Town of Bethel 

Town Council Meeting Minutes

February 4, 2025 - 7:00 p.m.

1. Meeting Called to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by V. Proctor. Present were V. Proctor; K. Phillips; K. Layfield; P. Kough; M. Shaver; and Town Clerk, M. Hawkins.
2. Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by V. Proctor.
3. Secretary's Report: M. Shaver made a motion to approve the January 14, 2025 meeting minutes with a correction. K. Phillips seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously
4. Town Clerk's Report: Town Clerk, M. Hawkins, presented the Town Clerk's report. M. Shaver made a motion to approve the Town Clerk's report. K. Phillips seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

# Treasurer's Report

1. Bills to be Paid: K. Layfield presented the bills to be paid. M. Shaver made a motion to pay the bills as presented. P. Kough seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Treasurer's Report: K. Layfield presented the January 2025

Treasurer's report. P. Kough made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report as submitted. M. Shaver seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

1. Building Permits: No permits were issued this month.
2. Bracken Property Status: We received the engineering report from Mrs. Bracken. The report was dated ten years ago and confirmed our findings. We are still trying to confirm a visit from the Brackens to start clearing the house out.
3. Town Dock Status: The Nanticoke Watershed Alliance has withdrawn their offer to give us funds for the dock, because of the sign at the Town Dock stating that it is for the use of town residents only. K. Layfield will reply to the Watershed Alliance that it is open to the public, and we will supply parking in our lot across from the Community House. K. Layfield said our sign that limits the use of the dock to the community has to come down. K. Layfield said she is open to suggestions for further designs. V. Proctor suggested that the committee have a public hearing to get other ideas. Ed Witalec said that they were originally under a time crunch, because they wanted to use the ARPA funds. P. Kough volunteered to write a letter to the town residents regarding the public hearing and to ask if they have any ideas of how they would like to see the dock used. K. Phillips stated that he has talked to one of the people who were instrumental in putting in the dock at Woodland Ferry on the Woodland side. He will give the information to the committee.
4. Complaints: No new complaints were filed this month.

1(). New Leaf Solar Farm: The project is currently on hold with the County.

1. Ordinance Committee: V. Proctor had asked the Town Solicitor for advice on anything we may adopt relative to the marijuana issue. The Ordinance Committee drafted an ordinance. The Solicitor sent a totally new draft of a marijuana ordinance today. He also had some suggestions regarding the process for adopting the ordinance. The chief difference between the drafts is that M. Smith has put in provisions allowing for a prohibition with an exception for medical marijuana. The Council also discussed the issue of Town business licenses, including the lack of commercially zoned space in Town and the need to adopt a new Ordinance authorizing business licenses. M. Smith is going to contact the Governor's office about the procedures for an ordinance such as this. V. Proctor stated the solicitor said we can proceed to prohibit the activities or have a less restrictive licensing type of arrangement that may be a bit more complicated. Council further discussed whether or not to opt out, including whether Bethel would benefit at all from allowing marijuana businesses. V. Proctor he would ask M. Smith whether he sought reappointment and whether he could attend the March Council meeting.
2. Planning and Zoning Commission: Status of Comprehensive Plan Update: Steve Beers gave an update on the work the Planning and Zoning Commission has been doing on the Comprehensive Plan. He believes they can get it to the council before the end of the month so that we can discuss it at the March meeting. V. Proctor and E. Witalec can be sworn in to the Planning and Zoning Commission next month.
3. Old/New Business:

Steve Beers stated that since there were two seats open for the Town Council and only two candidates filed for the seats, there will be no election held. The Notice of Cancellation of the February 15 th , 2025 Election will be attached to these minutes.

Spring Yard Sale — April 5 th, rain date April 12th .

M. Shaver thanked Vern Proctor for his service on the Town Council.

Dog Park — A resident had asked about the possibility of having a dog park. The following questions were asked. Where would it be? What would the insurance cost? Who would maintain the park? Who would be in charge of keeping track of animal shots? What if people from outside came to use it?

14. Adjourn Meeting: The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.