

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

July 26, 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 Leann Phillips-Lowe and Councilman J. Rhea Shannon. 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 that there were none.

Mayor Butler called for a motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 12, 2011. Councilman Shannon made the motion to approve the minutes of July 12, 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 a letter from the Chesapeake Conservancy thanking the Mayor for the Nanticoke River Water Trail Launch Ceremony, which was held during the Nanticoke Riverfest.

She had a flier for the Community Yard Sale, which will be behind City Hall on Saturday, July 30<sup>th</sup>. Set-up begins at 7 a.m., and the yard sale runs from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. The cost to rent a 10' x 10' space is \$10, and tables can be rented for \$5 each. The yard sale is being put on by the Seaford Enhancement Team, and will be held on the last Saturday of the month, through October. Many downtown businesses will have special savings during the yard sale.

City Manager Slatcher also had a flier present for the Eastern Shore AFRAM Festival, which will be held on August 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> in Nutter Park. The festivities will run on Friday, August 12<sup>th</sup> from 5 p.m. until 10 p.m., and on Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. There will be entertainment and vendors, and events will include a pageant and a parade.

City Manager Slatcher presented New Business # 1, present for a decision the termination of the Agreement with Seaford Child Development Partnership, Inc., 525 Front Street, and discuss demolition of the building. She explained that the building was flooded in 2008 and repaired. Then it was damaged by a fire in 2011. There are insurance funds from the fire available that have not yet been claimed, which could be used toward repairing or demolishing the building. She said that if the decision is made to terminate the agreement with Seaford Child Development Partnership, Inc., a decision would then need to be made as to whether to demolish or repair the building. Councilwoman Jones asked how long Seaford Child Development Partnership, Inc. has occupied the building. City Manager Slatcher said that the agreement began on April 26, 2006. Councilwoman Jones asked what the extent of the damage to the building is, and if any repairs

have been made. City Manager Slatcher said that the damage is significant, and that the only clean-up to date was commissioned by the insurance company after the fire damage.

Mayor Butler solicited any questions. There being none, he called for a motion. Councilwoman Jones made the motion to terminate the agreement with Seaford Child Development Partnership, Inc. since the building has not been updated to meet codes so the services can be provided from this site. Councilman Shannon seconded the motion. The motion so passed with all present voting in favor.

City Manager Slatcher said a decision needed to be made whether to make repairs to the building or have it demolished. She said that if repairs were made, the City would need to increase the insurance coverage to include contents, and would also need to resume paying utility bills. Council made the decision to put insurance funds toward demolition, and to start obtaining bids for such.

City Manager Slatcher presented New Business # 2, present for approval the Police Department's JAG grant application. She said that the total amount of the grant is \$66,970. Seaford will receive \$15,843 of this, with the remainder being divided between Milford, Georgetown and Laurel. The Police Department will request to use the funds toward the purchase of a new vehicle.

Mayor Butler solicited any questions. There being none, he called for a motion. Councilman Shannon made the motion to approve the JAG grant application by the City of Seaford Police Department. Councilwoman Peterson seconded the motion. The motion so passed with all present voting in favor.

City Manager Slatcher presented New Business # 3, present for first reading the 2009 International Building Code. She asked the Council members whether they would like her to read aloud through the code or accept the changes as presented. Council agreed to them as presented, and have any questions ready for the next Council Meeting, which would be the second reading date and adoption of the code.

City Manager Slatcher presented New Business # 4, request from Jonathan Casto to open the concession stand at the Sports Complex. She explained that Mr. Casto contacted the City in hopes of operating the concession stand at the Jay's Nest Park. He would be serving only pre-packaged food and beverages, and therefore would not require a food service permit. The City would not charge rent for the space, Mr. Casto would only be responsible for paying for electric and one EDU of water and sewer.

Councilwoman Phillips-Lowe asked about recent vandalism to the building. City Manager Slatcher said that repairs are underway, which includes replacing a window. The work is being done by employees of the Parks Department. The repairs will be done before Mr. Casto occupies the building. Councilwoman Phillips-Lowe asked if Mr. Casto would have regular hours of operation. City Manager Slatcher said that his hours will be tailored to accommodate sporting events scheduled at the Sports Complex.

Mayor Butler solicited any questions. There being none, he called for a motion. Councilman Shannon made the motion to approve Jonathan Casto to open the concession stand rent free but with him paying utilities at the Sports Complex and to coordinate with the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation the use of the facility. Councilwoman Phillips-Lowe seconded the motion. The motion so passed with all present voting in favor.

City Manager Slatcher presented New Business # 5, request to approve an application with DNREC for a Community Water Quality Improvement Grant – Seaford Pond Retrofits for Stormwater Quality Enhancements. She said that the deadline for application is August 1<sup>st</sup>. She explained that there had been some recent flooding in Virginia Crest, and this project would help to alleviate that problem. The City would seek to use the funding to make improvements to the ponds at the Shipley State Service Center, Boys & Girls Club, and Ross Business Park. She said that these agencies are willing to work with the City on this project, as they already have their own repairs to do, and the work will coincide with these repairs.

Mayor Butler solicited any questions. There being none, he called for a motion. Councilwoman Peterson made the motion to submit an application to DNREC for a Community Water Quality Improvement Grant referred to as Seaford Pond Retrofits for Storm Water Quality Enhancements. Councilwoman Phillips-Lowe seconded the motion. The motion so passed with all present voting in favor.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilwoman Peterson reported that the Public Works Department has a new employee. She said that water levels in the wells have dropped about one foot, but that Berley Mears is closely monitoring the levels. Tanks are at full capacity. She reported that the Code Department is busy with their normal routine. She said that the Movie Night in Kiwanis Park held on July 23<sup>rd</sup> had lower attendance than usual because of the extremely hot weather. She also said that there is a sponsor for a Movie Night on August 20<sup>th</sup>, but that the movie has yet to be determined. She added that Seaford will be busier than usual during the weekend of August 5<sup>th</sup>, as the Girls' Softball World Series will be in town. The games will actually be played in Roxana, but the girls will be staying in Seaford, and the event organizers will be having a party for them at Williams Pond Park.

Councilwoman Jones invited Mayor and Council to ride in the AFRAM parade on Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup>. The lineup will start in the Frederick Douglass parking lot at 9 a.m., and the parade will begin at 10 a.m. She also said that there will be an AFRAM fundraising event at Pizza King on August 1<sup>st</sup> from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. 20% of the sales during this time will be donated to AFRAM.

Councilwoman Phillips-Lowe reported that the Administration Department has begun preparation for the fiscal year audit, which will take place in September.

Councilman Shannon reported that things are running smoothly at the Police Department. He said that there is a new Sergeant's vehicle on order.

Mayor Butler noted that Councilman Bennett is away on business.

With no further comments, Mayor Butler called for a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council. Councilwoman Phillips-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 7:18 p.m.

---

Dolores Slatcher, City Manager

/ebc