



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, 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 19 on Zoom and 6 in-person participants.

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

1. President's Report - Mayor Magdeburger

The Mayor reported that the Town is actively preparing for the upcoming summer season. The Public Works Department has constructed lifeguard stands and has begun deploying ocean beach access mats (Mobi-mats). Additional mats will be installed as weather conditions stabilize. A Mobi-mat has been installed at Dagsboro Street to assist individuals with mobility limitations, with additional accessibility measures anticipated within the next 30 days.

Regarding wind farm-related matters, the Mayor reported that the Town, in coordination with Sussex County, challenged Senate Bill 159 (SB159). The court denied the challenge, and SB159 remains in effect. She noted that Sussex County is considering a potential appeal. It was further reported that the court determined the Town of Fenwick Island did not have legal standing in the matter.

Mayor Magdeburger explained that SB159 grants the State authority to override Sussex County's prior decision, which may allow for the approval of a transmission station in Dagsboro.

On the federal level, the Mayor noted that litigation involving offshore wind projects is ongoing. Recent federal actions related to offshore wind leases in other states were discussed; however, no confirmed changes affecting the U.S. Wind project were

reported. It was further noted that project timelines and federal subsidy requirements may influence future development activity.

The Mayor also provided a general update on national security discussions related to offshore wind infrastructure, referencing ongoing federal-level considerations.

Mayor Magdeburger referred residents to her recent written communication for a more detailed overview and invited residents to reach out with questions.

Lastly, it was reported that efforts are underway to prepare Town parks for the season. Volunteer and staff activities at the Pollinator Park and the Fawcett Okie Nature Preserve were noted, with additional updates to be provided by Councilmembers.

2. Approval of Minutes

a. Motion: To approve the minutes of February 27, 2026, Regular Town Council Meeting.

Moved by: Bill Rymer

Seconded by: Susan Brennan

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

b. Motion: To approve the minutes of February 27, 2026, Executive Session.

Moved by: Bill Rymer

Seconded by: Colleen Wilson

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

c. Motion: To approve the minutes of March 23, 2026, Public Hearing

Moved by: Bill Rymer

Seconded by: Lucy Wilder

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

3. Treasurer's Report – Bill Rymer

Treasurer Rymer reported as of February 28, the town's overall cash balance was \$4.3 million which was a decrease of \$63,000 from January 31. This is typical for the town during the winter months. Through February 28, overall revenues and expenses are in-line with expectations. Legal expenses are higher than budget primarily due to the recent ACLU-Voter Registration litigation.

There were no reported home sales in February. The real estate market continues to remain soft. RTT revenues remain at 73% of the annual budget. There are more listings now than over the last few months so agents expect the market will improve with the warmer weather.

The town remains on target with its overall budget and forecasted cashflows.

Motion: To accept the February 2026 Treasurer’s Report.

Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger

Seconded by: Colleen Wilson

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

4. Business & Residential Public Participation

Public Comment – Chapter 160-10 Ordinance Amendment

Scott Mumford spoke in support of the proposed amendment to Chapter 160-10, stating that the ordinance addresses an existing issue. He noted that the involved property owners are willing participants and that the proposal reflects the business-to-business approach. He added that the ordinance allows for future adjustments and stated that maintaining the status quo is not a viable solution.

Jack Pyne, 6 E. Bayard Street, expressed appreciation for the Public Works Department’s response to a recent downed wire incident. He also acknowledged Councilmember Bill Rymer for his work on the dredging project. Mr. Pyne stated his opposition to the proposed parking lot ordinance, noting that he believes many residents share this position. He raised concerns regarding maintenance, staffing of a parking attendant, fencing, sidewalk infrastructure, safety, ground coverage, signage, and enforcement of time limits. He emphasized pedestrian safety and stated that, in his view, there is a lack of resident support.

Janice Bortner (via Zoom) expressed concern regarding pedestrian safety. While stating support for the business community, she indicated that existing parking ratios may be insufficient for certain restaurant operations, particularly those with online ordering. She suggested that businesses may need to consider alternative solutions, such as delivery services. Ms. Bortner noted that she feels Fenwick Island is primarily a residential community with limited mixed-use commercial areas and stated that businesses should be mindful of these constraints.

