

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

July 9, 2013

7:00 PM

Mayor William G. Bennett 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 David Genshaw. Dolores J. Slatcher, City Manager, was also present.

Councilman Genshaw offered the opening prayer and Mayor Bennett led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Bennett solicited changes to the agenda. City Manager Slatcher stated that there were none.

Mayor Bennett called for a motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 11, 2013. Councilman Genshaw made the motion to approve the minutes of June 11, 2013. Councilwoman Peterson seconded the motion. The motion so passed with all present voting in favor.

Mayor Bennett called for a motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 25, 2013. Councilwoman Jones made the motion to approve the minutes of June 25, 2013. Councilman Genshaw seconded the motion. The motion so passed with all present voting in favor.

City Manager Slatcher presented New Business # 1, present for approval employment contracts for the City Manager and Assistant City Manager. She explained that these contracts had been given to Mayor and Council for their review.

Mayor Bennett solicited any questions. There being none, he called for a motion. Councilman Shannon made the motion to approve the employment contracts for the City Manager and Assistant City Manager as presented. Councilwoman Peterson seconded the motion. The motion so passed with Councilwoman Peterson, Councilwoman Jones, Councilwoman Phillips-Lowe, Councilman Shannon voting in favor and Councilman Genshaw voting no.

City Manager Slatcher presented New Business # 2, present street names for the corridor preservation road and the entrance road for the new car wash on Sussex Highway. She said that Spotless Street is the name being proposed for the entrance to the car wash, and Preservation Drive is the name being proposed for the corridor road which runs north and south, parallel to Sussex Highway. Councilwoman Peterson asked if Preservation Drive will extend behind Pizza Hut. City Manager Slatcher said that it will, eventually. Councilwoman Jones asked why one is a street and one is a drive. City Manager Slatcher explained that streets, drives and avenues are interchangeable as street names, depending on which one is picked. She added that Preservation Drive will be a state-maintained road, and Spotless Street will be maintained by the City.

Mayor Bennett then called for a motion. Councilwoman Peterson made the motion to approve new street names for the new development on Sussex Highway serving the car wash as Spotless Street and the corridor preservation road parallel on the east side of Sussex Highway as Preservation Drive. Councilwoman Phillips-Lowe seconded the motion. The motion so passed with all present voting in favor.

City Manager Slatcher presented New Business # 3, request from the ACORN Club to have winter flags flown on High Street once the snowflake decorations are removed after January 2014. She explained that the ACORN Club wishes to work with the Downtown Seaford Association and purchase the flags, which will go up on February 1<sup>st</sup>, after the snowflake lights come down on January 31<sup>st</sup>. The ACORN Club has been involved with several community improvement projects in Seaford over the years. Councilwoman Jones asked if the flags would be similar to the Riverfest banners which are hung each year. City Manager Slatcher said that they would not; they would be hanging flags on wooden poles, like the spring flags that were recently purchased by the Downtown Seaford Association. She said that the flags would come down if there was a holiday when the City flies American flags, such as Memorial Day or Flag Day. Councilwoman Jones

asked if the City would be responsible for maintaining the flags. City Manager Slatcher said the City would not replace flags if they were damaged, but would probably have to replace poles if they get broken. Councilwoman Jones asked who would hang the flags. City Manager Slatcher said that the flags would be hung by City employees. Councilwoman Jones asked how many flags would be hung. City Manager Slatcher said there will be approximately 20. She added that the City will not be responsible for storing the flags.

Mayor Bennett solicited any further questions. There being none, he called for a motion. Councilwoman Phillips-Lowe made the motion to approve the hanging of new flags on High Street after January 31<sup>st</sup> annually supplied by the ACORN Club. Councilwoman Peterson seconded the motion. The motion so passed with all present voting in favor.

### **REMINDER OF MEETINGS & SETTING NEW MEETINGS**

- Riverfest – July 12<sup>th</sup> starting at 5 p.m. and July 13<sup>th</sup> all day

Mayor Bennett reported that the Mayor's Challenge will be at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, and that he will be in the dunking booth from 11 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturday. Councilwoman Jones asked if there will be an opening ceremony. City Manager Slatcher said that it will be Friday night at 5 p.m. Councilwoman Peterson added that the carnival starts Thursday night.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilman Shannon reported that the Police Department is gearing up for additional patrols during Riverfest. They are also coordinating their patrols to provide extra coverage during the summer months, when warmer weather usually means large outdoor gatherings. The Office of Highway Safety is sponsoring grants for aggressive driving and seatbelt enforcement during the month of July.

City Manager Slatcher said that the City had received two special event permit requests for the upcoming weekend; one for filming a video on Swain Road, and one for a band performance. She explained that both requests were denied because of it being Riverfest weekend, and there is not enough manpower to support the special events.

Councilwoman Jones reported that June has been preparing for the FY2013 audit, which will be September 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>, as well as the year end rollover of the financial system. June has also been working on spreadsheets for various projects, personnel paperwork, and assisting retirees with questions on benefits. She reported that Sharon and Tracy have printed and mailed out property tax bills. All other business is routine.

Councilman Genshaw reported that the tennis and softball programs are wrapping up their seasons in the Recreation Department. Registration has begun for the fall programs, and the department is working on being able to accept registration and payment online for sports programs. The next Movie Night at the Ross Mansion is Friday, July 26<sup>th</sup>. Councilman Genshaw added that the Walking Club is still going on Wednesday nights, despite having had to cancel a few times due to heat or inclement weather.

Councilwoman Phillips-Lowe reported that the Public Works Department has been spraying weeds throughout the City, and will be replacing several fire hydrants. The department has also had its annual staff rotation, so different people will be responsible for new tasks for the upcoming year. The intersection of Porter Street and Pennsylvania Avenue will be closed from July 10<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> for repairs, paving and making curbs handicap accessible. She reported that things are running smoothly at WWTF; they are continuing fog inspections and have ordered parts to repair a flow meter, which was struck by lightning. Councilwoman Phillips-Lowe reported that the Code Department has been busy with routine work; sending violation letters, issuing work orders to correct violations, and issuing building permits. She added that Josh has been attending weekly progress

meetings for the high school, which is scheduled to open in August. She reported that Trisha has been busy with CAD updates for the Police Department, and attended a pre-construction meeting for the new car wash on Sussex Highway. Trisha has also been busy preparing for Riverfest. The opening ceremony is Friday at 5 p.m. on the main stage, and the Mayor's Challenge will be held at 5:30 p.m. Float-in registration begins at 8 a.m. on Saturday, and the float-in starts at 10 a.m. The Little and Junior Miss Riverfest pageants will start at 6:30 p.m. Friday on the main stage.

Councilwoman Peterson reported that the Electric Department has completed the distribution line extension for Boyd warehouses in the Industrial Park. They have also completed a distribution line extension for Gardner Asphalt. The street lights on Davis Drive have been installed and will be in operation this week. The Chapter 6 Code has been reviewed and completed. She reported that Rick and Jessica attended an RP3 seminar presented by APPA at DEMEC offices in Smyrna. She added that there were no outages from June 24<sup>th</sup> through July 7<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Genshaw said that he had recently spoken with someone who lives outside of City limits and was recently without power for several hours. He told this individual that he cannot remember the last time he lost power for a long period of time. He said that this is a benefit of living in the City; we rarely lose power, and when we do, it is usually restored quickly.

With no further comments, Mayor Bennett called for a motion to close the Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council. Councilwoman Jones so moved. Councilwoman Peterson seconded the motion and the motion so carried with all present voting in favor. Mayor Bennett closed the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

---

Dolores Slatcher, City Manager

/ebc