

TOWN OF OCEAN VIEW
TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES
201 CENTRAL AVENUE, OCEAN VIEW, DE 19970
October 27, 2020 @ 6:00PM
ZOOM TELECONFERENCE FOR PUBLIC

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Reddington called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. In attendance were Council Members Maly, Twardzik, Reynolds and White. Also, in attendance were Town Solicitor Dennis Schrader, Town Manager Carol Houck, Finance Director Dawn Mitchell, P&Z Development Director Ken Cimino and Town Clerk Donna Schwartz.

2. ADOPTION of AGENDA

A motion was made by Council Member Reynolds, seconded by Council Member Twardzik, to adopt the agenda. The motion carried unanimously 5/0.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. PRESENTATION: OCEAN VIEW ON THE MOVE

Town Manager Carol Houck introduced a power point presentation called Ocean View on the Move. The presentation incorporated such items as the comprehensive plan update, sidewalk improvements, bicycle safety, pedestrian improvements, a pilot streetscape project, and transit opportunity. The presentation represented the vision and goals of the community response to the comprehensive plan and incorporates the recommendations of things like multi-modal transportation, encouraging business and job growth, and to be a place where people want to live.

Mr. Cimino spoke briefly about the development in Town. He mentioned Silverwoods, Fairway Village, Tidal Walk, Ocean View Beach Club, and Stingray Harbor which are all currently in development. He also spoke about the capital drainage projects the Town has in progress like Hudson Avenue, the Cottages, Country Village, and Country Estates. Mr. Cimino presented slides showing a sidewalk project connecting a large part of Town with the Assawoman Canal Trail. He said all the sidewalks are in Town right-a-ways.

Council Member White questioned how long the green bicycle markings were expected to last. Mr. Cimino replied 10 to 12 years. Mayor Reddington stated we should encourage new business especially doctors and professionals. Chief McLaughlin noted that there are like six empty commercial parcels along Rt 26, and commercial sections in Silverwoods and Tidal Walk. Council Member Twardzik questioned if there were any plans for memorial locations along Rt. 26. Mrs. Houck said there were not, but she would investigate the idea.

Chief McLaughlin was the next to speak about his department and public safety. He noted that he has been chief of the department for nearly twenty-years. Chief McLaughlin stated he would like to request an additional officer in the FY22 budget. This would give the department 13 officers with 10 on patrol. He also mentioned the \$125,000 grant that his department received to hire an additional officer. Council Member Reynolds mentioned he was concerned with the responses outside of Town limits. Chief McLaughlin replied sometimes it is a moral dilemma, or moral obligation

to respond. He noted that sometimes there is only one officer on duty, he would like to have two officers for at least 75% of the time. Council Member Reynolds asked if one additional officer was enough. Chief McLaughlin replied he was a realist, and it is very expensive to hire and outfit a police officer, he would be satisfied with one new officer. He noted he would like to start recruitment as soon as possible. Council Member Twardzik expressed concern with one patrol officer on duty at a time. Chief McLaughlin replied that he monitors the situation from home with his phone, he responds if help is needed. Council Member White asked about the relationship with South Bethany. Chief McLaughlin responded it is working well.

Mrs. Houck stated she was still waiting on a response from the Town of Millville to the letter sent to their Council. She also noted that DART is interested in the transit opportunity. She sees a DelDOT/DART partnership in the future. Council Member White asked why there are no bike racks in the park. Mrs. Houck stated she would investigate the matter.

Mrs. Parks was the final presenter. She spoke about Town revenues. Mrs. Parks said she attributed the 1% discount to the early payment of taxes. People were very receptive to the discount. She also spoke about gross rental receipts, construction permits, and COVID-19. The total assessed value of the Town is \$958,297,500. Council Member White asked how the reassessment of Sussex County would affect us. Mrs. Parks said it would have no impact whatsoever. Council Member Twardzik commented on the 1% discount. Mrs. Parks said she had only good feedback.

In closing the presentation, Mrs. Houck noted a few more items of interest like an Arts Loop. She also mentioned that she would like to investigate town wide refuse/recycling. Mr. Schrader warned there are many moving parts to consider. Chief McLaughlin said this is a subject that has come up many times through the years, and said he thought Kercher Engineering had done a study once showing damage to the streets and road fatigue. This topic will need further discussion.

Mayor Reddington commented that FY23 would need a tax increase. He said a 5¢ increase could wipe out the deficit. Mrs. Houck stated it was better to talk cents than percentages when it comes to tax increases. Council Member Twardzik commented he felt that things were on the right track.

4. OPEN DISCUSSION

Council Members did not have any further discussion at this time and no vote was taken on items discussed.

5. CITIZENS' PRIVILEGE

Colleen Twardzik, Hudson Avenue, stated she had no comments.

6. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Council Member Twardzik, seconded by Council Member Maly, to adjourn the meeting at 8:40pm. The motion carried unanimously 5/0.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna M. Schwartz, CMC