



The Town of Fenwick Island

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REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

Friday, February 27, 2026

MEETING HELD VIA TELECONFERENCE

MINUTES

In Attendance

Town Council Members:

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

Staff in Attendance:

Town Clerk Ellinger, Beach Patrol Captain Rykaczewski (via Zoom), 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 9 on Zoom and 12 in-person participants.

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

1. President's Report - Mayor Magdeburger

Master Corporal Christopher Story was recognized for five years of service with the Fenwick Island Police Department. He was noted as an integral member of the department.

Corporal Emily Truitt was recognized as the recipient of the Freeman Award for Officer of the Year. The Mayor noted her professionalism and positive demeanor.

The recent Jamming by the Sea event was well attended and received. Volunteer Gary Thomas expressed interest in returning for additional events on May 1 and again in September.

The Mayor provided an update on the recent snowstorm event. Public Works and the Police Department responded effectively under challenging conditions, including high winds, downed power lines, and widespread outages. Assistance was provided by the Ocean City Fire Department and Roxana Fire Company in managing traffic along Coastal Highway. Multiple transformers were impacted, and several road closures and detours were established. Power was restored to most of Fenwick Island by Monday, with some areas remaining without service until Wednesday. Public Works staff worked extended hours, including a 22-hour shift, and returned the following day to assist elderly residents with driveway clearing. The Mayor expressed appreciation to

the Police Department for maintaining public safety and to DelDOT for their response on Coastal Highway.

The Mayor provided an update on ongoing offshore wind litigation. Multiple legal actions and rulings remain active, with no final determinations at this time. The court dismissed U.S. Wind's crossclaim motion without prejudice. A prior federal stop-work order was reversed and is currently under appeal. The Town will continue to monitor developments.

2. Approval of Minutes

a. Motion: To approve the minutes of December 5, 2025, Regular Town Council Meeting.

Moved by: Lucy Wilder

Seconded by: Bill Rymer

On Page 6, the amount for the Okie Faucett Survey approval was incorrectly listed as \$1,5000 due to an extra zero.

Result: Motion passed unanimously with modifications.

b. Motion: To approve the minutes of December 5, 2025, Executive Session.

Moved by: Bill Rymer

Seconded by: Lucy Wilder

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

c. Motion: To approve the minutes of October 31, 2025, Executive Session.

Moved by: Bill Rymer

Seconded by: Colleen Wilson

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

d. Motion: To approve the minutes of December 19, 2025, Executive Session.

Moved by: Bill Rymer

Seconded by: Lucy Wilder

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

e. Motion: To approve the minutes of February 13, 2026, Special Town Council Meeting.

Moved by: Lucy Wilder

Seconded by: Bill Rymer

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

3. Treasurer's Report – Bill Rymer

Since we haven't had a meeting since early December, our last financial report was based on October 31 results. This financial report will focus on significant items between October 31 and January 31 along with Year-to-Date information. For the council, the monthly reports for November, December and January are in the packets. As of January 31, The Town's overall cash balance of \$4.37 million represents a \$310,000 reduction since October 31. This is typical for the town as our receipts from property taxes wind down and we are incurring normal monthly expenses such as payroll. Our budget anticipates generating cash in the first few months of the fiscal year and then cash usage the rest of the way. Through January 31, overall revenues are in line with expectations. Building permits remain strong and the six-month revenues of \$230,000 represent 67% of the annual budget. Overall expenses are also consistent with expectations. Legal expenses were higher than anticipated because of the recent ACLU-Voter Registration litigation, but a lot of that expense will be offset in February since the town just received additional reimbursements from our insurance company. RTT revenues totaled \$256,000 for the first six months which represents 73% of the annual budget. There were no home sales in January, which speaks to a softer real estate market but there are more home listings currently and we expect more sales for the remainder of this year which will support the \$350,000 budget. The town remains on target with its overall budget and forecasted cashflows.

Motion: To accept the November, December 2025, January 2026 Treasurer's Report.

Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger

Seconded by: Lucy Wilder

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

4. Business & Residential Public Participation

None

5. For Discussion and Possible Action:

a. Discussion and consideration of Casella Waste Systems, Inc. contract renewal

Representatives from Casella provided an overview of a proposed contract extension. Casella requested a three-year extension with a 2% fee increase, noting the increase is intended to offset rising labor costs.

