

**TOWN OF SOUTH BETHANY
TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 27, 2013**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Mayor Jankowski called the June 27, 2013, Town Council Workshop Meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT: Mayor Kathy Jankowski; Councilpersons Al Rae, Jim Gross, Sue Callaway, George Junkin, and Pat Voveris; Town Manager Melvin Cusick; Chief Joe Deloach; and Finance Director Renee McDorman

PRESENT BY REMOTE ACCESS: Councilman Tony Caputo

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments from the public.

MEDIACOM FRANCHISE AGREEMENT

Bob Cestone submitted and reviewed the following Summary of Changes regarding the Mediacom Franchise Agreement:

CHANGES FROM OLD AGREEMENT:

1. The term was reduced from 15 years to 7 in hopes that would be an incentive for Mediacom to provide better service.
2. Payment of the franchise fee by Mediacom is changed to every quarter instead of every 6 mos. per the existing agreement.
3. Added requirement that commercials shall be no louder than programing as now required by new FCC rules.
4. Temporary cables run on the ground by Mediacom, whether for new service or repair, must be placed under ground if applicable and Town roads and right-of-ways restored within 30 days.
5. Added penalties for various violations to the agreement by Mediacom.
6. Added penalties for late payment or underpayment of franchise fees.
7. Added requirement for Mediacom to show on their annual list of charges "Seasonal Rates" "Advance Payment Discounts" and credits for such things as "On time Credits" for installation or repair visits that were late.
8. Added requirement for planned service interruptions for construction, testing or maintenance to be made during periods of minimal use.
9. Added requirement for tests of the Emergency Broadcast System be performed during periods of minimal service impact and at no time during newscasts or sporting events.

CHANGES WE REQUESTED BUT DIDN'T GET:

1. Program guide channel under Basic Family Plan (BFP).
2. Pay per view under BFP.
3. Premium channels under BFP.
4. Stripped down basic service plan. (Less channels for lower cost)
5. Local channels from other metro areas.
6. Automatic billing credits for system interruptions.

Council reviewed draft Resolution No. 6-13, A Resolution of the Town of South Bethany Authorizing Execution of a Cable Franchise Agreement Between the Town of South Bethany and Mediacom Delaware LLC. Council agreed to vote on Resolution No. 6-13 at the July 12, 2013, Town Council Regular Meeting.

DISCUSSION OF IDEAS ON WHAT CAN BE DONE TO MAKE MORE ROOM FOR THE PARKING OF BIKES, WAGONS, AND CARS

Councilman Rae presented the following:

At our Workshop meeting on May 30, 2013, the property owner of a house on N. 6th Street asked for help regarding people who often chain bikes to his fence or his trash can and park in his driveway.

His comments struck me as symbolic of a bike, wagon, stroller and car parking problem all along the beach front streets: Sand Piper Village and Ocean Drive. On June 24th, Chief Deloach and I toured these areas to assess the situation. Below are photos of his fence with bikes against it while a nearby bike rack has space available.



Based upon this tour it appears that there is a potential problem in Sand Piper Village but not especially along Ocean Drive. The problem in Sand Piper Village is currently alleviated by the use of two vacant lots' by the public to park their bikes, wagons and carriages. If these lots are developed, there will be an uproar since on a busy day dozens of items (I have seen 70 or more) need parking. Chief Deloach is going to see if two additional bike stands can be moved there. If the lots are developed, then we will need to take several current car parking spots and convert them for use of bike, wagons and carriage parking only.

On the day we toured, Ocean Drive had sparse use of their bike racks. Council should be aware that some very good neighbors along Ocean Drive have portions of their property set aside for public bike racks and wagon parking – again without this space the issue would be more pressing.

The single most important issue identified on the June 24th tour was the still unresolved issue of car parking on the east side of Route 1. Former Mayor Headman reviewed his March 15, 2012, memo to Council regarding On-Street Public Parking East of Route 1 – Fact Finding. His recommendation was that Council discuss limiting the maximum width of driveways since most new homes have "driveways" along the entire length of their property. Over the years this practice has reduced the availability of public on-street parking.

Since March 15, 2012 available parking on the east side has been reduced even more by new development projects. One street has continual concrete driveway for the full width of what appeared to be two double lot houses, removing all public parking.

Councilman Rae's recommendation is that Council limit the maximum width of driveways east of Rt. 1.

After discussion, Council agreed to raise awareness and encourage cyclists to use the bike racks along Ocean Drive. This may be in the form of a news update.

RESOLUTION 5-13, A RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE MARK DAMATO

Mayor Jankowski reviewed Resolution 5-13. A motion was made by Councilman Gross, and seconded, to approve Resolution 5-13, A Resolution to Recognize Mark Damato. The voting was as follows:

FOR THE MOTION: Mayor Jankowski and Councilpersons Rae, Gross, Caputo, Junkin, Callaway, and Voveris

AGAINST THE MOTION: None

The motion carried with a 7-0 vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments from the public.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6 p.m. a motion was made by Councilman Junkin, and seconded, to adjourn the June 27, 2013, Town Council Workshop Meeting. The motion was unanimously carried.

phs:Workshop Minutes.6.27.13 Approved 7.12.13