

Town of Little Creek Council Meeting Minutes for March 4, 2024

The meeting of the Little Creek Town Board was called to order at 7:04 pm by Mayor Edward Strouse. Two Commissioners were present in person and two Commissioners were present via Zoom. Commissioner May declared that four out of four members of the Board of Commissioners were present 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. Eleven members of the public were in attendance in person for the general meeting: Dennis May, Penny Gentry, Carol Puleo, Ken Frazier, Joanne Sullivan, Thomas Johnston, Michael Rinehart, Sam Gentry, Terry Gentry, Susan Freese, and Clay Crommett. Commissioners Hegman and Arrington attended the meeting via Zoom and three members of the public attended the meeting via Zoom: Angie Strouse, Carol Williams, and Bill Clark.

Resident Dennis May was then officially installed by Mayor Strouse to the position of Commissioner of the Town Board and took the oath of office for the term of one-year. Commissioner Dennis May joined the Board table for the rest of the meeting. Mayor Strouse announced that the three two-year seats that were up for election were being filled by three of the current Commissioners. Ballots for election of officers to positions on the Board of Commissioners were distributed to the Board members and upon tally of the votes, the following results were determined: Commissioner Edward Strouse was unanimously elected to remain Mayor for the upcoming term; Commissioner Adrienne Hegman was unanimously elected to remain Treasurer for the upcoming term; Commissioner Theresa May was unanimously elected to remain Secretary/Clerk for the upcoming term.

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 Hegman and seconded by Commissioner Arrington 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 February 5, 2024, to March 4, 2024, was electronically shared to the members of the Board of Commissioners prior to the meeting. The report was presented verbally to those in attendance and read aloud by Commissioner May. 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 included in the Treasurer's report and read aloud at the same time to those present for the meeting. The formal motion to pay all the current bills was made by Commissioner May. This motion was seconded by Commissioner 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
 - A permit was requested from Clay Crommett for a porch enclosure. The fee collected for the permit was \$10.00.
- b) **Parks and Recreation** – Commissioner Hegman
 - Nothing new to report.
 - i) **Dog Park** - Mr. Hegman/Ms. Freese
 - Waiting for Edgewater Well Drilling to find the replacement pumps.
 - c) Large dog area has low spot. Small dog area may also have a low spot that will need repair. It is suggested that pavers be used to build up those spots. 12 pavers per side plus a base material will be sufficient for this project. Commissioner Hegman made a motion to purchase the materials and complete the project to build up the low areas. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Dennis May and put to a full vote of the Board where it was passed unanimously.
 - A dog was recently banned from the park for a month
 - Thank you notes are ready for the two people who care for the park on behalf of the Town. Mayor Strouse will be adding gift cards for each of the individuals before mailing.
 - d) **Code Enforcement** – Commissioner Strouse
 - Multiple Complaints have been filed concerning the Grow Property.
 - House on Main Street with metal roof that has become detached is currently up for foreclosure. Mayor Strouse has moved the fallen portion off of the sidewalk several times.
 - Certified letters from last month’s violators were sent out. It is now beyond 30 days with no response. Efforts will be made to determine that these letters have been received before the violations are turned over to the County for enforcement.
 - Informal letter was sent to the Little Creek Grill. No response was received by the Town. The next step will be to send a certified letter to the owner concerning the violation of concern.
 - Commissioners Theresa and Dennis May are taking on the role of Code Enforcement as part of their duties on the Board.
 - e) **Little Creek Fire Company Report** – President Frazier/Chief Scott Bundek
 - Fire Company asking to host the Annual Easter Egg Hunt at the park. The Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Sunday, March 31, 2024 at noon. Commissioner Hegman has agreed to work with the Fire Company on the event.
 - The current ladder truck is being sold and will be replaced with a newer one in NJ. The extra truck is also being sold.
 - Planning for the new Fire Station building continues.

Old Business –

- a) **Northern Flood Study** - Commissioner Strouse
 - The official FEMA letter of grant award has been received.
 - The Town has the balance of the funds needed to satisfy our portion of the funding needed for the project.
 - The Airforce Base is now working to improve Little Creek's flood proofing. As part of the flood proofing efforts, they are looking purchasing some properties in the town. They have committed to \$500,000 toward those purchases. The Town will need to hold a signing party.
 - Still waiting for permission to conduct an appraisal for the Jarman property.
- b) **ARPA** – Commissioner Strouse
 - Nothing new to report.
- c) **Southern Flood Study** – Commissioner Strouse
 - The initial report and suggestions were delivered in a meeting via Zoom on the designated meeting day. The ditch on Bell Street is not a “tax” ditch. This extended ditch was purposed to divert water from field runoff. The study will be coming and looking into acquiring properties to use as catch basins/storage.
- d) **ORPT** – Commissioner Strouse
 - The Town has been awarded \$75,000. The Town's is responsible to contribute \$30,000 as the in-kind agreement. Mayor Strouse spoke with Representative Buckson who is working on providing the Town's portion of the project funds.
- e) **Cameras for Town Hall and Park** - Commissioner Arrington
 - An 8-camera system from Sam's Club with the specifications and storage determined to be needed for placement at the park and Town Hall is priced at \$449.00. Installation will cost between \$300 - \$400. Commissioner Hegman made a motion to spend up to \$1200.00 for the purchase of the cameras, monitors and installation plus anything else needed to get the system up and running. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Arrington and the suggestion was made to use ARPA funds to make the necessary purchases. When put to a full vote of the Board of Commissioners it was passed unanimously.
- f) **Well Testing** – Commissioner Strouse
 - Penny Gentry reported that her well has not been tested yet. This is the experience of others in the community as well.
 - A meeting with DNREC is scheduled for Thursday, March 7, 2024 at 7:00 pm to follow up on findings. It has been reported that the contamination is not widespread and could be confined to certain areas of Town.

New Business – Commissioner Strouse

- 1) Mayor Strouse is currently working on a sub-division of the Lynch Lot. There is no plan at this time to sell off any parcel of the property up for sub-division. It is owned by one individual. Mayor Strouse asked permission to continue with the blessing of the Board. A motion was made by Commissioner Hegman to follow the County's guidelines for this situation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Arrington. When put to a full vote of the Board it was approved unanimously.
- 2) The old Coral Reef and former Cavalier East property is now up for sale. The Council would like to see the property remain designated for retail and possibly follow through with the plans developed and approved by the Town of Little Creek at the time of the adoption of the Land Use Ordinances.

Public Comment

Residents asked for an update on the installation of the STOP signs.

- The STOP signs have been paid for but there is still no word from DeIDOT concerning their installation. Mayor Strouse will follow up with DeIDOT to establish a time frame.

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 7:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa May

Secretary