The Town is required to solicit competitive bids, as the current contract is set to expire in September. The Mayor noted that Casella is one of the few providers continuing to offer manual collection services, whereas many companies have transitioned to automated collection methods.

While the Town will proceed with the formal bidding process as required, it was acknowledged that the Town has an established working relationship with Casella and has been satisfied with the services provided.

b. **Discussion and consideration of replacing the existing Comcast phone system with Net 2 Phone due to cost and equipment limitations**

The Town's existing phone system has reached end-of-life and is no longer supported by IT. Taylor Ballard, President of Data Tech Brokers, presented Net 2 Phone as the recommended solution. Prior to this recommendation, staff and Data Tech Brokers evaluated other carrier options for functionality and pricing.

Motion: To move forward with the purchase and implementation of the Net 2 Phone system.

Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger

Seconded by: Bill Rymer

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

c. **Discussion and consideration of IQ Fiber's request for installation in Fenwick's right of way**

Councilmember Wilder presented findings from her research regarding IQ Fiber's proposal to provide end-to-end internet service, initially presented to Council in December.

She worked with IQ Fiber representatives, Taylor Ballard of Data Tech Brokers, and others to evaluate the proposal, noting she is not a technical expert but summarizing key considerations.

IQ Fiber proposes installation of a full fiber network throughout Town, requiring excavation within rights-of-way and to individual properties, installation of above-ground equipment, and in-home service setup. The project would require coordination with existing utilities and may result in temporary disruptions.

Currently, Comcast Xfinity provides service using an existing fiber backbone with copper connections to homes. Ongoing upgrades are expected to increase capacity and provide symmetrical speeds in future phases. Current service levels were noted as generally meeting residents' needs.

IQ Fiber may offer competitive pricing, symmetrical speeds, and increased provider choice; however, installation would be more extensive and potentially disruptive, particularly given existing underground infrastructure conditions. The project would also require Town coordination and oversight.

She questioned whether the benefits of an additional provider would outweigh the potential impacts of installation.

Mayor Magdeburger noted that competition can be beneficial but expressed concern regarding infrastructure disruption and construction coordination.

Representatives from IQ Fiber provided additional information regarding their services and proposed approach. Installation is scheduled to begin in Milford, with continued expansion within DelDOT areas.

IQ Fiber stated that they operate a U.S.-based call center with live agents and do not utilize automated phone systems. Their service includes whole-home Wi-Fi coverage without the need for additional extenders. They noted prior experience working in historic communities with minimal disruption and stated that lawn disturbance would generally occur only if a resident elects to receive service.

The proposed infrastructure includes a single equipment cabinet within Town, to be located in a DelDOT area, with capacity to serve up to 5,000 customers. Smaller hand boxes would be installed periodically along service routes.

Representatives indicated they are experienced in working with small municipalities and coordinating closely with Town staff. They also offered to conduct public presentations and question-and-answer sessions for residents and noted that contact information for direct support is readily available.

Potential benefits discussed included increased property value associated with fiber availability and enhanced service options for residents.

Mayor Magdeburger noted the limited capacity of the Town's Public Works Department and emphasized the importance of minimizing disruption. She suggested monitoring implementation in other municipalities, including Milford and Chesapeake Beach, and expressed interest in coordinating a public presentation to gauge resident interest and provide information.

Motion: To table the decision to allow for further inquiry and public engagement.

Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger

Seconded by: Bill Rymer

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

d. **Go Melvo Snowballs' beach concession contract discussion**

The Mayor noted that the contract was extended the previous year without a public bid. The vendor currently provides concession services at the State Line beach location and has received no reported complaints.

Mr. McMahon, owner of Go Melvo Snowballs, addressed Council and stated that the contract is important to his family and that the operation is well-suited to Fenwick Island. He noted that the trailer is small, battery-operated, and does not require a generator, and that it is designed to blend with the surrounding area. He further stated that the business has established relationships within the community, including with residents and the Beach Patrol, and has maintained reliable service over the years. Mr. McMahon also referenced past challenges, including COVID-19 and beach replenishment, and noted that the full contract fee has been paid in advance of each season. He expressed concern that another vendor may not provide the same level of service or community connection and stated that his company has historically submitted competitive bids.

