



Town of Southern Shores
Regular Council Meeting
January 7, 2020

The Town of Southern Shores Town Council met in the Pitts Center located at 5377 N. Virginia Dare Trail at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 7, 2020.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Bennett, Mayor pro tem Elizabeth Morey and Council Members Jim Conners, Matt Neal, and Leo Holland

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Town Attorney Ben Gallop, Interim Town Manager Wes Haskett, Finance Officer/ HR Director Bonnie Swain and Town Clerk Sheila Kane

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Bennett called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., led the Pledge of Allegiance, and held a moment of silence.

AMENDMENTS / APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Councilman Conners moved to amend the agenda to include a presentation from the Exploratory Committee for a Potential Branch Library as item 3C. The motion was seconded by Mayor pro tem Morey. The motion passed unanimously (5-0)

MOTION: Mayor pro tem Morey moved to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilman Conners. The motion passed unanimously (5-0)

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda consisted of the following items:

- o Council Meeting Minutes – December 3, 2019
- o Pickup and Releases
- o Budget Amendment #5 -To cover expenses associated with Hurricane Dorian Recovery. FEMA reimbursement is anticipated

MOTION: Mayor Bennett moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Holland. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

STAFF REPORTS

The following Department Heads presented department reports for the month:

- Interim Town Manager/Town Planner Wes Haskett presented the Planning Department's monthly report for December. He reported that due to no receipt of applications to consider, the January 21st Planning Board meeting has been cancelled.
- Police Chief David Kole presented his Department's monthly report for December.
- Fire Chief Limbacher presented the Fire Department's monthly report for December.
- The Interim Town Manager provided a brief update on Town operations:
 - Capital Street Projects-Surveying is currently underway for the Sea Oats Trl. street project. Plan drafting is currently underway for the Hillcrest Dr. street project. The bid period for the E. Dogwood Trl. project is currently open. A mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held on January 14th at 10:00 a.m. The bid opening is scheduled for January 23rd and the project completion date is May 1st. The Dewberry Ln. street improvement plans have been finalized and a meeting with adjacent property owners will be scheduled in the next few weeks to review the plans.
 - S. Dogwood Trl. Walking Path-Construction on the S. Dogwood Trl. walking path commenced yesterday and the project completion date June 1st.
 - 2016 Flood Maps-We have received the Letter of Final Determination for the new flood maps which were released in 2016. We, along with the other jurisdictions in Dare County, have until June 19th to adopt the new maps and update our Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. Town Staff has been meeting with the other Planning Departments in Dare County to discuss potential higher regulatory standards which would hopefully reduce the potential impacts associated with the reduced base flood elevations established in the new maps. When the maps were first released, the Planning Departments in the County formed a CRS Users Group which has met almost monthly to discuss the maps, the potential impacts, receive input from the Homebuilders Association, Realtors Association, engineers, surveyors, and how to move forward. We will be presenting information regarding the new maps and the proposed higher regulatory standards at the February 4th Council meeting and the Planning Board at their February 18th meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

SOUTHERN SHORES VOL. FIRE DEPT. FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Greg Evans, project manager, gave a brief timeline update to the Southern Shores Volunteer Fire Station construction project. He addressed the delay in the original schedule and stated the project should be completed mid to end of May 2020.

PLANNING BOARD RECOGNITION-ELIZABETH MOREY

Mayor Bennett recognized Elizabeth Morey for her years of service on the Planning Board, 2010-2019.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT-EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE FOR POTENTIAL BRANCH LIBRARY

Chairman Mike Fletcher, alongside committee member Lillias Morrison presented the Exploratory Committee for Potential Branch Library final report which consisted of the following:

1. Findings of the Committee-The Committee conducted a survey of three northern beach towns: Kitty Hawk, Southern Shores and Duck. There were 400 responses. Of these, 80% were in favor of a Dare County Library Branch being set up in Southern Shores. (This being central to the three northern towns.) While numerous reasons for this were cited, the main consensus was that of convenience: saving time and gas, particularly in the congested summer months. It would fill a void between Corolla and Kill Devil Hills. Present users would go more frequently, and more would become users. As well as book loaning and reading, a computer section offering services for internet courses, resume preparation and job applications, and high-speed research would be welcomed, along with comprehensive access to news, periodicals and magazines. Further, through the initial meeting and survey, strong interest was expressed in having a community gathering and meeting space, permitting programs for adults and children to be brought to northern Dare County
2. Feasibility-The biggest factor in establishing a branch of Dare County Library in Southern Shores is finding suitable premises. The Committee pursued several possibilities, but one location stood out. The former law offices building at 6 Juniper Trail, Southern Shores has space available. It is centrally located and in an easily accessible location. The present owner of 6 Juniper Trail is Towne Bank. The estimated size of the proposed Library is 2000 sq. ft.- about the same size as the Hatteras and Corolla Libraries. Towne Bank has offered to lease this space for a branch of the Dare County Library for \$1.00 a year for ten years. The Committee checked out the Zoning, Building Compliance and Fire Safety Compliance. The building is presently zoned for office use. A modest zoning change would be necessary to permit use as a Library. Modification of the structure would have to be made in order to meet requirements of Dare County Library operating space. An engineered plan has been developed and approved by Towne Bank. The cost of modification, capital improvement would be the responsibility of the tenant, Dare County.
3. Conclusions-The survey results indicate to us that there is strong interest and enthusiasm in establishing a Dare County Library Branch in Southern Shores for a variety of reasons and uses. The 6 Juniper Trail location is well suited for establishment of a Library. Additionally, the lease terms on the 6 Juniper Trail property offered by Towne Bank are extremely generous and would allow the library to be operated at comparatively low cost for at least ten years.

