.
- **Community Input:** Residents received a Town questionnaire containing several lighting/dark-sky questions; responses are requested.
- **Next Meeting:** Wednesday, September 3, 2025, at 9:00 AM. The Committee will review the 2025 educational plan and discuss priorities/next steps.

Dredging – No report.

Emergency Management – No report.

Environmental – Colleen Wilson

- Ongoing maintenance: The Committee continues to actively maintain the Pollinator Park and other Town green spaces.
- Story time at the Pollinator Park: On Wednesday, August 6, 2025, the Barefoot Garden Club hosted a children's story time (12 children plus parents) featuring books on caterpillars, butterflies, and pollinators. A second story time is scheduled for Saturday, August 30, 2025, at 10:30 AM, with local author Cindy Deakyne participating.
- Volunteer workday: Barefoot Gardeners returned this past Saturday for deadheading, weeding, watering, and seed saving. Public Works was thanked for keeping cisterns filled during the recent dry spell.
- Faucett Okie Nature Preserve: Members met with the Center for the Inland Bays regarding a pocket-forest grant; Fenwick Island was selected as one of 10 recipients (training October–mid-November; planting targeted for spring). One bench is in place and another is forthcoming. The interpretive sign has been ordered (long lead time); an opening event will be planned once installed. A damaged branch from an aging cherry tree was removed and the path cleared.
- Future projects: Sidewalk-area planting plans and maintenance remain in progress.
- Coastal Cleanup: DNREC's Coastal Cleanup is Saturday, September 13, 2025; residents are encouraged to register on DNREC's site (Fenwick Island is a designated cleanup location).
- Next meeting: Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at 9:00 AM.

Infrastructure – Councilmember Susan Brennan reported the Town hosted its third annual resiliency education session yesterday afternoon, with approximately 40 attendees. Presentations included: Danielle Swallow (Emergency Management) on risk trends and preparedness; Kathy Potter (DNREC) on the National Flood Insurance Program; Larry Trout (Straughan Environmental, Inc.) with a 12-month outlook; and Phil Cane (DEMA) on recovery resources. The session was framed from the property-owner perspective to provide practical, up-to-date information.

A brief meeting intrusion occurred and was addressed. The recording will be posted to the Town website, along with updated forms and contact information.

Next meeting: September 9 at 10:00 AM.

Planning Commission – No report.

Residential Concerns – Janice Bortner

- Appreciation: Thanks were extended to Town staff for diligent hurricane response on the beach and streets.

RCC Activities & Updates:

- Collaboration continues with the Center for the Inland Bays (Megan Noe-Fellows) on green infrastructure and related initiatives, exploring participation in the Delaware Master Naturalist program for the Faucett Okie property and other projects.
- Announcements shared:
 - Doug Tallamy lecture (Sussex Preservation Coalition) — Sept 8, 7:00 p.m., Cape Henlopen High School.
 - Sussex Conservation District native tree giveaway — Oct 11, 9:00 AM (one native tree per person, first-come, first-served).
- Additional topics discussed at previous RCC meeting: seasonal parking officer issues (to be addressed by the Police Chief); Oyster Bay crosswalk expected to improve with upcoming sidewalk work; ADA beach access ramp identified as a DNREC matter (interim support via Mobi-Mats/Beach Patrol).
- Administrative: Prior RCC minutes will remain unapproved. The next scheduled meeting (Sept 8) will not occur due to committee restructuring.

Ms. Bortner expressed appreciation for RCC volunteers and staff, and voiced concerns about the decision to discontinue the RCC. Ms. Bortner also objected to not opening up her Zoom when the Council was considering the recommendations from the RCC Committee. Mayor Magdeburger noted that only Council may make a motion to advance an action and it would have been improper to allow her to raise any motion as she is no longer a member of Council. The issues advanced by the RCC were placed on the agenda but no other Council Member made any motion to advance. Ms. Bortner was offered the chance to make any additional comments she wished during Public Participation.

8. Department Highlights

Public Works – Mike Locke

- Supported Bonfire event logistics.

- Performed peak-season maintenance: mowing, weeding, beach cleaning, and upkeep/repositioning of beach access mats.
- Responded to recent flooding and storm impacts; will continue to assist as conditions arise.
- Processed several summer citations; follow-up is ongoing.