The Mayor acknowledged the vendor's positive working relationship with the Town but emphasized the importance of transparency and the need to open the process to other potential bidders.

It was suggested that the vendor consider participating in Town events, such as Fenwick Flicks.

Motion: To approve a one-year extension of the contract under the existing terms and conditions.

Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger

Seconded by: Bill Rymer

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

e. **Request to add a fourth week, July 6-10, to the Marine Science Camp program**

It was noted that the current sessions are fully booked. The program will begin at the park in front of Town Hall and then move to various locations throughout town. Council discussed that this is the program's first year, and the proposed additional week falls during an already high-traffic period, with increased beach activity and overlapping programs, including the Junior Lifeguard Program. Three sessions are already scheduled during this timeframe.

No motion was made to support the addition of a fourth week. Council acknowledged the complexity of scheduling during this period and indicated that the current summer will serve as a trial, with the potential to revisit program expansion in the future.

f. **Discussion and consideration of seasonal administrative support**

Council discussed the proposed need and reached a consensus supporting a schedule of five days per week, three hours per day, at a rate of \$18.00 per hour. Councilmember Susan Brennan noted that this arrangement is appropriate for the current season while staff continues

to improve internal processes, and that the additional support will help maintain the Town's existing level of service and quality.

Motion: To proceed with seasonal support, Monday through Friday, between 8 AM – 12 PM, at a rate of \$18.00 per hour.

Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger

Seconded by: Bill Rymer

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

g. **Environmental Committee -Request for a part-time summer employee to water/maintain Town plantings**

Councilmember Colleen Wilson reported that over the past two years, Public Works has been responsible for watering the pollinator park. An additional 65 shrubs are planned for planting at the Faucett Okie Family Nature Preserve, which, along with the rain garden, will require frequent watering during the first summer. The median and sidewalk plantings will also require ongoing maintenance.

Council discussed the potential need for a part-time position to provide regular watering at these locations, as needed. It was noted that the Town currently has two large watering tanks on a trailer, which are used to fill the cistern at the pollinator park. Gator bags are scheduled to be installed on the crepe myrtles in May to help reduce watering demands; however, Public Works may not have the capacity to manage all additional plantings.

Council Member Wilder inquired whether Public Works staff would be willing to take on overtime hours to assist; Mike Locke will follow up with staff. Council acknowledged the importance of these plantings to the overall aesthetic of Fenwick Island. It was also noted that there are safety and liability considerations associated with working in the highway median, though the area in question is limited to approximately two blocks.

Vicki Carmean emphasized that public funds were invested in these plantings and that proper maintenance is necessary to protect that investment. Mike Locke further noted that Public Works has significant early morning responsibilities, including maintaining dog waste stations, cleaning beaches, and managing dunes. Councilmember Wilson added that while the Okie Nature Preserve may become self-sustaining over time, the median plantings will continue to require maintenance due to high heat exposure. Additional discussion is needed to determine an appropriate approach, which may include outside services if necessary.

Motion: To table the discussion until March pending further coordination with Public Works.

Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger

Seconded by: Bill Rymer

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

- h. **Request for removal of Claire Motter from the Beach Committee**
Motion: To remove Claire Motter from the Beach Committee.
Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger
Seconded by: Bill Rymer
Result: Motion passed unanimously.
- i. **Request for removal of Jacque Napolitano from the Beach Committee**
Motion: To remove Jacque Napolitano from the Beach Committee.
Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger
Seconded by: Bill Rymer
Result: Motion passed unanimously.
- j. **Appointment of Kurt Zanelotti as Beach Committee Chair.**
Motion: To appoint Kurt Zanelotti as Beach Committee Chair
Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger
Seconded by: Kurt Zanelotti
Result: Motion passed unanimously.

Roll Call Vote:

Bill Rymer – In favor; expressed strong support for the candidate
Lucy Wilder – In favor; noted he will be a great addition
Natalie Magdeburger – In favor; concurred with prior comments
Colleen Wilson – In favor; concurred with prior comments
Susan Brennan – In favor; noted his contagious enthusiasm
Jacque Napolitano – In favor; concurred with prior comments
Kurt Zanelotti – Abstained due to a conflict of interest (matter pertains to him)

- k. Request for removal of Patricia Colonell from the Infrastructure Committee
Motion: To remove Patricia Colonell from the Infrastructure Committee.
Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger
Seconded by: Bill Rymer
Result: Motion passed unanimously.
- l. **Resolution of employee vacation overages**
Council discussed the request to extend the use period for certain employee vacation overages. It was noted that similar exceptions have been granted by prior councils under unique circumstances (e.g., COVID-19 impacts). Council emphasized that the existing “use it or lose it” policy will remain in effect; however, in specific instances, an extension of the usage deadline to December 31 may be permitted.