Behrooz Garavi characterized the proposal as a temporary solution and stated that the business was aware of site limitations prior to operation. He indicated that alternative parking options may have been available and suggested that additional operational measures, such as a parking attendant, could have been implemented previously. He expressed concern regarding potential liability to the Town and stated that additional solutions should be explored. He further expressed concern regarding impacts to quality of life.

Matt Patton of Surf Bagel clarified prior statements regarding available parking, noting that fewer spaces were offered by a nearby property than previously suggested. He also clarified that the use of a parking attendant had not been ruled out. Mr. Patton stated that the proposal is intended to address parking and pedestrian safety concerns identified during the previous summer season. He indicated that the lot would operate seasonally during business hours, be monitored by staff, and include barriers directing

pedestrians to designated crosswalks. He stated that the intent is to improve safety, reduce congestion, and minimize impacts on neighboring properties.

Michelle Murphy, owner of 1 E. Essex Street, expressed opposition to the proposal. She cited concerns regarding noise, reduced privacy, and potential safety impacts to pets due to proximity to the proposed parking lot. It was noted that she had not resided at the property during the previous summer season. Ms. Murphy inquired about alternative parking options, including parking across the highway and use of crosswalks; the Mayor noted the absence of a traffic signal at that location. An additional alternative location was discussed; however, it was noted that sidewalk infrastructure is currently lacking.

5. For Discussion and Possible Action:

a. Bethany Beach Volunteer Fire Company updated status presentation

Michael Suit, President of the Bethany Beach Volunteer Fire Company, provided an overview of operations, call volume, staffing, funding, and future needs.

Mr. Suit reported that call volume continues to increase, with 578 fire calls and 1,054 EMS calls in 2025, with approximately 44% occurring during the summer months due to significant seasonal population increases.

The department currently operates with 16 career staff and 45 active volunteers; however, volunteer participation has declined, and career staff now respond to the majority of calls.

The 2026 budget is approximately \$2.89 million, with major costs related to personnel, equipment, and operations. Funding sources include state and county support, service billing, fundraising, and local contributions.

Mr. Suit outlined current and future needs, including new apparatus, additional staffing over the next 3–5 years, and long-term capital investments. He emphasized the importance of continued funding support to maintain service levels and meet growing demand.

Mr. Suit concluded by reaffirming the Fire Company’s commitment to providing emergency services to the community.

Mayor Magdeburger stated that the Town currently contributes \$60 annually per property for fire and EMS services, which is incorporated into the tax bill. She noted that this cost is anticipated to increase in the future and emphasized that these services are essential to the community.

b. **Second reading and final adoption of Chapter 160 – Zoning Off-Street Parking Regulations**

Motion: For a second reading, acceptance and final approval of modification of Ch. 160-10 C. Location of parking spaces;

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.

Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger

Seconded by: Colleen Wilson

Result: Motion passed 6-1 with Bill Rymer opposed.

Mayor Magdeburger stated that a public hearing was held on Monday, March 23, 2026, during which public comment was received. She noted that the matter had been referred to the Charter and Ordinance Committee and discussed at multiple publicly noticed meetings. The proposal has also been communicated through public notices, including publication in the newspaper and the Mayor's message.

Mayor Magdeburger emphasized that the current action before Council is not to approve a specific parking lot, but to grant Town Council the authority to accept and review applications. She noted that there are three potential lots located along Coastal Highway.

Mayor Magdeburger stated that public safety and minimizing impacts to residents on Essex Street are primary considerations. She referenced conditions observed during the previous summer season, including vehicles parking along roadways, blocking driveways, and impeding traffic flow, which required police enforcement and issuance of citations.

She further stated that the Town has encouraged a business-to-business approach to address parking challenges and that the proposed framework would allow Council to evaluate applications and make adjustments as needed.

