

Town of Little Creek Council Meeting Minutes for January 2, 2023

The meeting of the Little Creek Town Board was called to order at 7:00 pm by Commissioner Edward Strouse. Pledge of Allegiance was recited by Board members and residents in attendance and a moment of silence was observed. Having observed that four out of five members of the Board of Commissioners were present in person and one member was in attendance via Zoom call for the January meeting, Commissioner Theresa May declared to all persons in attendance that there was a quorum and therefore the Town Council was free to conduct business and begin the meeting. The four members of the Board of Commissioners present for the Town of Little Creek Council Meeting: Commissioner Ed Strouse, Commissioner Carol Puleo, Commissioner Jason Arrington, and Commissioner Theresa May. Commissioner Adrienne Hegman attended via Zoom call. Six members of the public were in attendance in person for the general meeting: Susan Freese, Sam Gentry, Terry Gentry, Clay Crommett, Dennis May, and Ricardo Lucas. One member of the public attended the meeting via the Zoom option: Carol Williams

The meeting minutes from the previous month were electronically sent to the commissioners for their review prior to this meeting. These minutes were also made available to all in attendance as hard copies. All commissioners on the board reviewed the minutes from December 5, 2022, and Commissioner Arrington made a motion to accept the minutes received from the secretary/clerk as written. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Puleo and put to a full board vote where it was passed unanimously.

The Treasurer's report was available for both November and December at the time of the meeting and were presented at this meeting. Commissioner Strouse read the report aloud to everyone present. Commissioner May made a motion to accept the report as presented for both months and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Arrington. When put to a full vote by the board it was passed unanimously.

Commissioner Strouse stated the pending bills and provided information on what these bills covered. The formal motion to pay all the bills was made by Commissioner Puleo. This motion was seconded by Commissioners Arrington and put to full board for a vote. The Board unanimously passed the motion to pay the current bills.

Committee Reports

- a) **Planning Commission** – Carol Williams and Commissioner Arrington
 - No report
- b) **Parks and Recreation** – Commissioner Hegman
 - No report
 - i) **Dog Park** - Mr. Hegman/Ms. Freese/Mr. Courtney
 - Ms. Freese mentioned concerns about how to handle aggressive dogs at the park. Commissioner Strouse explained that anyone with concerns should say something to the dog owner and regarding efforts to ensure safety for people and other pets, anyone with concerns should not hesitate to contact the police by dialing 911. The dog park is on Town property, but it was built and is maintained by a group of individuals who are friends of the Bark Park not the Town Council.

- c) **Code Enforcement** – Commissioner Puleo
 - No response from County at the time of this meeting regarding the following properties: Grow, Bailey, and Edwards
 - Tuesday, January 31, 2023: Sheriff’s Sale is scheduled for the Steininger property due to back taxes owed to Kent County and the Town of Little Creek. After the sale, the county will disperse the amount owed to the town.
- d) **Little Creek Fire Company Report** – President Frazier/Chief Scott Bundeck
 - No one present from Fire Department to give this report.
 - Commissioner Arrington gave the following update: The new fire engine has arrived; By the end of the month, it will be swapped out with reserve vehicle; The Fire Department celebrated 1,000 days of being staffed 24/7; Terry Pepper, Carson, and other State officials were present for the celebration and interest was conveyed regarding support for future celebrations.
- a) **Northern Flood Study** - Commissioner Strouse
 - Bonini grant has been submitted and funds commitment letter has been signed for \$7,500.
 - If the town cannot get the grant, then we will abandon the project without penalty.
- b) **Bayshore Byways Grant** – Commissioner Strouse
 - Nothing to report at this time because it is still being processed.
- c) **ARPA** (American Rescue Plan Act) – Commissioner Strouse
 - Outlet for Christmas Tree came from these funds.
 - City of Dover Utilities Department was contacted and approval was given to use the old junction box with install of new pan to run electricity for Townhall. It was agreed that there was no need to run lines underground.
- d) **Community Partnerships** - Commissioner May
 - Nothing new to report.
- e) **Book Box** – Commissioner Hegman
 - Commissioner Arrington put the box together and cemented it in place next to Townhall. It will be registered on the App in the near future.
 - A second box has been made available from the county. This box is being proposed for use as a non-perishable food pantry box to be located behind the book box.
- f) **Solar Farm** – Commissioner Strouse
 - The originally scheduled meeting at Levy Court was dropped because of a lack of a quorum.
 - The new meeting date is scheduled for January 19, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. in room 203 of the Levy Court Building. It will also be made available on Webex.
- g) **Municipal Elections** – Commissioners Strouse and May
 - Waiting for letter from the State Elections Office
 - Commissioner May will meet with Penny Gentry to go over the Town’s elections process and determine the proper timeline for posting and holding the upcoming election for 2 open 2-year positions on the Town of Little Creek Board of

Commissioners.

New Business – Commissioner Strouse

Public Comment

Floor was opened for public comment. Residents asked what measures were being entertained to help with the traffic calming in town. Commissioner Strouse explained that some of the suggestions included placing 3-way stop signs at strategic locations along Main Street. Commissioner Hegman would like the town to consider reinstating and maintaining a police presence in town limits. In order to be successful, the Town of Little Creek would need to have a say in the times and locations for police to be stationed throughout town. Commissioner May asked about the possibility of placing cameras throughout town that would capture the license plate information when someone was traveling Main Street at speeds exceeding the speed limit of 25 mph. Commissioner Strouse is looking into all possible solutions available in order to correct this problem. Commissioner Strouse also asked if the residents in attendance were interested in meeting with Dover Mayor Christenson and representatives from the City of Dover Utilities Department regarding the recent increase in cost for the electricity in the Town of Little Creek. The residents in attendance at this meeting were interested in hosting a meeting to discuss the rate increase and Commissioner Strouse plans to extend the invitation to the above mentioned individuals along with Councilman Roy Sudler, to be held in conjunction with the upcoming February Town Council meeting.

Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn meeting by Commissioner May and seconded by Commissioner Arrington. It was then put to the full Board for vote. All members having voted “Aye” the motion to adjourn was carried and the meeting was officially ended at 8:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa May

Secretary