Motion: To approve the Resolution, allowing for the extension of applicable employee vacation overages to be used through December 31, while maintaining the existing “use it or lose it” policy.

Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger

Seconded by: Bill Rymer

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

m. **First reading of modifications to Section 160-10 (F) and (G) of the Code of Fenwick Island to allow parking on unimproved lots in the commercial district**

The Mayor introduced the item, noting it pertains to permitting parking on unimproved lots within the commercial district. It was confirmed that the proposed amendments were posted on the Town’s website in accordance with required notice provisions.

The request originated from Surf Bagel, seeking consideration of a modification to the ordinance for a property located along Route 1. The proposed language was reviewed and recommended by the Charter & Ordinance Committee.

The amendment would add the following language:

PROPOSED Section 160-10 MODIFICATION:

C. Location of parking spaces.

[Amended 2-22-2013]

(1) Residential. Parking spaces shall be located on the same lot(s) with the structure they are intended to serve in one of the following ways:

(a) Within a permitted garage or carport.

(b) On an open area of the lot.

(2) Commercial. Parking spaces shall be located on the same lot(s) with the structure they are intended to serve in one of the following ways:

[Amended 2-23-2018]

(a) Parking in the Commercial Zone is permitted on improved lots, but only those that have been improved with permanent structures that have working utilities and one or more bathrooms that are operational and available for employee, customer or client use during business hours **or application has been made and approved by Town Council for parking on an unimproved lot as set forth in Section 160-10 F;**

(b) If approved by the Town Council, open parking spaces required for a structure may be located on a lot(s) other than those intended to be served, provided that:

[Amended 2-24-2023]

[1] It is not practicable to locate such spaces in accordance with Subsection **C(2)** because of:

[a] Unusual shape, size or dimensions of the lot; or

[b] The lack of an alley or the lack of appropriate ingress or egress facilities through existing or proposed alleys or streets; or

[c] Traffic hazards.

[2] No more than 15% of the total required spaces is located on a lot(s) other than those intended; and

[3] There is a written agreement provided to Town Council, attested to by the owners of record. The agreement shall:

[a] List the names and ownership interest of all parties to the agreement;

[b] Provide a legal description of the land;

[c] Include a site plan showing the area of the parking parcel and the open space reserved area which would be provided for future parking;

[d] Describe the hours of use of the area of the parking parcel and establish that the use will be unencumbered by any condition which would interfere with its use;

[e] Agree and expressly declare the intent for the covenant to run with the land and bind all parties and all successors in interest to the covenant;

[f] Assure the continued availability of the spaces for joint use and provide assurance that all spaces will be usable without charge to all participating uses;

[g] Describe the obligations of each party, including the maintenance responsibility;

[h] Describe the method by which the covenant shall, if necessary, be revised, with a provision to notify the Town of any revision; and

[4] The peak parking hours of the lot(s) will not be the same as the structure intended to be served; and

[5] The lot(s) to serve the structure are not located in the Residential Zone; and

[6] The lot(s) to serve the structure are within 500 feet of the structure intended to be served.

[7] The Council may impose conditions in addition to those in Subsection C(2)(b)[1] through [6] above as to screening, coping, setbacks, fences, the location of entrances and exits or any other requirement it shall deem necessary to assure the continued provision and maintenance of such spaces.