Mayor Magdeburger noted that inaction could result in continued safety concerns and stated that the intent of the proposal is to mitigate impacts on surrounding neighborhoods. She acknowledged that no perfect solution exists but emphasized the need to pursue reasonable measures to address the issue.

Kurt Zanelott expressed support for the proposed change, stating that it would provide the Town Council with the ability to regulate parking and revoke approvals if necessary. He noted that taking no action would likely result in a continuation of the issues experienced during the previous summer season.

Jacque Napolitano expressed appreciation for the public participation and noted that all comments are taken seriously. She stated that safety concerns observed during the previous summer were significant and acknowledged the limitations of existing parking in the area.

She noted that future infrastructure improvements, such as sidewalks, may provide additional solutions. Ms. Napolitano emphasized that specific details would be addressed during the application process and stated that the ordinance, as drafted, provides the Town with substantial oversight, including the ability to modify or revoke approvals if necessary.

Susan Brennan stated that conditions during the previous summer season were unsafe and emphasized the need to balance the interests of public safety, residents, and businesses. She expressed support for the proposed approach, noting that it allows for case-by-case evaluation and consideration.

Bill Rymer addressed concerns regarding communication, stating that outreach efforts have been expanded under the current Council and were referenced in prior Mayor's communications.

He proposed that, upon receipt of a permit application, the Town implement direct notification to property owners within one block of the proposed site, with a minimum of 15 business days' notice. He requested that this requirement be formally incorporated into the ordinance or otherwise adopted as standard practice.

Councilmember Rymer also recommended establishing clear enforcement provisions, including that two verified complaints of non-

compliance associated with a specific property would trigger immediate communication with the applicant and a five-day period to correct deficiencies. He emphasized the importance of reducing ambiguity in the decision-making and enforcement process.

He further noted that residents have expressed a desire for increased parking enforcement. He stated that the Town implemented measures during the previous summer, including the use of cones, which improved traffic conditions in the area. He suggested additional improvements, including enhanced signage and consideration of additional parking enforcement personnel to focus on impacted areas. Councilmember Rymer recommended evaluating targeted operational and enforcement improvements for an additional season prior to implementing parking on unimproved lots. He emphasized that public safety is the primary basis for prohibiting parking on such lots, noting the absence of sidewalks connecting to designated crosswalks. He also raised concerns regarding anticipated high turnover and pedestrian activity, and the potential safety implications of allowing parking in areas lacking appropriate infrastructure.

Lucy Wilder stated that the proposed lot would provide needed overflow parking and emphasized that public safety is a priority. She noted that the ordinance language clearly allows Town Council to revoke approval at any time and for any reason, which contributed to her support of the proposal. She also questioned where vehicles would park if the lot is not permitted, noting that demand will exist regardless. Bill Rymer responded that parking demand would be managed through available spaces and enforcement measures.

Mayor Magdeburger noted that Section 2(c) of the proposed ordinance addresses potential requirements related to sidewalks.

Councilmember Rymer expressed support for including a specific requirement for sidewalk infrastructure within the ordinance.

Colleen Wilson noted that demand for parking fluctuates throughout the day and that the proposed lot may not be necessary during less busy periods. She further stated that the addition of a sidewalk in the area would not fully address the concerns raised by residents of Essex Street.

Bill Rymer questioned how a parking lot attendant would effectively monitor compliance for a high volume of vehicles and inquired how Council would respond in cases of non-compliance. He emphasized the need for clearly defined procedures outlining enforcement and Council response.

Susan Brennan stated that it would be in the business's best interest to ensure compliance and expressed confidence that the operator would

make reasonable efforts to adhere to requirements. Councilmember Rymer expressed concern regarding reliance on self-reporting.

It was discussed that complaints of non-compliance could be addressed by the Chief of Police and, if necessary, by action of the Town Council, including revocation of approval. Council considered whether to establish a defined threshold for complaints that would trigger such action.

Councilmember Rymer reiterated that specific enforcement standards and thresholds should be incorporated into the ordinance to provide clear structure.

