

**TOWN OF SOUTH BETHANY
TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 24, 2011**

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT: Mayor Jay Headman; Councilpersons John Fields, Bob Cestone, Tim Saxton, Sue Callaway, George Junkin, and Jim Gross; and Financial Administrator Renee McDorman

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Mayor Headman called the February 24, 2011, Town Council Workshop Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Pat Voveris (502 S. Ocean Dr.) – Commented on the paving of Ocean Dr. Ms. Voveris stated that the street is in a serious state of disrepair and has not been paved for many years. She said that Ocean Dr. has not been held to the same standard as the other streets in South Bethany and that it is a heavily used street by the local residents and tourists. Ms. Voveris would like her email to the Town Council introduced and on the record (email attached). Ms. Voveris stated that she and the other property owners listed on the email appreciate Council's consideration of this matter. She noted that with the downturn in the economy, this might be an excellent time to get quotes on paving, and she requested that the paving of Ocean Dr. be considered as one project.

Referring to an article in the News Journal on Monday, Feb. 21, 2011, regarding beach replenishment in South Bethany, Mayor Headman said that Tony Pratt told him that the dredge company decided to take its dredge and move south towards Myrtle Beach. DNREC is negotiating on working out this issue. DNREC is making it very clear that there cannot be any dredging during the Memorial Day to Labor Day time frame. Mayor Headman will report back to Council when he gets more information from DNREC and he will send out a News Update.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- **Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes, February 11, 2011** – A motion was made by Councilman Cestone, seconded by Councilman Fields, to accept the February 11, 2011, Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion was unanimously carried.

TOWN SURVEY

Councilman Junkin reviewed the draft survey (attached) which contained comments from the professor at the University of Delaware and comments from Council members. After discussion, Council made the following decisions:

Page 1:

Delete questions 1, 2, and 3.

Page 2:

First Paragraph: Add **during the past year** at the end of Please note your satisfaction with these services.

A: Add **(lifeguards)**.

- B: Keep as **Beach vendor**
 - F: Add the Town's website address.
 - I: Change to **Town Code Enforcement**.
 - J: Delete.
 - K: Keep as **Landscaping maintenance throughout the town.**
 - L: Leave as **Mediacom TV**.
 - M: Change to **Police Department**.
 - N: Delete.
 - O: Make it two separate items: Speed control on Route 1 and speed control on roads other than Route 1 (or something to that affect).
 - T: Leave in.
 - V: Change to **Parking Regulations**
- Bottom of page two: Do not rank the top five services.
Group services by category.
Delete the Wave and Coastal Point.

Page 3:

- A1: Change to **Two additional boardwalks duplicating S. 3rd St. boardwalk estimated at a cost of \$70,000 each.**
- A2: There was confusion on this question among Council members. Mayor Headman asked Councilman Junkin to work on the wording for the next meeting. Councilman Junkin said it is really \$1200 per crossing and take out the up, over, and down.
- A3: Will clarify this with the Town Manager.
- C: Delete
- D1: Delete
- D2: Add yearly cost for electricity.
- D3: Delete
- E: Delete
- K: Delete
- L: Delete
- M. Delete

Page 4:

- P: Delete
- Q: Delete
- R: Leave it in.
- T: Leave it in.
- U: Leave it in.

Regarding ranking the Future Town Needs, Council agreed to have the property owners rank their top three in the order of need.

Are you willing to have taxes increased if required to implement your above selections? **Change to:** Are you willing to have taxes increased if required to implement your above **three** selections?

Page 5:

Barricade at Black Gum Drive in Cat Hill: After a discussion, Councilman Junkin asked how many Council Members wanted to take the question out. By a show of hands, Council agreed to take the question out. For the record, Councilman Saxton stated that he opposes that vote. After additional discussion, Councilman Junkin asked how many Council Members wanted to take the barricade question out of the survey. By a show of hands, three Council Members wanted to take the barricade question out of the survey. Councilman Junkin asked how many Council Members wanted to keep the barricade question in the survey. By a show of hands, four Council Members wanted to keep the barricade question in the survey.

Disseminating Town Information via US Mail: Delete

Page 6:

Should South Bethany Ban Smoking on their beach: Delete

Councilman Junkin will clean the survey up and get it to Council Members in time to put the item on the March 11, 2011, Town Council Regular Meeting Agenda to approve or not approve.

Councilman Junkin recommended that the survey be mailed to all South Bethany property owners. Council agreed. Councilman Fields asked if the survey would be mailed with return postage. Councilman Junkin said with return postage.

FY2012 DRAFT BUDGET REVIEW

Councilman Saxton recognized the Budget and Finance Committee for the hard work they did. He said the Committee has worked hard to contribute to this and it is a very active committee. Councilman Saxton stated that there is an enormous amount of influence from the community members in this budget.

Councilman Saxton presented a PowerPoint presentation to Council titled South Bethany FY 2012 Budget Presentation (attached). There were questions and discussion from Council Members throughout the presentation.

Council reviewed the draft FY 2012 Budget as proposed by the Budget and Finance Committee (Town of South Bethany FY 2012 Budget Review - attached). There were questions and discussion from Council Members throughout the review.

Councilman Saxton presented a proposal to fund Ocean Drive Paving (attached). A motion was made by Councilman Fields, seconded by Councilman Cestone, to fund \$180,000 from the capital reserves to pave Ocean Drive contingent upon ruling from lawyer. The motion was unanimously carried.

Regarding employee benefits, a motion was made by Councilman Gross, seconded by Councilman Cestone, to accept the recommendation in the far right hand column of the legal size sheet passed out today and apply it to all employees, existing and future employees. (Secretary's Note: The legal size sheet Councilman Gross referred to is titled South Bethany Health Care Cost Analysis and it is attached.) The voting was as follows:

FOR THE MOTION: Councilpersons Cestone, Saxton, Junkin, and Gross

AGAINST THE MOTION: Mayor Headman and Councilpersons Fields and Callaway

The motion carried with a 4-3 vote.

Mayor Headman reminded Council of the March 11 Town Council Regular Meeting, the March 19 Budget and Finance Committee Meeting for Public Input Regarding the FY 2012 Budget, and the March 24 Town Council Workshop Meeting.

Mayor Headman will get back to the Council and the Town Manager on the Town Solicitor's opinion regarding paving Ocean Drive.

The draft budget will be posted on the Town's website after the March 11, 2011, Budget and Finance Committee Meeting and prior to the March 19, 2011, Budget and Finance Committee Meeting for Public Input Regarding the FY 2012 Budget.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments from the public.

A motion was made by Councilman Junkin, seconded by Councilman Gross, to go into Executive Session at 9:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council went into Executive Session at 9:30 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter.

RECONVENE WORKSHOP MEETING

Council reconvened the Workshop Meeting at 9:45 p.m.

A motion was made by Councilman Fields, seconded by Councilman Cestone, to provide a 2.5% step increase for the employees in the 2012 Budget. The motion was unanimously carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The February 24, 2011, Town Council Workshop Meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

phs:Workshop Minutes.2.24.11

Attachments: Email from Ms. Voveris
Draft Town Survey With Comments from UD professor and Town Council.
South Bethany FY 2012 Budget Presentation
Town of South Bethany FY 2012 Budget Review
Ocean Drive Paving Sheet
South Bethany Employee Health Care Cost Analysis