F. Vehicle parking on an unimproved lot in the commercial zone for a fee or not and with or without the permission of the lot owner is prohibited [Added 4-28-2000]

unless application has been made to and approved by Town Council for a temporary unimproved parking lot permit as set forth below:

1. Property Owner and any other involved business owner seeking to have vehicles park on unimproved lot make application to Town Council for a hearing on their request and shall include in the application:
 - a. Identity of lot which is proposed for parking and legal owner;
 - b. Identity of all business owners with an interest in the use of the lot for parking;
 - c. Proposed parking usage including days of the week, hours of the day and dates of use;
 - d. Business property owner/licensee to which the parking will benefit;
2. Town Council shall have sole discretion to grant or deny the application and:
 - a. Shall consider only those applications that seek to grant a temporary unimproved parking permit for unimproved lots that are contiguous to Route 1;
 - b. Shall consider the impact that a temporary parking permit for unimproved lot would have on the property which it would serve as well as the surrounding properties;
 - c. Shall impose whatever restrictions and/or requirements that Town Council, in its sole discretion, deems necessary to maintain the parking usage for the sole use of providing parking for the business owner/licensee's patrons who seek to utilize the parking while physically being in the building of the business owner/business licensee only, including, but not limited to:

- i. hours of operation;
 - ii. dates of operation;
 - iii. ingress and egress requirements;
 - iv. maximum length of time parking per vehicle limitations;
 - v. configuration of the parking lot, including gating, fencing and marking parking spaces;
 - vi. maximum number of vehicles to utilize the parking lot;
 - vii. number of parking spaces to be utilized;
 - viii. requirement of parking attendant;
 - ix. screening, setbacks, fences, gating;
 - x. and any other restriction, limitation or requirement, not specifically referenced herein, that Town Council deems necessary to assure the proper use of the temporary parking on unimproved lot permit;
 - d. Shall have a public hearing either as an agenda item at a regularly scheduled Town Council meeting and/or schedule a special hearing date that is published to the public;
 - e. Shall ensure that public participation on the proposed usage be permitted during a hearing.
4. Town Council may revoke the temporary parking on unimproved lot permit at any time and for any reason, with five (5) days written notice to the parties seeking the permit or, in the event any of the conditions, limitations or requirements established by Town Council for parking use are not met and/or there is a traffic hazard created by the use of the lot for parking, the Chief of Police may revoke the temporary parking on unimproved lot permit without notice, pending review by Town Council at the next scheduled Town Council meeting.
5. Parking fees imposed directly on the patron utilizing the unimproved lot for parking shall be prohibited.

Any approved temporary parking on unimproved parking permit by Town Council shall expire within the date set forth by Town Council in the permit and, in any event, no later than one (1) year from the date of issuance.

Motion: To accept for First Reading the modifications to Section 160-10 as set forth.

Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger

Seconded by: Lucy Wilder

Result: Motion passed with 6 in favor and Bill Rymer opposed.

Discussion:

Councilmember Kurt Zanelotti inquired whether any approval would require annual renewal, including a public hearing and community input to evaluate effectiveness.

Councilmember Bill Rymer expressed concerns and noted he was not originally in favor of the proposal. He reported feedback from residents on Essex Street and Bunting Avenue who are opposed and believe the ordinance may have negative impacts. He referenced prior parking challenges in Town, including situations where businesses lacked sufficient on-site parking and overflow use of nearby lots was not permitted. He further noted that the current ordinance banning parking on unimproved lots was adopted unanimously by a previous Council.

Mr. Rymer emphasized the importance of safe, compliant parking facilities, expressing concern over the lack of ADA accommodations, sidewalks, crosswalks, and state-approved access points at the proposed location. He also raised concerns regarding traffic impacts, enforcement challenges, the need for a parking attendant, and the potential for confusion and increased police involvement. He noted that the lot could otherwise be developed in compliance with Town Code and expressed concern that approval could set a precedent for similar requests from other unimproved lots in the commercial district. He added that prior Council initiatives, including business-to-business parking arrangements and discounted seasonal permits, have helped businesses but did not fully resolve parking issues. He stressed the need for improved enforcement and inclusion of safety measures in any application approved under this proposed ordinance.

Mayor Magdeburger acknowledged ongoing traffic and parking concerns in the area and noted that the Police Department cannot continuously monitor the location. She stated the proposal offers a potential method to better manage parking demand and traffic flow. She further noted that the ordinance includes provisions allowing the Chief of Police and/or Council to revoke approval if issues arise. The Mayor emphasized that public safety remains a priority and that conditions, including parking attendants, ingress/egress requirements, and enforcement mechanisms, can be imposed as part of any approval. She also noted concerns regarding potential beach access use and stated that the ordinance is structured to maintain Town oversight and enforcement authority.

Councilmember Colleen Wilson stated the proposal is worth trying and noted that any agreement could be revisited if needed.

