

Town Council August Special Session Minutes:
August 3, 2021 | 7:00PM
7769 Main St., Bethel, DE

(1) Meeting Called to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:03PM by Town Council President, K. Phillips. Present included Town Council President, K. Phillips, V. Proctor, M. Shaver, R. Campfield, Town Clerk, M. Hawkins, and Town Solicitor J. Murray. E. Whaley attended virtually via Zoom.

(2) Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Town Council President, K. Phillips.

(4) Secretary's Report: E. Whaley presented the July draft Town Council Meeting Minutes. V. Proctor made several corrections to the Minutes. V. Proctor made a motion to accept the July Minutes with corrections. R. Campfield seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

(3) Pratt Insurance - Trey Wallace: Trey Wallace presented on Town of Bethel insurance information. Issues of conversation included insuring the Town's purchase of lot of land on Main Street and improvements to the Community House.

(5) Town Clerk's Report: M. Hawkins presented the Town Clerk's Report. Please see the attached report.

(6) Treasure's Report: M. Shaver presented the Bills to be Paid. R. Campfield made a motion to pay the bills as presented. V. Proctor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

M. Shaver presented the Treasurer's Report. V. Proctor made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. R. Campfield seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Please see the attached report.

(7) Building Permits: Town Council President, K. Phillips, presented the building permits from the month of July. One permit for a property on Main Street for \$25 was issued.

(8) Ordinance Update: V. Proctor presented on the Ordinance Committee. Chapters 1-5 were read prior to the Town Council August 3, 2021, meeting. A special meeting will be held August 18, 2021, to vote on Chapters 1-5. At the August 18, 2021, special meeting, the Council will have a public reading of Chapters 6-8.

(9) Community House Renovation Work: Town Council President, K. Phillips, presented the update for the Community House renovation work.

(10) Old / New Business: Discussion was made about a town clean up day. October 16, 2021, from 7AM to noon. was selected for the Fall Clean Up day. M. Shaver will contact the trash company. The Town Council decided to forgo a Fall yard sale event.

The Chipman property and animal population on West St., tabled at the last meeting, were brought up by Town Council President, K. Phillips. Town Attorney, J. Murray, addressed the Chipman property first. J. Murray suggested a monition sale at the County level. The monition sale would force the payment of taxes and costs the Town has incurred cleaning up the property. J. Murray offered to reach out to Sussex County to look into a monition sale for the Chipman property on West Street. It was decided that J. Murray would reach out to Sussex County to start the monition process on the Chipman property on West Street. J. Murray explained the monition sale process. A resident asked if the Town would require the Chipman property to be demolished. The Town Council stated that it would be dependent on who the new owner would be and what their plans for the property would be.

A resident spoke up about the conditions on West Street, speaking to the animal population. The issue between Sussex County and Bethel Town limits was discussed, in terms of getting a health inspector to inspect West Street.

Town Clerk, M. Hawkins, brought up the issue of unpaid taxes to the Town Attorney. M. Hawkins stated every year there are several individuals that pay their taxes late. J. Murray, stated she would review the Town of Bethel's Charter for guidance. The issue of tax leans were brought up. Town Clerk, M. Hawkins, stated that she was familiar with the tax lean process in JP Court in Sussex County. M. Hawkins offered to file future leans on the Town of Bethel's behalf.

Discussion of finding the heirs to the Chipman property was addressed by residents and Town Attorney, J. Murray.

The West Street animal population issue was addressed by J. Murray. A resident stated that she spoke with the State of Delaware and Sussex County and neither government is willing to help the Town. The issue of community cats was addressed.

The issue of record withholding from former Secretary, M. McCoy. M. Hawkins reported on the records that M. McCoy gave to the Town and what is still missing as of August 3, 2021. R. Campfield brought up the issue of the Comprehensive Plan, as the State of Delaware never received a finalized copy. The issue of the Town of Bethel Facebook page was brought up as M. McCoy will not give the Town the password. J. Murray stated that she will reach out to M. McCoy. R. Campfield spoke in favor of having the Town Attorney reach out to M. McCoy.

J. Murray addressed the issue of having a Town Alder Man. J. Murray stated that this person would be appointed by the Governor of Delaware and would be a paid employee of the Town of Bethel. The issue of residents not receiving permits was brought up and it was decided M. Hawkins would send a friendly letter reminding the resident to take out a permit. J. Murray noted fines and taxes are two totally different financial categories.

The complaint form was brought up with R. Campfield. R. Campfield stated that the complaint form letters should not be a grey area and the Town needs to send letters to complaints.

(11) Adjourn Meeting: The meeting was adjourned at 9:04PM.