

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

May 10, 2011

7:00 p.m.

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

Councilwoman Peterson 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 there was a change, to add an executive session to the agenda for the purpose of negotiations.

Mayor Butler called for a motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Council meeting of April 26, 2011. Councilwoman Jones made the motion to approve the Minutes of April 26, 2011. Councilman Bennett seconded the motion. Motion so passed with all present voting in favor.

Mayor Butler stated that he had a Proclamation to proclaim May 30th as "Buddy Poppy Day"

Mayor Butler then asked Ms. Bertha Potteiger from the American Legion to come forward to present poppies.

City Manager Slatcher then presented New Business #1, Mr. Roy Whitaker, Seaford School District to present information on the referendum to be held on May 18th from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. Mr. Whitaker talked about the challenges that the school district is currently facing such as overcrowding elementary schools and the need to expand and improve program offerings at the High School. There were different options considered such as purchase land and build a new high school, build a new elementary school and re-district attendance zones or add to the existing high school to accommodate the Delaware New Tech Academy, Culinary Arts, Agricultural Science, Sussex County Military Academy, International Baccalaureate Academy and reconfigure grade levels. After looking at the different options, it was decided that adding the existing high school was the best way to solve the problems in the district. Mr. Whitaker compared other referendums that have recently been held in other school districts such as Woodbridge and Laurel. Seaford's referendum amount is the lowest one in the amount of \$36.5 million. Conceptual designs were shown to show what the addition to the building may look like after construction. Mr. Whitaker discussed some of the project highlights to include: Construction of an addition to house the New Tech Academy, Agriculture Science and Culinary Arts Addition, Focused facility renovations to accommodate the 8th Grade Academy students, Facility renovations to better serve the new Academy programs, Sprinklers for the entire High School, Mechanical, HVAC, electrical and control system upgrades, Painting, lighting, and ceiling upgrades and Athletic Renovations, additions and improvements (replace 50 year old Dowd bleachers and press box). Mr. Whitaker stated that the project funding would be shared with the state and local funds. It would require the tax rate to go up as follows: Year 1 about 2 cents, High tax rate would be year 3 in the amount of 45 cents; with the average over a 5 year period being 31 cents. Mr. Whitaker stated that they would focus on doing the addition first so that the overcrowding issue could be resolved. He thanked the City Council for their time and urged everyone to get out and vote on May 18th.

City Manager Slatcher presented New Business #2, Charles Anderson, ACM to present recommendation for revision to some of the no parking area on Collins Avenue (side yard) adjacent to Tanya Rickett's Smack property at 453 North Street. Mr. Anderson stated that he went to the property along with Lt. Jamison and Berley Mears, Director of Public Works to look at the request. It was requested to remove

some of the yellow curb on the North Street Side in order for her to be able to utilize the handicap ramp for her husband. It was also requested to remove some other no parking area for her daycare parents to use to get in and out of her property. Mr. Anderson stated it does leave the 15 feet that is required for standard off intersections. Councilwoman Jones asked if there would be a problem with visibility with the change? Mr. Anderson said that Berley Mears, DPW felt that there was still enough room available. City Manager Slatcher added that if there is a problem, it can always come back to Council to be repainted. She also suggested that staff take some cars out there tomorrow and have them parked to look at the site. Councilman Bennett made a motion to approve the recommendation to revise the parking area at Tanya Ricketts Smack's property as presented after the test is completed. Councilman Shannon seconded the motion; motion so passed with all present voting in favor.

City Manager Slatcher presented New Business #3, Present the annual appointment of Records Officer and Authorized Agents for FY2012 with the DE Public Archives. City Manager Slatcher stated that they will remain the same as they have been in the past, Tracy Torbert, June Merritt, Trisha Newcomer and herself. Councilwoman Peterson made a motion to approve the appointment of the Records Officer and Authorized Agents for FY2012 to be submitted to the DE Public Archives. Councilwoman Phillips-Lowe seconded the motion; motion so passed with all present voting in favor.

REMINDER OF MEETINGS & SETTING OF NEW MEETINGS:

- Clean Up Week – May 9th to 13th
- M&C Budget Workshop – May 19th from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- Real Estate Tax Appeal – May 24th from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- DE League of Local Government – May 26th @ the Sheraton in Dover
- Seaford High School Graduation – May 27th @ 6 p.m.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilwoman Peterson reported that clean up week is underway and they are currently ahead of schedule. There will be a movie in Kiwanis Park on May 20th starting at dusk and the movie will be Madagascar. Next week is National Public Works Week and there are coloring books available at City Hall. She added that there will be a Block Watch meeting on May 16th starting at 6:30 at City Hall.

Councilwoman Jones reported that spring basketball sign-ups were down so it will not be done this year. She felt that Little League Opening Day this past weekend went very well. She added that the Eastern Shore AFRAM committee will be holding a fundraiser this Saturday, May 14th in Nutter Park from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. There will be music, basketball and food.

Councilwoman Phillips-Lowe reported that her department is working on budget.

Councilman Shannon reported that everything was routine.

Councilman Bennett reported that the Electric Department has been doing routine maintenance, putting new primary in at Greenside Manor apartments and tree trimming. The Fire department has been busy on the EMS side.

There being no other business, Mayor Butler called for a motion to adjourn to move into an executive session. Councilwoman Jones made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Peterson seconded the motion. Motion so passed with all present voting in favor.

Mayor Butler adjourned the Regular meeting at 7:50 p.m.

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By: _____
Dolores J. Slatcher, City Manager

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