

<b>TOWN OF SOUTH BETHANY TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 25, 2018</b>
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**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Mayor Saxton called the October 25, 2018, Town Council Workshop Meeting to order at 3 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

PRESENT: Councilmembers Don Boteler, Sue Callaway, Jerry Masiello, Jimmy Oliver, Carol Stevenson, Frank Weisgerber, and Mayor Tim Saxton; Chief Troy Crowson; Finance Director Renee McDorman; and Administrative Assistant Pam Smith

**PROPOSAL FOR PARKING PERMITS INCLUDING THE POSSIBLE USE OF A KIOSK AND REQUIRED LOCATIONS ACROSS TOWN TO REQUIRE PERMITS**

Mayor Saxton referred to the following motion which was passed with a 5-2 vote at the February 9, 2018, Town Council Regular Meeting and was never changed: *A motion to implement the option to purchase property owner parking permits online, purchase a kiosk, require permit parking on the entire east side of Route 1 and first 250 feet of each Town street perpendicular to Route 1 on the west side, and raise parking permit costs per Option 1 to:*

<i>Transferable and non-transferable (2 each permitted)</i>	<i>\$20.00 each (Maximum of four and includes personal vehicles, mopeds, and motorcycles)</i>
<i>Daily</i>	<i>\$20.00 each</i>
<i>Replacement</i>	<i>\$50.00 each (whether lost, stolen, or destroyed)</i>

Mayor Saxton said he has asked the Town Manager and Finance Director to come to Council with how the approved motion will be implemented. Council had copies of the Town Manager's and Finance Director's proposal in their meeting packet. The Finance Director reviewed the following:

**PHASE I (2018/2019)**

1. Purchase & install StradaPAL Kiosk from Parkeon at the cost of \$9,450.  
*Discussion: Dividend funds received from the Town's workmen compensation insurance could be used to pay for the Kiosk for this year. There is a \$45 monthly fee associated with the Kiosk. The Finance Director will verify if the \$45 monthly fee is year-round. The Kiosk requires very low maintenance. In response to a question from Councilmember Weisgerber, the Finance Director said she will verify that the Kiosk has the capability to send an emergency alert if it goes offline.*
2. Will be installed on the deck at Town Hall and can remain in place throughout winter.
3. The kiosk will provide seasonal and daily permits via a paper receipt. The kiosk will only take cards and exact cash. No coins.
4. Up to four (4) parking permits can be purchased by property owners. No more transferable or non-transferable. Just 'resident' tags. All tags will be hanging tags as in the past.
5. Other options - Along with the kiosk, other options for purchasing parking permits will include online purchasing through our website and purchasing at Town Hall during business hours.

**PHASE II (2019-2020)**

To get the new parking permit procedure(s) and kiosk off the ground successfully, we are estimating that the first year will be a learning year for employees as well as residents and visitors.

The second phase will require permit parking west of Rt. 1 (at the request of mayor and council).

*Discussion: Mayor Saxton said he thinks the consensus between the Town Manager, the Chief of Police, and the Finance Director is to begin requiring permit parking on streets town-wide the summer of 2020. Mayor Saxton believes the Town should begin requiring permit parking on streets town-wide the summer of 2019.*

**ORDINANCE CHANGES**

Chapter 94, Parking – if we proceed with Phase I only, ordinance changes will be minor.

If town-wide changes are implemented, the ordinance changes will be more extensive.

*Discussion:*

- *Mayor Saxton said he would like Phase I and Phase II implemented all at once and make all of the ordinance changes at the same time.*
- *Chief Crowson said he is in favor of an all or nothing permit parking requirement on the west side of Route 1.*

**PRESENTATION TO COUNCIL RESULTS OF A SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT WITH BBVFD FOR AMBULANCE SERVICE FOR THE NEXT 5 YEARS.**

Mayor Saxton stated that the Mayors of Bethany Beach, Fenwick Island, South Bethany, and the President of the HOA of Sea Colony, the four groups that provide funding for the ambulance service, worked together and the ambulance service agreement has been fully executed. There will be no increase to the ambulance service fee this year, and the agreement keeps the ambulance service fee stable for the next five years.

**CODE REVIEW (§ 145-33 COMMERCIAL SIGNS) REGARDING ELECTRONIC/ILLUMINATED SIGNS (SUCH AS THE SIGN ON THE CORNER OF EVERGREEN ROAD AND ROUTE 1) AND DISCUSSION TO SEE IF THERE IS COUNCIL SUPPORT FOR THE CHARTER AND CODE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE CODE TO EITHER CONFIRM THAT THE CURRENT CODE WOULD PREVENT SUCH ELECTRONIC/ILLUMINATED SIGNS IN SOUTH BETHANY OR PREPARE AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING SUCH ELECTRONIC/ILLUMINATED SIGNS IN SOUTH BETHANY**

Councilmember Callaway said the York Beach Mall sign is lit up, but it is not dancing, moving, animated, scrolling, or advertising anything else. Councilmember Callaway questioned if the following from the Town Code is adequate to prevent signs such as the sign on the corner of Evergreen Road and Route 1:

§ 145-33E: Signs may be illuminated by conventional method. Animated, revolving, flashing, moving lights and reflectors shall not be permitted.