Mayor Magdeburger stated that adding rigid thresholds could limit Council's discretion and authority. She further noted that the Police Department supports the proposed ordinance. The Mayor also distinguished between general complaints and verifiable violations. Councilmember Rymer expressed concern that verifying complaints may present practical challenges.

Roll Call Vote

Bill Rymer – Opposed, citing feedback from residents and the absence of DelDOT-approved sidewalks.

Lucy Wilder – In favor, citing the need for overflow parking accommodations and prioritization of public safety, with Council retaining authority over approvals.

Susan Brennan – In favor, expressing appreciation for public input and support for the proposal based on the reasons discussed.

Colleen Wilson – In favor, for the reasons previously discussed.

Jacque Napolitano – In favor, for the reasons previously discussed.

Kurt Zanelotti – In favor, for the reasons previously discussed.

Natalie Magdeburger – In favor, stating that the proposal will support Essex Street residents and improve pedestrian safety in alignment with the Comprehensive Plan. She also expressed support for enhanced communication measures, including notification to nearby property owners, and stated her belief that the applicant will operate responsibly.

c. **Review and possible approval of the Annual Audit and Audit Committee recommendation**

The Audit Committee recently met with our external auditors and reviewed the draft of the audited financial statements for the year ending July 31, 2025, and related auditor communications.

The committee voted unanimously to recommend that the Town Council approves the draft documents for final issuance. These documents were provided to the council members in their packets. Items of significance from the meeting and the financial statements themselves:

- The external auditors from PKS provided an “Unmodified” opinion (previously known as an “unqualified/clean” opinion) which means there were no issues of non-compliance, material misstatements or material weaknesses.
- Consistent with previous years, there was one significant deficiency reported: which relates to
 - the town’s inability to prepare complete annual financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.
 - The audit team mentioned that the large majority of similar sized municipalities that PKS audits have this same weakness due to limited staffing and internal expertise.
- The Auditors were very complimentary of this committee’s attention to details and commented that not all towns approach an annual audit with similar diligence. Discussed controls in place related to help reduce the risk of fraud or embezzlement by using forged banking documents.
- A topic near and dear to my heart is the level of cash that is FDIC protected. As of July 31, 2025, 99.7% of the town’s overall cash balances were FDIC-protected.
- The Bank of Ocean City also provides \$2 million of additional collateral as another layer of protection just for the town. The Bank of Ocean City continues to provide excellent support for our town.
- The largest item flowing through this year’s financial reports is the completion of the multi-million dollar dredging project which increased capital assets by more than \$2 million and resulted in significant grant revenue recognition.
- The unassigned General Fund balance was \$1.2 million and was \$230,000 higher than last year. This represents approximately five months of operating expenses which exceeds the standard recommended levels of at least two months. The audit partner congratulated the town on increasing the unassigned General Fund balance from approximately two months of operating reserves when she began auditing the town to the current five-month level.
- In addition to the unassigned General Fund, the town also has RTT reserves of \$1.4 million which can be utilized to fund the police department operating budget and capital expenditures.

The combination of those two reserve accounts results in the town having access to more than 11 months of operating expense reserves which far exceeds financial goals of 4-6 months.

- A new governmental accounting standard was implemented which impacts the reserves for accrued vacation and sick pay for employees in the town. This new standard resulted in the need to slightly increase reserves primarily for unused sick pay.
- One last financial item: there was a prior period adjustment which changed the results shown for Fiscal Year 2024. \$80,000 overstatement of prior year sick pay reserves. Unfortunate calculation error in a spreadsheet but a conservative error since it understated income in FY2024 and overstated reserves.
- There were no issues with access to financial records or town management which is a great step for our new finance manager, Jerry Green.
- Rymer thanked the auditors from PKS. They are a very professional group and have done a great job for our town.

Mayor Magdeburger stated that the Council has acted as responsible stewards of taxpayer funds, noting accomplishments in dredging and resiliency efforts without increasing property taxes. She also expressed appreciation to Bill Rymer for his contributions to those efforts.