Councilmember Zanelotti agreed, stating the Town is not obligated long-term and can evaluate effectiveness.

Councilmember Susan Brennan acknowledged the challenges observed during the previous summer and noted the need to balance competing concerns. She inquired whether limitations could be placed on the number of parking spaces. The Mayor confirmed that Council may impose restrictions as deemed necessary and that requirements may vary by property, with public input to be included during the hearing process.

Mayor Magdeburger clarified that the ordinance establishes a process requiring an application, a public hearing, and Council determination, including any conditions deemed appropriate. Any approval would be issued as a temporary parking permit specific to the proposed lot.

Councilmember Jacque Napolitano stated that prior business-to-business parking efforts encouraged cooperation between business entities but was not a complete solution. She noted that the Essex Street area presents safety concerns requiring action. While she understands residential concerns, she believes that a parking plan could make the situation better for the residents. She expressed support for the ordinance as a tool that provides flexibility and Town control, including the ability to address issues if they arise.

Mayor Magdeburger called for public participation, Matt Patton, President of SoDel Concepts, expressed appreciation for Council's consideration and stated the intent is to be a good neighbor. He noted the proposal would increase available parking and improve safety, and that the business is willing to invest in insurance, site improvements, and monitoring of the lot. He added that some employees currently utilize nearby business lots through existing agreements and that this proposal would provide a safer alternative.

Resident Pete Frederick, an Essex Street resident, expressed concerns regarding enforcement responsibility and the potential for the lot to be used for beach parking. He suggested that a permanent, properly constructed parking facility may be a more appropriate long-term solution. The Mayor responded that the Town would enforce compliance through the conditions of approval and that property owners may be cited for violations. She further stated that the ordinance is written to protect the Town's authority and address enforcement concerns.

Roll Call Vote:

Bill Rymer – Against; reiterated prior concerns and questioned enforceability

Lucy Wilder – In favor; noted support pursuant to Section 2(C)

Colleen Wilson – In favor; stated that enforceable restrictions are

included and can be reevaluated

Kurt Zanelotti – In favor; noted the approach can be revisited if it proves ineffective

Susan Brennan – In favor; contingent upon the ability to enforce accountability for use of the lot

Jacque Napolitano – In favor; cited ongoing parking issues and emphasized that Town discretion is maintained

Natalie Magdeburger – In favor; noted the proposal was researched and developed by the Charter & Ordinance Committee to balance safety and the needs of residents and businesses, with determinations to be made on a case-by-case basis

The Public Hearing will be scheduled for March.

n. **Evaluate CodeRed emergency notification system**

Erin Ellinger provided an overview of the CodeRED emergency notification system, including current usage and associated costs. It was reported that approximately 120 individuals are currently enrolled to receive notifications, with many registrations representing multiple users within the same household.

Finance projections indicate an approximate annual increase of 8%, with the anticipated cost for the upcoming year estimated at \$5,314.97.

Council discussed the need to further evaluate the value of the system relative to its cost and usage levels, including a review of the services and features provided by CodeRED. Erin Ellinger will follow up with the vendor to further discuss pricing and overall effectiveness of the system.

o. **The Infrastructure Committee has requested to defer street maintenance this year based on Straughan Environmental's anticipated remediation projects. We would like to request the use of the budget for this year be available for use in conjunction with the 2026/27 street maintenance budget.**

Councilmember Susan Brennan reported Infrastructure Committee meetings discussing this topic were held on December 9, 2025; January 13, 2026; and February 10, 2026, with the next meeting scheduled for March 10, 2026.

The Committee submitted a grant application to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Coastal Resilience Fund, in coordination with the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center; however, the application was not funded. The Committee will continue to pursue alternative funding opportunities.

Tim Leahy also submitted a proposal through the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA 2026) process, seeking to have the Town's

project included as a top priority for the State. The proposal focuses on the reconstitution of Seal Island and includes supporting documentation related to storm impacts.

The Town formally engaged Straughan Environmental in mid-August. Their work has focused on evaluating stormwater management and flooding conditions, including wave action impacts in the northern and northwestern bayside areas along Assawoman Bay. Ongoing analysis and modeling are being used to inform potential mitigation strategies, which may include road elevations, berms, bulkhead height adjustments, bioretention measures, and living shorelines. The year 2050 has been selected as the planning horizon for these efforts.

