

Town of Bethel
Town Council Meeting Minutes
March 7, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

1. Meeting Called to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by K. Phillips. Present were K. Phillips, M. Shaver, V. Proctor, P. Kough, Kathy Layfield and Bethel Town Clerk, Martha Hawkins.

2. Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by K. Phillips.

3. Swearing in of New Council Members: Kathy Layfield was sworn in.

4. Election of Officers: President - Vern Proctor; President Pro Tem - None; Treasurer – Kathy Layfield; Secretary – Pat Kough.

P. Kough made motion to appoint Mark Shaver as President Pro Tem, The motion failed for lack of a second.

5. Secretary's Report: P. Kough presented the February Town Council Meeting Minutes. M. Shaver made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. P. Kough seconded the motion. The motion passed with K. Layfield abstaining and four members voting aye.

6. Town Clerk's Report: Town Clerk, Martha Hawkins presented the Town Clerk's report. We need to check with R. Campfield and see if she wants to continue doing Facebook. If not we need to find someone to do it. P. Kough made a motion to approve the Town Clerk's report. K. Layfield seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

7. Treasurer's Report

a. Bills to be Paid: M. Shaver presented the bills to be paid. P. Kough made a motion to pay the bills as presented. K. Phillips seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Treasurer's Report: M. Shaver presented the February Treasurer's Report. P. Kough made a motion to approve the February Treasurer's Report. K. Layfield seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Building Permits: No permits were issued.

9. Chipman Property: A letter was drafted regarding authorization of the Town Solicitor to prepare a condemnation of the Chipman property and went out by email and hard copy to the Town Solicitor. There has been no response from the Town Solicitor. Town Clerk, M. Hawkins, shared a letter from M. Waters about the Chipman property. The letter was read by V. Proctor and is attached to these minutes. V. Proctor will work with M. Hawkins to draft a response to M. Waters.

10. Town Solicitor: Letter re Town Property Improvements: V. Proctor drafted a letter to owners of dilapidated properties. He took pictures of 918 West Street. K. Layfield made a motion to submit the drafted letter to M. Smith regarding 918 West Street for review. Upon a review of the letter and the Solicitor's approval, the letter should be sent to the said address. M. Shaver seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Untagged Vehicles – K. Layfield shared information about abandoned motor vehicles. P. Kough made a motion to have M. Smith, Town Solicitor, come to the April Town Council meeting to discuss the issue of the abandoned vehicles and confirm what we can do as a Town. M. Shaver seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

12. Old/New Business:

- a. Planning and Zoning:** H. Vanderslice said that the survey did go out and the Committee recommends that Planning and Zoning proceed with the revisions to the Plan without conducting an additional survey.
- b. Zombie Signs:** M. Shaver called the State. The State will remove the zombie sign. The State will quote a price to install the red burgundy sign.
- c. Fencing Around Town Property:** M. Shaver is having fencing taken out at his home in a couple weeks and can have it installed around the Town Property.
- d. Town Phone Messages:** A message is going to be put on the phone to call M. Shaver or K. Phillips for community hall rentals
- e. Living Shoreline Program:** I will get further info about safety and possibly using living shoreline
- f. Posting Council Meetings on the Town Sign:** K. Layfield will do the posting.

Commented [PK1]: .

- g. Delaware Watershed Alliance.** P. Kough talked to Beth Wasden about the Water Garden on Moore Street. She stated the cost would be a little more than the cost for the water garden by the Bethel Marker. P. Kough clarified the Alliance will do the triangle park.
- h. Noise Ordinance** – M. Hawkins said it only refers to tools from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m.
- i. Triangle Park:** The Watershed Alliance will be maintaining the Triangle Park with oversight by K. Layfield and P. Kough.
- j. Ordinance Committee:** V. Proctor said we have to plan a new Ordinance Committee. This will be put on the agenda for next month.

13. Adjourn Meeting: The meeting was adjourned at 8:46