After discussion, Mayor Saxton said Council will vote on sending this to the Charter and Code Committee at the November 9, 2018, Town Council Regular Meeting.

**DISCUSSION ON LOCATIONS FOR BIKE PARKING AND POSSIBLE WAYS TO IMPROVE**

Mayor Saxton said he has received multiple phone calls regarding complaints about bike parking on Ocean Drive and in Sandpiper Village. Mayor Saxton said bike parking is a challenge in South Bethany and he does not know exactly how to address it. Mayor Saxton said citizens suggested

to him making bike parking on the west side of Route 1. Mayor Saxton said he feels an obligation to bring the suggestion to the Council.

Mayor Saxton said he is not suggesting Council do anything about it this year, but he thinks the Council has to start thinking about the concern. Mayor Saxton said he would encourage biking as part of a healthy community, but Council also has to make it work for all of the property owners. Mayor Saxton said he does not want to discourage biking to the beach because he thinks it is healthy and takes up less space, but the Town needs to figure out a way to accommodate all of the bikes.

Councilmember Callaway said DeIDOT owns the right-of-way on the west side of Route 1. When the Community Enhancement Committee (CEC) approached DeIDOT last year about putting fitness equipment along the walkway, DeIDOT said they will not allow anything to be there that a car could run off the road and run into. Councilmember Callaway said she does not know if that would also apply to a bike rack. Councilmember Callaway said the CEC had approached DeIDOT about the Town creating a sitting area and landscape area by the Anchorage forebay, and DeIDOT said they would not allow it because they need access to the fence there to open it. Councilmember Callaway said if DeIDOT would be open to a conversation about parking and healthy bike riding to the beach, there are a couple of canal ends on Route 1 that are a little more centralized.

Councilmember Stevenson said she had previously suggested eliminating a couple of parking places on Ocean Dr. and making them into bike corrals for just bikes – not bikes pulling a cart.

Mayor Saxton said he will talk to the Town Manager about contacting DeIDOT to see what they would allow and not allow on the west side of Route 1.

Councilmember Callaway suggested talking to the owner of the piece of land that is attached to the Anchorage forebay to see if they would be interested in leasing a bike space to the Town.

Mayor Saxton said he will look at a few options. Mayor Saxton said this was an initial discussion and he has no plan in place, but he felt it needed to be brought to Council for discussion.

#### **DISCUSSION ON POSSIBLE TOWN CODE CHANGE TO ALLOW BON FIRES ON THE BEACH FOR TOWN FUNCTIONS ONLY**

Councilmember Stevenson said the Town of South Bethany currently prohibits any fires on the beach. Councilmember Stevenson noted that the Town requires any party on the beach to be 75 feet from any dwelling.

Councilmember Stevenson said South Bethany is the only town in the area that does not allow bon fires on the beach. Dewey Beach, Bethany Beach, and Fenwick Island allow bon fires on the beach. Councilmember Stevenson provided Council with copies of their ordinances regarding bon fires. Councilmember Stevenson also provided Council with Fenwick Island's Bonfire Rules 2018 and Bonfire Permit 2018. Councilmember Stevenson asked South Bethany and Fenwick Island property owner Richard Mais, who is a member of Fenwick Island's Town Council, to talk about bon fires in Fenwick Island. Mr. Mais reviewed Fenwick Island's procedures and said they haven't had any problems and he hasn't heard any complaints.

After discussion, Mayor Saxton asked the Administrative Assistant to put this item on the November 9, 2018, Town Council Regular Meeting agenda for a possible vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

- Pat Weisgerber (148 Anchorage Dr.) – Spoke in favor of bon fires on the beach.
- Dick Oliver (410 Victoria Rd.) – Spoke in favor of bon fires on the beach not only for Town functions but for citizens too.

**MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS A PERSONNEL MATTER IN WHICH THE NAME, COMPETENCY, AND ABILITY OF INDIVIDUAL APPLICANTS FOR AN OPEN FULL-TIME POLICE OFFICER POSITION WILL BE DISCUSSED.**

A motion was made by Councilmember Callaway, seconded by Councilmember Masiello, to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter in which the name, competency, and ability of individual applicants for an open full-time police officer position will be discussed. The motion was unanimously carried.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS A MATTER IN WHICH THE QUALIFICATIONS OF INDIVIDUAL APPLICANTS FOR AN OPEN FULL-TIME POLICE OFFICER POSITION WILL BE DISCUSSED. 29 DEL. C. 10004(B)(1)**

At 4:15 p.m. Council went into executive session to discuss a matter in which the qualifications of an individual applicant for an open full-time police officer position was discussed. 29 DEL. C. 10004(B)(1)

**MOTION TO RECONVENE THE TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING**

At 5:20 p.m. a motion was made by Councilmember Stevenson, seconded by Councilmember Masiello, to reconvene the Town Council Workshop Meeting. The motion was unanimously carried.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE TO HIRE A NEW FULL-TIME POLICE OFFICER**

A motion was made by Councilmember Stevenson, seconded by Councilmember Oliver, to hire the proposed new full-time officer candidate. The voting result was 0 in favor and 7 against. The motion was defeated.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Councilmember Callaway, seconded by Councilmember Boteler, to adjourn the October 25, 2018, Town Council Workshop Meeting at 5:30 p.m. The motion was unanimously carried.