Beach Patrol – Captain John Rykaczewski

- USLA Nationals: Four lifeguards competed in Huntington, CA; all scored points, contributing to the national championship (gold) congratulations to the team. Appreciation was expressed to Council and the Beach Committee for travel support. While senior supervisors were at nationals, lieutenants and crew chiefs maintained full operations, with ongoing rescues and emergency responses.
- Annual Awards:
 - Lifeguard of the Year: *Will Keller*
 - Rookie of the Year: *Alex Bresci*
 - Captain's Award: *Danielle Stewart*
- Public Works & Community Thanks: Thanks to Public Works for rapid repair of the side-by-side vehicle; gratitude to residents for donations of snacks and meals for guards.
- End-of-Season Staffing & Safety: Staffing is reduced as guards return to school (12 this week, 10 next week). Stands will be spaced out, but the beach remains fully guarded. Public reminder: swim near a lifeguard, follow beach regulations, and do not swim when guards are off duty.
- August Activity: 74 rescues, 132 minor medicals, 5 major medicals, 150 transports, and 15 missing persons—all reunited.

Police Department – Chief Michael Morrissey

- Hosted a bonfire for approximately 200 international softball participants; appreciation extended to Public Works (Mike and crew) and Beach Patrol (six guards on standby; no swimming). A thank-you card/call was received from participants.
- Fleet update: A new police vehicle was delivered and striped; it will be sent to the outfitter next week.
- Medical readiness: Using a state grant, the Department equipped each patrol vehicle with a trauma/first-aid kit (e.g., tourniquets, bandages) and an AED. Given the distance

to regional EMS (Bethany Beach/Roxana), these resources improve officers' ability to provide timely initial medical response.

Administration – Erin Ellinger

- FOIA: Received 5 FOIA requests in July.
- Tax bills: Due September 15 — please submit payments.
- Zoom security: Strengthened settings to prevent meeting intrusions. Going forward, speaking and video require host permission for all participants (including Council and residents). If you join by phone, please identify yourself to staff to avoid delays.
- Quickbase: Several Town forms are now live; business licenses are next to move online.
- Cyber grant: Five new computers are being procured via the cybersecurity grant.
- Website/calendar: Meeting listings will remain on the homepage longer. Committee applications will be available next week on the Town website.

9. Old Business

None

10. New Business

Community Engagement — “Coffee with Council” Concept

Mayor Magdeburger proposed launching a monthly informal drop-in “Coffee with Council” with the Mayor and Councilmembers at local venues (e.g., Jimmy’s, The Station, a hotel). Frequency may be adjusted based on participation. Zoom participation may be considered as appropriate. The goal is to provide an informal forum for resident questions and feedback outside formal meetings. A standing agenda item will provide time for discussion of concerns from the business and residential communities.

Motion: To try Coffee with a Councilmember.

Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger

Seconded by: Kurt Zanelotti

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

11. Upcoming Events and Meetings:

August 30	Story Time in the Pollinator Park	10:30 AM
September 1	Town Hall Closed	ALL DAY
September 2-4	Bulk Trash Collection	
September 5	Beach Committee Meeting	9:30 AM
September 9	Infrastructure Committee Meeting	10:00 AM
September 11	Planning Commission Meeting	9:00 AM
September 17	Environmental Committee Meeting	9:00 AM
September 26	Town Council Executive Session	11:00 AM
September 26	Town Council Regular Meeting	1:00 PM

12. **Public Participation** – Deborah Cowell

- Expressed concern with the decision to discontinue the Residential Concerns Committee (RCC); stated the RCC produced measurable deliverables aligned with the Comprehensive Plan/matrix and reported no conflicts with other committees.
- Process/leadership comments: encouraged empowering committees to advance work and bring items to Council for approval; cautioned that consolidating roles may lengthen meetings. Praised RCC leadership for effective delegation.
- Faucett Okie Nature Preserve sign: relayed the donor's request that the bronze sign be installed with anti-theft measures (e.g., secure post/concrete setting).
- Budget question: asked whether unspent project allocations (e.g., rain garden) require a new vote before being repurposed.
- Preserve rendering: requested that the landscape rendering be displayed (e.g., canvas at Town Hall and/or posted online); noted a JPEG is available.
- Noted that green-infrastructure work spans multiple committees and that materials have been shared with the Infrastructure Committee.

Council Responses (summary):

- Unused Parks & Recreation project balances remain in the Parks & Recreation fund; earmarked donations remain restricted to their stated purposes.
- The sign will use the State of Delaware's vendor hardware with a secure post/bracket; staff will review installation details upon delivery.
- Staff requested the rendering in JPEG format; once received, it can be printed on canvas for display and posted online as appropriate.

13. **Adjournment**

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 3:35 PM.

Moved by: Susan Brennan

Seconded by: Colleen Wilson

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