Motion: For Town Council’s approval of the audited financial statements and related auditor communications for the year ending July 31, 2025.

Moved by: Bill Rymer

Seconded by: Natalie Magdeburger

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

d. **Sidewalk Project Update**

Mayor Magdeburger reported that project engineers have completed their engineering review and identified areas requiring both temporary and permanent easements. Some impacted areas extend beyond Town limits into unincorporated areas, where right-of-way usage will need to be addressed.

The project will include installation of flashing pedestrian beacons at crosswalks that are not currently signalized and is being undertaken as a State-led initiative.

Construction funding is currently anticipated for 2029–2030, with an estimated duration of approximately 400 days, potentially phased over multiple stages. Efforts will be made to minimize impacts during peak summer months, though timing will be subject to weather and construction requirements.

Sidewalks are planned on both sides of the highway, generally ranging from five to seven feet in width to meet ADA standards. Existing non-compliant sidewalk segments will be upgraded as part of the project. The project is expected to move into the legal phase in the fall, including easement acquisition and, if necessary, condemnation proceedings.

A crosswalk is planned at Lewis Street on the south side, revised from the original concept to address traffic circulation concerns. Flashing pedestrian beacons are also anticipated at intersections that are not currently signal-controlled.

Updates will be provided as the project progresses.

e. **Resolution No. 122 – Adoption of Town Hall Meeting Room Use Policy**

Erin Ellinger presented Resolution No. 122 regarding the adoption of an updated Town Hall Meeting Room Use Policy. She explained that the need for revision was identified during efforts to streamline the meeting room application process within Quickbase.

Ms. Ellinger reported that multiple versions of the policy were previously in use. The updated policy consolidates these into a single, comprehensive document and strengthens overall guidelines for use of the meeting room.

She noted that the revised policy clarifies scheduling procedures, establishes that Town business takes precedence over external use, and provides a consistent framework for applicants. The Mayor indicated that the policy and accompanying resolution were reviewed and found to align with established best practices.

Motion: To adopt Resolution 122 as written.
Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger
Seconded by: Bill Rymer
Result: Motion passed unanimously.

f. **Removal of Jody Hayden from the Beach Committee**

Jacque Napolitano thanked Jody Hayden for her service on the committee.

Motion: To remove Jody Hayden from the Beach Committee.
Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger
Seconded by: Jacque Napolitano
Result: Motion passed unanimously.

g. **Discussion of plantings watering for summer**

Mike Locke reported that Public Works determined a tank can be accommodated within the truck, eliminating the need for the larger trailer and associated police assistance. Testing conducted using the truck-mounted tank and gator bags confirmed the approach is effective and this will be managed by Public Works during the upcoming summer season.

h. **Proposal to designate the Faucett Okie Family Nature Preserve as a Level 1 Arboretum**

It was reported that the concept of designating the Faucett Okie Family Nature Preserve as an arboretum was introduced by Lois Twilley, who has been consulting with a professor from Salisbury University regarding the process.

It was noted that arboretum designation requirements are limited and primarily include the identification of at least 25 different plant species. The Preserve is believed to already meet, or be close to meeting, this threshold, with additional plantings planned.

The potential for a Salisbury University student to assist with species identification and labeling as part of an internship project was discussed. It was further noted that the Barefoot Gardeners and the Environmental Committee would partner to support the initiative, including fulfilling any ongoing requirements such as hosting educational programming.

Discussion included the potential significance of becoming the only designated arboretum in Sussex County. It was also noted that the designation would require minimal direct involvement from Town Council.

Motion: To begin the process to designate the Faucett Okie Family Nature Preserve as a Level 1 Arboretum.

Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger

Seconded by: Susan Brennan

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

i. **Replacement of Little Library at Town Hall Park**

It was reported that the current Little Library is in poor condition, is not weatherproof, and continues to be used regularly by the public.

Replacement options were reviewed, with estimated costs of approximately \$175 for a weather-resistant unit, with some options including a post. The total anticipated cost is approximately \$200.

Motion: To authorize up to \$250 for the replacement of the Little Library.

Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger

Seconded by: Susan Brennan

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

j. **Code Red emergency alert system update**

Erin Ellinger reported that she met with CodeRED to explore alternative options and cost flexibility. She presented information on an alternative platform, “One Call Now,” offered by the same provider, which provides similar functionality at a reduced annual cost of approximately \$1,420, though with more limited features.

Ms. Ellinger also provided information regarding the Delaware Emergency Notification System, a no-cost option available through Sussex County.

Discussion followed regarding current system usage, functionality, and cost-effectiveness. Limitations of the existing CodeRED system were noted, including complexity and infrequent use. Potential advantages and limitations of alternative systems were also discussed, including message length restrictions and functionality for broader communications.

Council discussed the importance of maintaining effective communication with residents, including emergency alerts and general notifications.

Following discussion, it was agreed to table the matter to allow for further evaluation of available options, including additional research into alternative systems and functionality.

k. **Purchase of advertisement in the Bay to Beach Cottage Tour**

Colleen Wilson presented information regarding the 34th Annual Beach and Bay Cottage Tour, scheduled for July 22 and 23. She noted that the event supports programs and services for the South Coastal Libraries and raised over \$102,000 in the prior year.

Ms. Wilson reported that two historic homes in Fenwick Island will be featured in this year’s tour. She presented a proposal for the Town to participate through the purchase of advertisement space in the event booklet to highlight the Town’s history.

Cost options were discussed, including a one-page advertisement for \$400 or a two-page spread for \$800. Following discussion, Council expressed interest in a one-page advertisement.

Motion: To authorize the purchase of a two-page advertisement in the amount of \$800.

Moved by: Colleen Wilson

Seconded by: Susan Brennan

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

Amended Motion: To authorize the purchase of a one-page advertisement in the amount of \$400.

Moved by: Natalie Magdeburger

Seconded by: Lucy Wilder

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

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

Audit – Bill Rymer

No report.

Beach – Kurt Zanelotti

The Beach Committee meeting was held on March 6, at which a quorum was present. The Fenwick Flicks schedule was announced as follows:

- June 19 – *Finding Dory*
- July 17 – *Happy Feet*
- August 14 – *Minions*
- August 21 – Classic Movie Night featuring *Casablanca*

It was reported that the annual bonfire event has been rescheduled to July 18 due to the timing of the July 4th holiday. Planning efforts are underway, including solicitation of donations for the silent auction and recruitment of volunteers for both event preparation and day-of operations.

Discussion also included potential recognition of the nation's 250th anniversary, with consideration given to additional community activities. Ideas included a small Fourth of July parade along Bunting Avenue, potentially featuring children with decorated bikes and wagons, as well as informal community participation. Coordination with public safety personnel would be required.

It was also noted that commemorative elements, such as themed event materials, may be incorporated into existing Town events.

Budget & Finance – Bill Rymer

It was noted that the next meeting will be held on April 22nd at 9:30 AM.

C&O – Natalie Magdeburger

Mayor Magdeburger reported that the Committee is currently working on two initiatives: updates to the Town's lighting ordinance and proposed code revisions to address resiliency considerations.

Both matters have been tabled pending further input. The lighting ordinance update is being developed in coordination with the Dark Sky Committee, and resiliency-related code updates will be informed by forthcoming recommendations from engineers.

The Committee will continue to prepare these items for consideration once additional information is received.

Dark Sky – Rosey Mary Hoy

Rose Mary Hoy provided an update on behalf of the Dark Sky Committee. She reported that the Committee met jointly with the Charter and Ordinance Committee on March 15 to discuss proposed updates to the Town's lighting ordinance. She noted that the collaboration was productive and that the Dark Sky Committee is continuing to develop recommendations for consideration.

Ms. Hoy presented the Committee's 2026 Educational Activity Plan, which includes participation in several community events. Planned activities include Earth Day on April 25, participation in the Town's July bonfire event, and an August educational symposium. Additional outreach efforts include potential engagement with the marine science camp to provide educational programming related to nighttime lighting and environmental impacts, as well as collaboration with local organizations on related initiatives.

