

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY OF SEAFORD MAYOR AND COUNCIL

March 22, 2011

7:00 PM

Mayor Edward H. Butler, Jr., called the Regular Meeting to order with the following present: Councilwoman Grace S. Peterson, Councilwoman Pat A. Jones, Councilwoman Leanne Phillips-Lowe, Councilman J. Rhea Shannon and Councilman William G. Bennett. Dolores J. Slatcher, City Manager and Charles Anderson, Assistant City Manager, were also present.

Councilwoman Jones offered the opening prayer and Mayor Butler led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Butler solicited changes to the agenda. City Manager Slatcher stated that there was one change, to add Seaford High School Drivers Education presentation of the Reflector project. Councilwoman Phillips-Lowe made the motion to approve the change to the agenda. Councilwoman Jones seconded the motion. The motion so passed with all present voting in favor.

Mayor Butler called for a motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 8, 2011. Councilman Bennett made the motion to approve the minutes of March 8, 2011. Councilwoman Peterson seconded the motion. The motion so passed with all present voting in favor.

Mayor Butler asked if there was any correspondence. City Manager Slatcher stated that there was one item; a letter was received today from the American Lung Association to inform the City that they have awarded a \$10,000 grant for tobacco prevention. She stated that she will get the committee together to get the signs ordered to get everything in place as soon as possible.

Reminder of Meetings

- Annual Planning Session, March 25, 2011; Council Chambers; 8:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.
- Special Election General Obligation Bond Issue for storm water improvements; March 28, 2011; Council Chambers; 2:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.
- Special Annexation Election to annex lands of the Delaware National Guard State of DE; April 4, 2011; Council Chambers; 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.
- SCAT Meeting, Thursday, April 7 at 6 p.m. at the Bridgeville Fire Hall
- Mayor's Prayer Breakfast on April 8, 2011 starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Crossroads Church in Georgetown

Annual Municipal Election Information:

Election date is Saturday, April 16, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.
Candidate filing deadline and Voter Registration deadline is March 25, 2011 by 5:00 p.m.
All interested candidates must file with the City Manager before the filing deadline.
Two Council Members' positions are up for election. These positions are currently held by Councilwoman Pat A. Jones and Councilman J. Rhea Shannon.

Mayor Butler closed the regular meeting at 7:05 p.m. and opened the Public Hearing.

P.H. #1 – City Manager Slatcher presented the amendment to Article 4. Industrial District 1. M-1 Light Industrial District, Section 15-51 Accessory uses by Deleting #3 and replacing with new proposed language. City Manager Slatcher explained Item #3 reading "Storage within a completely enclosed building in conjunction with a permitted use would be deleted and would now read "All materials stored outdoors must be of new materials and must be used in production within a reasonable time frame (6 months)". She stated that this would allow businesses to store some of their larger materials outside such as signs for a short period of time.

Mayor Butler asked for any questions from the Council; there were none. He then asked for any questions from the public; there were none.

Mayor Butler closed the Public Hearing at 7:06 p.m. and opened up the regular meeting.

Councilman Bennett made a motion to approve the Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance as presented to revise Article 4. Industrial District, Division 1. M-1 Light Industrial District, Sec. 15-51. Accessory uses by Deleting and Revision #3 in (a). Councilwoman Peterson seconded the motion; motion so passed with all present voting in favor.

New Business # 1 – City Manager Slatcher presented New Business # 1, Seaford High Drivers Education presentation of the Reflector Program. Mr. Richard Dixon came forward who is the PE/Drivers Education teacher at Seaford High School. He stated that the students from his class are here tonight to do a presentation on two topics that he has been working on for many years. Ms. Jordan Sigai came forward explaining a little bit about the program. S.A.D.D. stands for Students against destructive decisions. Y.E.L.L. stands for Youth to eliminate loss of life. This committee has worked to support youth who want to actively promote drug-free messages and highway safety in their schools and communities. They are looking for places to put the reflector strips on all signs so that driver's will be able to see the signs in bright sunlight or at night when most crashes happen. She explained that when signs are not visible to drivers, drivers in those areas could cause a crash or be involved in one. The reflectors on signs could reduce the amount of crashes. Ms. Shelby Bragdon came forward explaining that purchasing a road sign reflector is a great way to honor a loved one. It can also help save the lives of others and increase highway safety. These are used to increase visibility of a highway road sign. She stated that they did a survey with the students and teachers to see who was for and against road sign reflectors. There was a total of 65 people asked and 69% people were for the reflectors while 31% said that they didn't think that reflectors would make a difference. Ms. Marsia Johnson distributed some information about the reflector program. She explained that in the year 2010, 132 lives were lost in the State of Delaware due to motor vehicle accidents with 2 involving a bicycle, 22 were pedestrians, 7 motorcyclists and 101 motor vehicle. She would like to see the number of accidents to decrease to make the road a safer place. She stated that the reflectors could be purchased and an order form is enclosed in the information. Ms. Thanhtam Pham came forward to discuss the Adopt-a-Highway program. She explained that they would have contests at all of the schools of who could make the best fire hydrant design. The winner would be selected and a volunteer artist would paint the fire hydrant. She added that at each fire station (Seaford and Blades) a fire hydrant would be painted to represent their station. There would be a fee of \$25.00 to adopt a hydrant and an application would need to be filled out. The design would need to be approved and the person who adopts the hydrant would be responsible to provide the paint, keeping it clean clearing snow/leaves/debris, etc. She added that if a hydrant is adopted that the fire department still has the right to use them anytime needed. Mayor Butler asked if there were any questions from the Council. Councilwoman Jones asked if they have contacted the police department to find out where the high accident areas are in the City. Mr. Dixon stated that he has not yet, but he does plan to contact them once it is approved. City Manager Slatcher stated that there is currently a committee in place that reviews sign and road changes that consists of Charles Anderson, ACM, Berley Mears, DPW and Lt. Glenn VanFleet. She suggested using this committee for these programs. Councilwoman Phillips-Lowe made a motion to accept both of the programs as presented tonight to be used in the City of Seaford. Councilman Bennett seconded the motion; motion so passed with all present voting in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Bennett reported that the fire department has been busy with EMS calls, alarms and working on their budget. The electric department is routine doing tree trimming and maintenance work. Rick is currently in Nashville at a DEMEC conference. The new bucket truck came in on Thursday and the new truck for Ed came in on Friday.

Councilman Shannon reported that there is a press release going out in reference to "National Telecommunication Week" to be held on April 10 – 16.

Councilwoman Phillips-Lowe reported that departmental budgets are due March 31st and the benefit committee has a meeting coming up on April 5th.

Councilwoman Jones reported that Scott has been busy working on budget preparations for the Parks and Recreation Departments. She said that the Recreation Department is also selling tickets for upcoming trips to Baltimore which will be held in August. She

reported that Hooper's Landing is now offering yearly membership passes. She added that the Easter Egg Hunt will be held at the Ross Mansion on April 16th at 10 a.m. She also noted that all recreation activities are open to all communities and they are now on facebook.

Councilwoman Peterson reported all of her departments have submitted their budgets. She added that Trisha has sent out letters for Riverfest donations.

With no further comments, Mayor Butler called for a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council and move into an executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel. Councilwoman Philips-Lowe so moved. Councilwoman Peterson seconded the motion and the motion so carried with all present voting in favor. Mayor Butler closed the Regular Meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Dolores J. Slatcher, City Manager

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