Lillias Morrison stated the committee requests that the Southern Shores Town Council support establishment of a branch of the Dare County Library at 6 Juniper Trail in Southern Shores to benefit residents of Southern Shores, Duck and Kitty Hawk.

MOTION: Mayor Bennett moved that the Southern Shores Town Council support the efforts of the Exploratory Committee for Potential Branch Library in establishing a branch regional library in Southern Shores. The motion was seconded by Councilman Connors. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

MOTION: Mayor Bennett moved to authorize the Exploratory Committee for Potential Branch Library, as a Town Committee, to present this project to the Dare County Commissioners. The motion was seconded by Councilman Neal. Upon a brief discussion, Mayor Bennett moved to amend his motion to include:

- That the Southern Shores Town Council support establishment of a branch of the Dare County Library at 6 Juniper Trail in Southern Shores to benefit residents of Southern Shores, Duck and Kitty Hawk.
- That the Southern Shores Town Council authorize the Southern Shores Library Committee to continue its endeavors and to present this project for implementation by Dare County Commissioners in time to meet the Dare County Budget deadline for years 2020-2021.

The motion was seconded by Councilman Neal and passed unanimously (5-0).

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Bennett called for public comment and hearing no citizen wishing to speak, Mayor Bennett closed public comment.

OLD BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION OF BAY DISPOSAL'S REQUEST TO AMEND CONTRACT (RECYCLE CONTRACTOR)

Bay Disposal representative Josh Smaltz briefed the Council on the current recycle market. He stated due to the fluctuating market rate and no buyers for the material, Bay Disposal has been told to divert materials elsewhere, as TFC is not accepting them. Recycle materials are temporarily being taking to Wheelabrator, a waste engineering plant in Virginia. Although that is a temporary solution, Bay Disposal is hoping to secure a more permanent long-term permit approval from NCDEQ to take materials directly to Wheelabrator in Portsmouth.

Councilman Holland asked Mr. Smaltz if he was confident Bay Disposal would be granted the permit. Mr. Smaltz replied he was 99% certain it was obtainable.

Councilman Neal asked if Bay Disposal was asking for a rate increase this evening, to which he was told they were not.

Finance Officer Bonnie Swain stated a budget amendment would be presented once Bay Disposal obtains the proper permits from NCDEQ. That amount would be roughly \$16,000 to cover service through June 2020.

CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

MOTION: Mayor pro tem Morey moved to table the CIIP appointments until the February 4, 2020 meeting, thus allowing more time for the newly elected Council Members to pick a good appointee to the committee. The motion was seconded by Councilman Conners. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

PLANNING BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Bennett called for nominations.

MOTION: Mayor pro tem Morey moved to nominate Tony DiBernardo to the Planning Board. The motion was seconded by Councilman Conners. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

MOTION: Mayor pro tem Morey moved to nominate Lynda Burek as first alternate to the Planning Board. The motion was seconded by Councilman Conners and carried with a 3-2 vote; Mayor Bennett and Councilman Holland opposing.

MOTION: Councilman Neal moved to nominate Robert McClendon as second alternate to the Planning Board. The motion was seconded by Elizabeth Morey. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Bennett called for public comment and hearing no citizen wishing to speak, Mayor Bennett closed public comment.

MAYOR COMMENTS & COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor pro tem Morey thanked all the volunteers in Southern Shores for all they do.

Councilman Conners stated he will be busy during the month of January attending several upcoming meetings; Census Committee, State of the County meeting, a breakfast gam which the Mid-Currituck Bridge will be the topic, Gov-Ed Channel Committee and finally the January 21st Council Workshop.

Councilman Holland stated he was appointed to the Dare County Tourism Board, finishing out Chris Nason's term. The new flood maps will be coming up as agenda items among the different towns. He will also be attending the State of the County meeting at Captain George's Restaurant. He recently was able to attend a presentation from Dare County EMS on a new piece of cardiac equipment and will be inviting them to a future meeting for a demonstration.

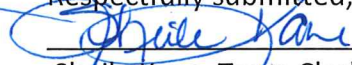
ADJOURN

MOTION: Hearing no other business, Councilman Holland moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded Mayor pro tem Morey. The time was 6:39 pm. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

ATTEST: 
Thomas G. Bennett, Mayor



Respectfully submitted,


Sheila Kane, Town Clerk