She also reported that the Committee continues to develop educational resources for residents, including materials to support understanding of the lighting ordinance and best practices for outdoor lighting. These resources will be shared through the Town's website and other communication channels.

Ms. Hoy noted that the Committee's next meeting is scheduled for April 1.

Environmental – Colleen Wilson

Colleen Wilson reported that beach grass planting was completed along Atlantic Street and Dagsboro Street, with strong volunteer participation. Maintenance activities were also conducted at the Pollinator Park, including weeding, pruning, and soil improvements in preparation for the season.

Ms. Wilson announced that the Town's Earth Day event will be held on April 25, beginning at 8:30 AM at Town Hall, followed by the annual Beach to Bay cleanup. The event will include environmental displays and volunteer activities. As part of the

day's efforts, volunteers will also plant a "mini forest" through a grant received from the Center for the Inland Bays.

She further reported that planning is underway for a summer event at the Pollinator Park, with the date to be determined.

The Council also discussed the opening of the Faucett Okie Family Nature Preserve. Following discussion, the dedication is anticipated to be scheduled for May 16 at 10:00 AM, subject to confirmation and coordination of logistics.

The next Environmental Committee meeting is scheduled for April 8 at 9:00 AM.

Infrastructure – Susan Brennan

It was reported that the Infrastructure Committee met on March 10 and March 24.

The Committee is preparing for its fourth annual resiliency presentation, scheduled for May 29 at 1:00 PM which will be conducted in a hybrid format. This presentation will focus on general education related to resiliency efforts. A second presentation is planned for August 21 at 1:00 PM, at which time more detailed project-specific information is expected to be available.

It was further reported that the Town is actively working with its resiliency engineering consultant to advance planning efforts. Updates were provided regarding potential federal BRIC (Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities) funding, which has recently been reactivated. The Town will explore opportunities to align identified resiliency projects with available funding sources.

The Committee has been tasked with developing a projected timeline for engineering deliverables to support coordination with potential funding opportunities.

The next Infrastructure Committee meeting is scheduled for April 14.

Planning Commission – Susan Brennan

No report.

7. Department Highlights

Public Works – Mike Locke

Only summer preparation activities were reported, as previously noted in the Mayor's Report.

Police Department – Michael Morrissey

Chief Morrissey reported that the Department recently received a \$5,000 grant from the Office of Highway Safety to support additional traffic enforcement patrols. An additional \$2,000 grant was received to purchase crime scene equipment to enhance investigative capabilities.

The Department has also been invited to submit a proposal for additional funding to upgrade traffic enforcement equipment, including radar units and pedestrian safety signage.

Chief Morrissey reported that a candidate has been interviewed for the open police officer position, and a background investigation is underway. The candidate is state-certified, which would allow for potential onboarding in advance of the summer season, if selected.

Discussion also included ongoing evaluation of parking enforcement technology solutions to improve efficiency and compliance monitoring. Additional information will be brought forward for future consideration.

The Chief noted that coordination efforts are ongoing with various agencies regarding traffic management and public safety initiatives.

Administration – Erin Ellinger

Resident parking permits will be available for pick up from the Police Department on April 6th.

8. Old Business

None

9. New Business

None

10. Upcoming Events and Meetings:

April 1	Dark Sky Committee Meeting	10:00 AM
April 2	Beach Committee Meeting	9:30 AM
April 3	Town Hall Closed	All Day
April 8	Environmental Committee Meeting	9:00 AM
April 10	Charter & Ordinance Committee Meeting	9:00 AM
April 14	Infrastructure Committee Meeting	10:00 AM
April 22	Budget & Finance Committee Meeting	9:30 AM
April 24	Town Council Executive Session	11:00 AM
April 24	Town Council Regular Meeting	1:00 PM
April 25	Earth Day Celebration & Cleanup	8:30 AM

11. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 4:37 PM.

Moved by: Kurt Zanelotti

Seconded by: Jacque Napolitano

Result: Motion passed unanimously.