Mr. Leahy has reestablished a working group to further review and support the evaluation of Straughan Environmental's data, findings, and recommendations. The group met on January 28 and February 19, 2026, with the next meeting scheduled for March 3, 2026.

Motion: The Infrastructure Committee has requested to defer street maintenance this year based on Straughan Environmental's anticipated remediation projects. We would like to request the use of the budget for this year be available for use in conjunction with the 2026/27 street maintenance budget.

Moved by: Susan Brennan

Seconded by: Natalie Magdeburger

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

- p. **Motion: The Infrastructure Committee is bringing to Town Council a recommendation for their discussion of the flood vulnerability evaluation study created by Straughan Environmental, which indicates that delineated barriers are to achieve a target elevation of 3.98 ft NAVD88 by 2050 for both Town and private responsibility**

Moved by: Susan Brennan

Seconded by: Natalie Magdeburger

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

Tim Leahy addressed Council regarding the selection of 2050 as the planning horizon, noting that while it may seem distant, the intent is to implement measures in the near term to ensure the Town is adequately protected by that timeframe. He explained that the approach is based on long-term modeling and phased implementation.

Council discussed next steps, including the potential development of an ordinance to establish future bulkhead elevation requirements for property owners. It was noted that due to permitting timelines and construction constraints, property owners would require significant lead time to comply, potentially several years. Council also discussed the

lifespan of bulkheads and the importance of aligning future improvements with long-term resiliency goals.

It was confirmed that Straughan Environmental has provided modeling and supporting data, including an engineering-based recommendation of approximately 3.98 feet NAVD88 as a target elevation for protection. Council emphasized the need for formal, defensible engineering documentation to support any ordinance changes.

Discussion also included the need to translate technical modeling into clear, understandable information for the public. The Infrastructure Committee and working group are coordinating with Straughan Environmental to prepare materials for public outreach, with a public informational meeting anticipated in May.

Council noted that additional coordination between committees and engineering support will be required to develop enforceable and legally defensible language, as well as to establish appropriate timelines for compliance.

Councilmember Brennan added that the Infrastructure Committee has reconstituted its working group to assist with the volume and complexity of the data. She also noted recent improvements on Farmington Street and reiterated plans to hold a public outreach meeting in May to further educate the community on these efforts.

q. **Discussion of Police Chief bonus/salary**

Council discussed the performance and compensation of Chief Morrissey as he enters the final year of his current contract. The Mayor noted that contract negotiations for a potential extension will be forthcoming and that the Chief has expressed interest in continuing his service to the Town.

The Mayor highlighted Chief Morrissey's leadership and accomplishments, including stabilizing and improving department operations, successfully closing out previously unresolved grants, and restoring the Town's eligibility for future grant funding. Additional achievements noted included completion of the department's accreditation process, implementation of updated policies and procedures, improvements to training and professional development, and overall enhancement of department operations and facilities.

Councilmembers expressed support for the motion and commended Chief Morrissey's efforts, particularly his work in resolving longstanding grant issues and securing future funding opportunities.

Motion: To award Chief Morrissey a \$7,500 bonus in recognition of his performance and contributions to the Town.

Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger
Seconded by: Bill Rymer
Result: Motion passed unanimously.

6. Committee Reports - Audit, Beach, Budget & Finance, C&O, Dark Sky, Environmental, Infrastructure, Planning Commission

Audit – Bill Rymer

It was reported that all audit fieldwork has been completed. Final financial statements are pending internal review, after which a meeting will be scheduled. It is anticipated that the financial statements will be presented to Council at either the March or April meeting.

Beach – Jacque Napolitano

Fenwick Flicks is scheduled for June 19, July 17, August 14, and August 21, with the final date planned as a classic movie night, potentially featuring Go Melvo Snoballs.

The Fenwick Freeze event experienced cold conditions and had approximately 150 participants. The event was held as a community initiative and did not generate revenue. Appreciation was expressed to Kathy and Erin Ellinger, as well as Mike Locke and Josh Sthuler for assisting with the Square payment system, and to the Beach Patrol for their support and coordination of games.

