

**TOWN OF SOUTH BETHANY  
TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES  
ORDINANCE 181-16  
THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 2016**

**ATTENDANCE**

PRESENT: Council Members Sue Callaway, Don Boteler, Wayne Schrader, Frank Weisgerber, and Mayor Pat Voveris; Town Manager Melvin Cusick; Chief Troy Crowson; and Administrative Assistant Pam Smith

The Mayor welcomed Council Member Carol Stevenson who was participating by remote access.

**PUBLIC HEARING CALLED TO ORDER**

Pursuant to Section 145-65 of the Town Code, Mayor Voveris called the June 23, 2016, Public Hearing on Ordinance 181-16 to order at 2:00 p.m.

The purpose of the Public Hearing was to receive public input regarding Ordinance 181-16 to amend the Code of the Town of South Bethany, Chapter 145, Zoning, Article III, "Definitions", Article V, "Nonconforming Uses", and Article X, "Dimensional Requirements", to eliminate the restrictions on bathrooms in houses in the Town of South Bethany.

Mayor Voveris reviewed Ordinance 181-16.

The Mayor then asked for any questions or comments from the audience.

Owner who spoke in opposition to the ordinance: Bob Cestone, 140 New Castle Drive

Response to this owner was made by Councilman Schrader, Charter & Code Chair John Fields and Mayor Voveris.

Owners who spoke in support of the ordinance:

Janice Mink 48 South Anchorage Avenue

Dick Oliver 410 Victoria Drive

Margaret Oliver 410 Victoria Drive

Kent Stephan 46 South Anchorage Avenue

Joe Conway 160 Henlopen Drive

Jane Vandell 410 Kimberly Road

Karis Brown 5 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street (the letter she sent and read is attached)

Doug Appling owner/realtor of Sandcastle Realty

John McNerney 124 New Castle Drive

Mayor Voveris thanked the audience for their comments.

Mayor Voveris closed the Public Hearing at 2:22 p.m.

PV:2016 06 23 Public Hearing Minutes Ordinance 181-16 Adopted 7 8 16

Attachment: Karis Brown Letter

Neal and Karis Brown  
#5 S. 5th Street  
South Bethany, DE 19930

Re: Support of Bathroom Ordinance (Removing Bathroom Restrictions)

To Town of South Bethany

Dear Sirs:

We have been homeowners in S. Bethany for 20 years. Five years ago, we built our current home, a home we could retire in and a home that has everyday practical amenities for us, our children and future grandchildren. Solely in order to keep the sand out of the living areas of the house, we installed a powder room on the ground level. The idea was to allow us to return from the beach and use this lower level bathroom to keep sand (as much as possible) from entering the home. But, it turns out, this bathroom was "illegal", and we had to have it removed at the request of the town.

We firmly believe the number of bathrooms in a home is a decision to be made solely for the convenience of the homeowners, and does not negatively impact the quality of our town in any deleterious way.

We do not agree with those who suggest that more bathrooms mean "McMansions" or bigger homes. The current town restrictions on size, setbacks, kitchens, etc. all guarantee that will not happen. And, to our knowledge, there have been no requests or movements to change any of those restrictions. If people want to use their limited square footage for another bathroom, and there is no logical reason to restrict it, then the bathroom ordinance should be eliminated.

*We do not rent our home and have no current plans to sell it.* But practical everyday amenities and conveniences, such as more bathrooms will undoubtedly increase the value of our home and, when we do sell, higher prices means higher transfer taxes which benefit the town.

For now, we simply want to re-install our powder room to keep sand out of our house. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Karis and Neal Brown

June 23, 2016