

Town of Milton
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Milton Town Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 4, 2021
6:30 pm Regular Meeting

1. Call to Order- Mayor Kanakos called the meeting to order.
2. Roll Call
Councilwoman Meredith
Councilman Baty
Councilman Cote
Councilman Garde
Vice Mayor Kelly
Mayor Kanakos
3. Additions or Corrections to the Agenda
4. Agenda Approval
Vice Mayor Kelly made a motion to adopt the agenda removing items 5 and 6; seconded by Councilman Garde. Motion carried.
5. Moment of Silence
6. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
7. **Public Hearing by Sussex County Community Development, regarding the Community Development Block Grant**
Brandy Nauman, Housing Coordinator and Fair Housing Compliance Officer for Sussex County Community Development and Housing Department explained the Community Development Block Grant Program guidelines for Sussex County. Approximately two million dollars will be awarded to Kent and Sussex Counties on a competitive basis. In the past five years, \$140,000 has been received for Milton residents assisting in repairs for eleven properties. Councilman Garde made a motion to close the public hearing by the Sussex County Community Development regarding the Community Development Block Grant; seconded by Vice Mayor Kelly. Motion carried.
8. Public Participation
Mayor Kanakos read into record a letter from the Episcopal Church of St John the Baptist requesting an extension of the time requirements to complete the sidewalk repairs.

Stephanie Coulbourn went over the municipal election and 2021 Water System Improvements notices including the dates, times and location of the polls. Absentee ballot and voter registration requirements were also reviewed.

Michael Denecker, 418 Chestnut Street- He and his wife are against changing Manship Street to a one way street. The change will cause Manship to become less safe and cause confusion to people going to services at the nearby funeral home.

Jeff Seemans, 412 Chestnut Street- regarding the one way streets; the problem is not really a problem and doesn't have to be changed. He has lived in his house since 2016 and can only remember a handful of times that he has witnessed two cars approaching each other on Hazzard or Manship. There is not a traffic hazard. He thinks the Town needs to address more serious issues such as water meters that require the residents to get their meter readings themselves and call the numbers in to Town Hall for their utility billing. He is also concerned about the letters requiring the sidewalk repairs during the current COVID pandemic. Perhaps the Town can find grants to do the repairs instead of the burden on the residents during one of the greatest catastrophe in a lifetime. He wants elected officials to not forget when they were citizens and had to live on social security and manage a budget and perhaps they can give some relief to citizens from time to time.

Pam Bounds Seemans, 412 Chestnut Street- Her home is near Manship and Hazzard Streets and does not believe they need to be one way streets.

Jamie Brown, 415 Federal Street- He agrees with the previous speakers. He feels it will be an inconvenience to the residents on those streets. He inquired if anyone on the committee lives on the streets they proposed to change? Have any accidents accrued in these locations and has DelDot done an impact study in these areas?

Steve Crawford, 216 Ridge Road- Representing the Milton Community Foundation and the project they are working on project to recognize Bryan Stevenson. The project will include a plan to create and unveil a plaque and work with DelDot to add his name to signs on the highway "Welcome to the home of Bryan Stevenson". The plaque will possibly be installed on the Historical Society property and the unveiling should be in the fall of 2021. He will asked to come before Council at a later date and ask for their support.

Councilman Garde felt uncomfortable with the letter from St John's church. The wording on the letter cuts him to the quick. He has made a significant effort to be a good listener to the citizens and when someone thinks council is inept and citizen unfriendly hurts him and he thinks we need to do better as a group and not be bureaucratically confusing. Seth informed the Council can review the request as a sidewalk waiver under Section 183;20 E. Further discussion was held on the required sidewalk repairs.

9. Requests for removal of items from the Consent Agenda
Councilman Garde made a request to remove the Public Works report from December and the minutes from the December 7, 2020 Town Council meeting.
10. Approval of the Consent Agenda on the following items:
 - a. Written Committee Reports
 - b. Written Department Reports: Town Managers Report, including the Administrative, Project Coordinator, Police, Code Enforcement, and Public Works Department Reports
 - c. Finance Report and Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for November 2020
 - d. Minutes: December 7, 2020, December 15, 2020

e. Executive Session Minutes: December 7, 2020, December 15, 2020
Councilman Garde made a motion to accept the Streets, Sidewalks and Park Commission minutes from September 15th, the Rails to Trails Lighting Ad-Hoc committee minutes from November 30th, December 3rd, December 8th and December 16th and further accept the Planning and Zoning minutes from October 20th and Historic Preservation Commission from October 19th and approve the balance from the consent agenda; seconded by Councilwoman Meredith. Motion carried.

11. Discussion and possible vote on items removed from the Consent Agenda

Councilman Garde noted the Public Works report has an error in the first sentence. The report shows November and it should say December. With respect to the December 7th minutes, on the last page regarding iCompass, was the demo on the software the general video emailed to Council? Stephanie Coulbourne responded that was correct, Council received a YouTube video to watch regarding the software.

Councilman Garde made a motion to a motion to approve the Public Works report with the correction noted and to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2020 Council meeting; seconded by Vice Mayor Kelly. Motion carried.

12. Old Business – Discussion and possible vote on the following items:

- a. Recommendation from the Streets, Sidewalks, and Parks Committee on the direction of travel, parking, and one-way for the following streets: Hazzard Lane, Manship Street, Sand Street, Church Street, and Poplar Street

P.D. Camensich Vice Chairman of the Streets, Sidewalk and Parks Committee stated the issue of direction of the streets came up at a Town Council meeting two years ago; the item was tabled by Council at that time to have the committee review the changes again. Mr. Camenisch stated the committee wanted to leave the streets as they were but agreed to review the topic. He agrees the intention was good to elevate the confusion and concern for the narrow lanes however, he feels changing the direction of the traffic flow will create more unnecessary confusion.