The annual bonfire is scheduled for July 18, with a rain date of July 19. Planned activities include Beach Patrol games, a bonfire, music by DJ Sky Brady, and a 50/50 raffle. Appreciation was expressed to Council for their continued support of the event, and to Kurt Zanelotti for taking a lead role in coordination. Thanks were also extended to the Police Department and Public Works for their support.

The next meeting will be March 6 at 9:30AM.

Budget & Finance – Bill Rymer

No Report

C&O – Natalie Magdeburger

The Committee recently met and approved the proposal presented to Council under this agenda. The next meeting is scheduled for March 13, 2026.

Upcoming items for discussion include the proposed lighting ordinance incorporating dark sky standards. The Committee also anticipates receiving a referral regarding bulkhead elevation standards (NAVD88). Initial discussion on this item will focus on

introducing the concept and distributing materials, with more detailed review to follow at subsequent meetings.

Dark Sky – Rosey Mary Hoy

It was reported that the group has met and is compiling a list of potential Dark Sky – compliant recommendations. These will be shared with Mike Locke for distribution to contractors.

Environmental – Colleen Wilson

The annual Beach Grass Planting Day is scheduled for March 21, 2026. Fenwick Island has been selected as one of the locations for dune grass replenishment. Volunteers are encouraged to participate and must register in advance through the DNREC website to assist with planning efforts.

On March 26, 2026, efforts will begin to prepare the Pollinator Park for the season, including soil placement, weeding, and pruning. The Barefoot Gardeners have been invited to assist.

The Committee is also planning a summer community event at the Pollinator Park, tentatively scheduled for June.

The annual Earth Day celebration will take place on Saturday, April 25, 2026, and will include the Town-wide cleanup as well as planting activities at the Faucett Okie Family Nature Preserve as part of the mini-forest grant through the Center for the Inland Bays.

A tentative date of May 23, 2026, has been identified for the opening of the Okie Nature Preserve, pending confirmation. A new sign has been completed for the site.

The next Environmental Committee meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2026.

Infrastructure – Susan Brennan

The report was presented earlier in the meeting.

Planning Commission – Susan Brennan

No Report.

7. Department Highlights

Public Works – Mike Locke

No Report.

Police Department – Michael Morrissey

Chief Morrissey reported that all outstanding grants have been successfully closed, noting that relationship building played a key role in achieving compliance and maintaining eligibility for future funding opportunities.

The Police Department has entered into an agreement with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to install a prescription drug take-back box, anticipated to be available in the station lobby by May. This will provide residents with a safe and secure method to dispose of unused medications.

Recent grant awards include approximately \$1,600 for a prisoner restraint system, an additional \$1,600 for stop sticks and related training materials, and \$2,600 to support supplemental patrols during the summer season.

The Department also reported the sale of a surplus Ford Explorer through GovDeals for \$4,900.

Additionally, the Department received donated fitness equipment, valued at approximately \$10,000–\$12,000, from a private donor. The equipment will be used to support the health and wellness of police officers and lifeguards, with coordination underway to determine appropriate placement.

Administration – Erin Ellinger

The DSWA hazardous waste collection and paper shredding event will take place on March 21, 2026, at the Fenwick Island State Park.

8. Old Business

None

9. New Business

None

10. Upcoming Events and Meetings:

December 5	Town Council Executive Session	11:00 AM
December 5	Town Council Regular Meeting	1:00 PM
December 5	Winter Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony	5:30 PM
December 9	Infrastructure Committee Meeting	10:00 AM
December 24	Town Hall Closed	ALL DAY
December 25	Town Hall Closed	ALL DAY
December 26	Town Hall Closed	ALL DAY
December 31	Town Hall Closed	ALL DAY
January 1	Town Hall Closed	ALL DAY
January 1	Fenwick Freeze	10:00 AM
January 2	Beach Committee Meeting	9:30 AM
January 8	Planning Commission Meeting	9:00 AM
January 9	Law Enforcement Appreciation Day	ALL DAY
January 13	Infrastructure Committee Meeting	10:00 AM

January 14	Environmental Committee Meeting	9:00 AM
January 19	Town Hall Closed Martin Luther King Day	ALL DAY
January 23	Town Council Executive Session	11:00 AM
January 23	Town Council Regular Meeting	1:00 PM

11. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 4:52 PM.

Moved by: Lucy Wilder

Seconded by: Natalie Magdeburger

Result: Motion passed unanimously.