

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

The meeting of the Little Creek Town Board was called to order at 7:24 pm by Commissioner Adrienne Hegman. Four Commissioners were present in person. Commissioner May declared that four out of four members of the Board of Commissioners were present in person, therefore, the Town Council had a quorum and 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 Edward Strouse, Commissioner Jason Arrington, Commissioner Adrienne Hegman, and Commissioner Theresa May. Nine members of the public were in attendance in person for the general meeting: Carol Puleo, Shawn Brighenti, Joseph McGonigal, William Clark, Carol Williams, Penny Gentry, Clay Crommett, Susan Freese, and Judy Hegman. Three members of the public attended the meeting via Zoom: Darla, Angie, and Courtney Strouse.

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

The Treasurer's report covering the period from September 11, 2023, to October 2, 2023, was presented as hard copies to the members of the Board of Commissioners prior to the meeting. The report was presented in printed form to those in attendance and read aloud by Commissioner Hegman. Since there were no questions posed by the residents, 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.

The current bills were distributed to the Council members as hard copies and in print form to attending residents. The formal motion to pay all the current bills was made by Commissioner Arrington. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Hegman 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
 - Nothing new to report
- b) **Parks and Recreation** – Commissioner Hegman
 - Nothing new to report
 - i) **Dog Park** - Mr. Hegman/Ms. Freese
 - Council still has the donation from Mr. Centa in the amount of \$1,000, intended for the purpose of maintaining the pumps at the dog park. These funds will allow Council to find better pumps for the park. The council will continue to research options to replace existing pumps.
 - The pumps in both the large and small sides of the dog park need to be replaced.

- Commissioner May will write letters of recognition for the couple currently caring for the park. Susan Freese will assist with any information needed to compose the letters of recognition.
- c) **Code Enforcement** – Commissioner Strouse
 - Letter will be sent to the responsible party of the property located at 32 Bell St. concerning grass needing to be cut.
 - New residents living next to the above stated property contacted the Department of Agriculture concerning infestation of what they believe to be Lantern Flies.
 - Concerns were expressed about the property located at 326 Main St.
 - Concerns were expressed about rats at the property located at 380 Main St.
 - The property located at 447 Main St. is in violation of the Section 6 Land Ordinance. The Town Solicitor has advised the Town to send a notice of fine for the violation to both the property owner and the owner of the dwelling.
 - Tree limbs that are leaning out across Lowe St were mentioned as a concern.
- d) **Little Creek Fire Company Report** – President Frazier/Chief Scott Bundek
 - No representative was present, and no new report was provided. Commissioner Strouse asked Commissioner Arrington to get an update from the Fire Department for the November Town Council Meeting.

Old Business –

- a) **Northern Flood Study** - Commissioner Strouse
 - A notice arrived from the State of Delaware about tentative approval of funds. The Town qualifies for \$1.7 million from FEMA to implement the plan. Currently, the distribution of all FEMA Emergency Funds remains on hold, due to recent natural disasters within the nation. The council will continue to work with State Senator Carson and Representative Buckson on acquiring matching funds to cover the Town's required financial contribution to the project.
 - Sharon Cruz is leaving the company who performed this study and was responsible for plan development to address the flooding problems in town. Our new project manager is Gina.
- b) **ARPA** – Commissioner Strouse
 - The remaining funds total \$10,000.
- c) **Community Partnerships** - Commissioner May
 - The annual Blessing of the Animals is scheduled for Saturday, October 14, 2023 at 1:00 pm at the dog park. Flyers about the event will be posted around town and it will also be posted on the resident's Facebook page.
 - The Fire Department is hosting a Trunk-or-Treat on Saturday, October 28, 2023.
 - Trick or Treat in town is scheduled for Tuesday, October 31, 2023 from 6 pm – 8 pm.
- d) **Southern Flood Study** – Commissioner Strouse
 - The study has begun. Surveyors were in Town surveying the area.
 - The survey markers placed around town are part of this study.

- e) **ORPT** – Commissioner Strouse
 - In phase 2 of the grant process. Mayor Strouse completed the second phase of the application process for this grant. He is still waiting to hear about approval. Upon receiving this grant, the town will need to match \$25,000 toward the improvement projects the funds are designated for.
- f) **Cameras for Town Hall and Park** - Commissioner Arrington
 - The Little Creek Town Council is continuing to research cameras for placement in the park and outside Town Hall.
- g) **Traffic Calming** – Commissioner Strouse
 - The stop signs for the intersection of Main Street and Port Mahon Road have been approved. The quote from DelDOT is \$3,000. Eric Buckson plans to assist the Town by providing CTF funding toward paying for the new stop signs. An agreement has already been signed regarding this arrangement.
- h) **Future of Town Board of Commissioners** – Commissioner Strouse
 - There are three positions on the Board of Commissioners that are up for election in March of 2024. The current Commissioners are in need of assistance. There is a need for additional members and anyone interested in running for a Town Council position needs to submit a letter of interest to the Town of Little Creek by February. Susan Freese volunteered to distribute flyers door to door for the Town. The Town Council will look into having a resident of the town make up a Town Newsletter for distribution on a regular basis.
 - If residents do not become more involved, the Town Council may need to explore the option to unincorporate, thus going back to governance by Kent County.

New Business – Commissioner Strouse

No new business.

Public Comment

- Trailer – A permit will need to be acquired to make any actual changes to the property. The single-wide was recently sold and the yard is currently being cleaned up. The new owner's name is Jeffrey Beliveau.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Arrington and seconded by Commissioner Hegman. Motion was carried, and the meeting officially ended at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa May

Secretary