Councilman Garde made a motion to reject the recommendations from the Streets, Sidewalks and Parks Committee and leave each and every one of the streets as they are today; seconded by Vice Mayor Kelly. Motion carried.

13. New Business – Discussion and possible vote on the following items:

- a. Resolution 2021-001 Community Development Block Grant
Councilman Garde made a motion to accept Resolution 2021-001 relative to the Community Development Block Grant; seconded by Vice Mayor Kelly. Roll call vote. Motion carried 6-0.
- b. Resolution 2021-002 Endorsing Project To Be Submitted To The Delaware State Housing Authority For Funding From the US Department of Housing and Urban Development
Discussion was held on the process. Councilman Garde made a motion to approve resolution 2021-002 endorsing the project to be submitted to the Delaware State Housing Authority for funding from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development authorizing Todd F. Lawson, Sussex County Administrator to submit

applications on Milton's behalf as written; seconded by Vice Mayor Kelly. Roll call vote. Motion carried 6-0.

- c. Resolution 2021-003 to establish a Streets and Sidewalks Ad-Hoc Committee
Mayor Kanakos read the resolution into the record. P.D. Camensich addressed Council and reported the Streets, Sidewalks and Parks Committee has already done major studies on the same streets the Ad-Hoc Committee is supposed to be address but their meetings kept getting cancelled. Discussion was held on how to enforce the ordinances on truck traffic, speeding and other driving offenses.
Councilwoman Meredith made a motion to change the name of the committee to the Traffic Calming Advisory Ad-Hoc Committee; seconded by Councilman Garde. Motion carried.
Councilman Cote made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-003 as amended; seconded by Councilman Garde. Roll call vote. Motion carried 6-0.

- d. Loblolly LLC and WBOC TV Inc. are requesting a conditional use permit to place a communication antenna tower, on the vacant property located at 16109 Sam Lucas Road further identified by Sussex County Tax Map and Parcel ID# 235-21.00-44.00. Zach Crouch on behalf of WBOC TV Inc. and Loblolly LLC reviewed the project with Council. Loblolly LLC is requesting the permit to install a 525ft. communication antenna tower on the 76 + acre property located off Sam Lucas Road. The conditions from Planning & Zoning can be met during site plan approval. Outside agency approvals are done during site plan approval.
Councilman Garde made a motion to approve the conditional use permit for the communication antenna tower at 16109 Sam Lucas Road subject to the conditions set in the Planning & Zoning advisory report dated December 30, 2020; seconded by Vice Mayor Kelly. Roll Call. Motion carried 6-0.

- e. Ordinance 2021-001 amendments to Town Code Chapter 148, entitled "Noise"
Mayor Kanakos explained the ordinance clarified a sentence in the Town Code referencing the correct noise chart. Further discussion was held on the language in the ordinance.
Councilman Garde made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-001 to amend Chapter 148 of the Town Code entitled "Noise" as recommended; seconded by Councilwoman Meredith. Roll call vote. Motion carried 6-0.

- f. Ordinance 2021-002 amendments to Town Code Chapter 220, entitled "Zoning" regarding the discontinuance of a nonconforming use; Resolution 2021-004 to schedule a public hearing on said Ordinance
Seth Thompson read the Town Code requirements to schedule the public hearing and requiring Planning & Zoning's advisory report.
Councilman Garde made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-004 to schedule a time and place for a public hearing on a proposed amendment to the "Zoning" code; seconded by Vice Mayor Kelly. Roll call. Motion carried 6-0.

- g. Recommendation from the Rails to Trails Phase II Ad Hoc Committee related to lighting of Rails to Trails Phase II

Mayor Kanakos stated he felt the committee report to Council was excellent and thoroughly done. Councilman Garde thanked the members of the committee for their cooperation and willingness to compromise. The recommendation from the committee includes lighting the first segment from Federal Street to the trellis bridge similar to Rails to Trails Phase 1 but the lights would be further apart; there will also be a shoe box light at the bridge. The second segment from the trellis bridge to the entrance into Wagamons West Shore development will be lit similarly to the sidewalks around town and Rails to Trails Phase 1 but the lights would be further apart. On the third segment out to the end of Lavinia Street the committee recommends the use of bollard lighting which will be shielded preventing the lights from trickling behind the bollard and skyward. Discussion was held on how far apart the lighting will be placed.

Vice Mayor Kelly made a motion to accept the recommendation as submitted by the Rails to Trails Phase II Ad Hoc Committee; seconded by Councilman Garde. Further discussion was held on the distance between poles as well as the grant requirements. Roll Call. Motion carried 5-1. Councilman Cote voted against the proposed plan due to cost questions.

- h. Recommendation from the Streets, Sidewalks, and Parks Committee on the DelDOT plan to install reflective delineators at the intersection of Routes 5 & 16, and the plan to hatch-stripe the corner of Mulberry Street Extended and Route 16

Discussion was held regarding the corner of Mulberry Street and Route 16. Some members of Council felt the striping proposed would cause further confusion.

Discussion was also held on delineators or a delayed light at the corner at Route 5 & 16. Councilman Garde would like to ask DelDot to attend a council meeting in person to discuss the options available.

Councilman Garde made a motion to table the discussion at this time; seconded by Councilman Cote. Motion carried.

14. Adjournment

Vice Mayor Kelly made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Councilman Garde. Motion carried.