

Town of Little Creek Council Meeting Minutes for March 6, 2023

The meeting of the Little Creek Town Board was called to order at 7:00 pm by Commissioner Edward Strouse. Prior to moving into the items on the agenda, it was acknowledged that Carol Puleo was stepping down from her one-year Town Commissioner position and she handed over all relevant materials and files for code enforcement. Commissioner Jason Arrington was the only resident who submitted a letter of interest in the other two-year term position that was up for election and will continue as Town Commissioner. Mayor Strouse explained that according to the Town Solicitor, the Board of Commissioners can legally conduct business as usual if there is a quorum. Next, the paper ballots were handed out to the four commissioners on the board to vote for the following positions: Chairperson, Treasurer, and Secretary/Clerk. The results were tabulated and announced. These results are as follows and were all unanimous: The position of Mayor/Chairperson is Commissioner Ed Strouse; the position of Treasurer is Commissioner Adrienne Hegman; and the position of Secretary/Clerk is Commissioner Theresa May. All four Commissioners were present in person and agreed to assist with the duties currently unassigned due to the vacant seat on the Board of Commissioners. An announcement was made to all present for the meeting that the meeting could now proceed.

Next on the agenda was the confirmation of quorum. Commissioner May declared that four out of four members of the Board of Commissioners were present in person 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 Adrienne Hegman, Commissioner Jason Arrington, and Commissioner Theresa May. Seven members of the public were in attendance in person for the general meeting: Doug Hegman, Dennis May, Andrew May, Carol Puleo, Ricardo Lucas, Terry Gentry, and Sam Gentry. Four residents attended the meeting via Zoom: Carol Williams, Angelia Strouse, Bill Clark, and Susan Freese.

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 February 6, 2023, and Commissioner Hegman made a motion to accept the minutes received from the secretary/clerk as written. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Arrington and put to a full board vote where it was passed unanimously.

The Treasurer's report covering the period from February 7, 2023, to March 6, 2023, was presented at this meeting. Commissioner Hegman read the report aloud to everyone present. Commissioner May made a motion to accept the report as presented and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Arrington. When put to a full vote by the board it was passed unanimously.

Commissioner Hegman stated the pending bills and provided information on what these bills covered. The formal motion to pay all the bills was made by Commissioner May. 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
 - Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023
 - Post Office window broken. Was reported by the person who accidentally broke it. It will be repaired as soon as possible.
 - Dog Park sign is ready to plant.
 - i) **Dog Park** - Mr. Hegman/Ms. Freese/Mr. Courtney
 - Need to purchase new leathers.
- c) **Code Enforcement** – Former Commissioner Carol Puleo and Commissioner Strouse
 - Mayor Strouse has been in contact with a resident who may be interested in filling the Code Enforcement role for the Town.
- d) **Little Creek Fire Company Report** – President Frazier/Chief Scott Bundeck
 - No report.

Old Business – Commissioner Strouse

- a) **Northern Flood Study** - Commissioner Strouse
 - \$135,000 needed to cover the implementation of mitigation plan and resolve the flooding issues at the North end of Town. This is too much for CFS funding to cover. There is a conservancy that assists small towns that may be interested in assisting with this. A meeting will be held on April 14, 2023, at 1 pm, to discuss this. All parties involved have been invited to the meeting and several of the Commissioners from Little Creek's Town Council will be in attendance as well. If an agreement is reached, the Town would receive assistance with upfront costs to cover the work necessary until reimbursement from grant funds that have been applied for are disbursed. Commissioner Strouse asked the Council for approval to use funds in the amount of \$200 for the purchase of supplies and refreshments for the April 14 meeting. A motion was made by Commissioner Hegman to approve this request and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Arrington. When presented to the full Board for a vote it was approved unanimously.
- b) **Bayshore Byways Grant** – Commissioner Strouse
 - Still pending an answer on grant application that was submitted. Gravatt is looking into this.
- c) **ARPA** (American Rescue Plan Act) – Commissioner Strouse
 - Nothing new to report.
- d) **Townhall Electricity** – Commissioner Strouse
 - Update on electricity and installation of outlets
- e) **Community Partnerships** - Commissioner May
 - Nothing new to report.
- f) **Food Box** – Commissioner Hegman

- Has been installed and is in use.
- g) **Solar Farm** – Commissioner Strouse
 - There was a 5-hour meeting held at Levy Court. Morgan Branch Solar LLC appeals meeting. Three people were there to represent the public and were allowed to speak. The findings: Application was incomplete, and the appeal was denied.
- h) **Southern Flood Study** – Commissioner Strouse
 - University of Delaware found funds through DNREC Coastal Drainage to assist with this study.
 - DELDOT is doing their own flood study at the southern end of the town.

New Business – Commissioner Strouse

- Traffic report graphs from findings during State Police coverage.
- Mike Little is increasing his rates by \$10 an hour to mow and maintain municipal areas in town. Motion was made by Commissioner Hegman to pay the increased amount and continue with the current services. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Arrington and unanimously adopted by the full Board of Commissioners.

Public Comment

- Resident Bill Clark asked to speak to the assembly regarding a proposal to create a Pickle Ball Court in the Town Park. According to the research already completed, he estimated the cost to add this to the current basketball court would cost approximately \$170. Council members asked questions and asked for a full proposal in writing before entertaining a vote regarding this addition. Mr. Clark agreed to research this idea further and bring it back to the Board of Commissioners later.
- In addition to a more detailed and formal proposal, Mr. Clark agreed that a survey distributed to the residents would help to discern interest in having a Pickle Ball Court in the town.
- Terry and Sam Gentry brought to the Council's attention the fires that had been set near their fence since the previous meeting. The February 9th burns were recorded and reported to DNREC where Rebecca Shuman chose to press charges.

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 7:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa May

Secretary

