

Town of Little Creek Council Meeting Minutes for July 1, 2024

The meeting of the Little Creek Town Board was called to order at 7:01 pm by Mayor Edward Strouse. Four Commissioners were present in person for the Town Council meeting. Commissioner Theresa May declared that four out of five 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 Dennis May, and Commissioner Theresa May. Six members of the public were in attendance in person for the general meeting: Special Guest, Senator Eric Buckson, Joanne Sullivan, Susan Wehner, Carol Puleo, Andrew MacQueen, and James Woznicki. Two residents attended the meeting via Zoom: Angie Strouse and Susan Freese. Note: Susan Freese was unable to connect via Zoom.

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 D. May 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 June 3, 2024, to July 1, 2024, was electronically shared to the members of the Board of Commissioners prior to the meeting. The report was read to the those in attendance by Commissioner Strouse. The formal motion to pay all the current bills was made by Commissioner T. May. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Arrington and put to full board for a vote. The Board unanimously passed the motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented and to pay the current bills.

Committee Reports

- a) **Planning Commission** – Carol Williams and Commissioner Arrington
 - 3 permit requests were received by the Town. One was for 380 Main Street.
- b) **Parks and Recreation** – Commissioner Hegman
 - Movie Nights in the park continue to be held every other Saturday night.
 - i) **Dog Park** - Mr. Hegman/Ms. Freese
 - WBOC visited the Bark Park to film dogs for a news piece they were putting together on barking dogs.
- c) **Code Enforcement** – Commissioners Theresa and Dennis May
 - Nothing new to report.
- d) **Little Creek Fire Company Report** – President Frazier/Chief Scott Bundek
 - Nothing new to report.

Old Business – Commissioner Strouse

- a) **Northern Flood Study - Commissioner Strouse**
 - The Nature Conservancy is to assist with initial funds for project to move forward. The Town of Little Creek would then pay the conservancy back with the reimbursement of funds at the close of the project.
 - The Lebeau family is waiting for the appraisal to be conducted by the Nature Conservancy. The Town of Little Creek could purchase the entire property from the Lebeau family.
- b) **ARPA – Commissioner Strouse**
 - \$10,300.00 remaining in this fund. Mayor Strouse is working toward gaining access to complete the report.
- c) **Southern Flood Study – Commissioner Strouse**
 - Implementation of this project will cost \$1.8 million.
- d) **ORPT – Commissioner Strouse**
 - This grant can be applied for annually. Mayor Strouse submitted an additional annual proposal for grant funds in the amount of \$60,000.00. If the Town is awarded these funds, it was suggested that they be used for the purpose of building a new pavilion at the park. The motion to submit the grant and use it to build the pavilion was made by Commissioner Arrington and seconded by Commissioner D. May. When put to a full vote of the Board of Commissioners it was accepted and passed unanimously.
 - Town of Little Creek will be responsible to provide \$15,000.00 toward the project in order to comply with the terms for grant award acceptance.
- e) **Cameras for Town Hall and Park – Commissioner Strouse**
 - The Town is actively seeking a qualified individual or company to install the cameras and monitoring system.
- f) **Spigots at Town Hall – Commissioner Strouse**
 - Messina has been hired to install the two spigots. The Town is waiting on Messina to provide notice of when they will be able to schedule this service.
- g) **Update on Repairs at Post Office – Commissioner Strouse**
 - Repairs were arranged and have been completed.
- h) **Stop Signs – Commissioner Strouse**
 - The stop signs have been somewhat effective. However, some motorists are expressing their displeasure at needing to stop, while traveling North on Main Street, by accelerating to a high speed and maintaining a high rate of speed as they travel the rest of the distance through town. The Board has expressed a need for police presence and traffic enforcement along that stretch of road. The Board approved the scheduling of 6 hours of traffic enforcement, but no officers signed up for the work or responded to the call. Senator Buckson addressed the attendees at the meeting and expressed his dedication to assisting the Town with this issue. There are several solutions being explored to remedy the current traffic speed violations occurring in Little Creek. The Felton Police Department showed interest in providing assistance, but faced restrictions and were told “No”. The State requires that a police force be in place for a town to qualify for installation of speed cameras. Section 9 of the Town Charter states

that we can have a police force and Senator Buckson has agreed to assist with the research needed to see if that would allow us to request the speed cameras even though we do not currently have a police force on duty. In addition to this possible solution, the Town is looking into other methods of traffic regulation. Since Main Street is part of Route 9, it is considered to be a state road and that limits the available options.

New Business – Commissioner Strouse and Commissioner Arrington

- 1) Pedestrian Transportation Study – Sidewalk issues study. This study will cost \$750,000.00. The town would be responsible for raising \$2,275.00 contribution that would need to be paid up front. At the end of the study, the issues found in the study that need to be addressed would be sent as priorities to DelDOT for completion. The study includes a full traffic study for all forms of transportation. The town could potentially get their portion of the financial commitment reduced. Commissioner D. May expressed his request to ask for the town's initial financial obligation to be reduced to \$1,000.00 before agreeing to conduct the study. A motion was made by Commissioner T. May to move forward with the study if this request was met. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Arrington. When put to a vote of the full Board of Commissioners, all were in agreement that if the request to reduce the town commitment to \$1,000.00 was accepted, the town could move forward with the study, but the town will not move forward with the study otherwise.
- 2) DelDOT is asking for approval from legislators to make the intersection of South Little Creek Road and Route 9 an All-Way Stop. Board approved a motion accept this proposal at last month's council meeting.
- 3) Traffic Calming – Commissioner Arrington presented a traffic circle solution for the north end of town. He plans to collect more information to present at a future council meeting.
- 4) Back Taxes – This item will be addressed at next month's council meeting.

Public Comment

- Carol Puleo asked if there would be follow up from DNREC concerning wells that were in need of treatment. Mayor Strouse explained that any wells containing PFASs had already been treated and all other concerns would not be revisited by DNREC. Follow up should be done by each home owner not affected by the PFAS issues.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Arrington and seconded by Commissioner D. May. Motion was carried, and the meeting officially ended at 7:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa May

Secretary