



## MINUTES OF THE MILLVILLE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

July 25, 2023 @ 7:00 P.M.

### Regular Meeting

1. **Call to Order:**

Mayor Belinko called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

**Present:** Mayor Ronald Belinko, Deputy Mayor Sharon Brienza, Secretary Joseph Parent, Treasurer Peter Michel, Asst. Town Manager Eileen Scerra, and Town Manager Deborah Botchie. **Absent:** Council Member Robert Wisgirda.

2. **Citizens' Privilege:** Mayor Ronald Belinko opened the floor for citizens privilege, there were none.

3. **Administrative Matters:** Town Manager Deborah Botchie reported that the Town's new website is now live. Residents and Town Council members have commented that it is much more user-friendly than before. The Personnel manual is still being revised. Ms. Botchie then commented that the zip code issue with US Postal Service is ongoing after denying our request. Ms. Botchie stated that a new electronic sign is being designed for the Dukes Drive location.

4. **New Business:**

A. Public Hearing Notice - Secretary Joseph Parent confirmed that a notice on Ordinance 24-01 was posted in the legal section of July 7, 2023 issue of the Coastal Point and on the town's website.

Mayor Ronald Belinko opened the floor at 7:04PM to discuss Ordinance 24-01 to amend the Town of Millville Code regarding marijuana at Chapter 155 and title zoning at 155-08 and Chapter 90 entitled Licenses at 90-02.

Town Manager Deborah Botchie stated that no written comments were received.

Mayor Belinko gave some history on how Title 4 Section 1302 of the Delaware Code got passed to make recreational marijuana legal in the state and explained what the Amendment to the Ordinance is about. The new Amendment would prohibit the retail sales and cultivation of recreational marijuana within Millville Town limits. Mayor Belinko also reiterated that the meeting is not to debate the use of recreational marijuana,

but just to amend the Town's Ordinance meant to retain the small town feel of Millville. Mayor Belinko then opened the floor for Town Council comments.

Councilman Peter Michel stated that if you have a medical marijuana card you can still buy it.

Town Solicitor Seth Thompson clarified that the compassion centers under the medical marijuana act, is a separate matter and is not part of this Ordinance amending the zoning code pertaining to the retail sale and cultivation of recreational marijuana.

Ms. Sharon Brienza commented that state legislatures did initially try to get money for local towns included in the state bill when it was up for a vote but failed to do so.

Mayor Belinko asked for comments from the public with a three-minute time limit.

Zoe Patchell, a Dover homeowner, and the Executive Director of the DE Cannabis Advocacy Network shared common goals of public safety and public health.

Mark Tulen of Bishops Landing thanked the Town Council for being proactive on the issue and wanted to know if the neighboring towns have also amended their Ordinances.

Mayor Belinko confirmed that most of our neighboring beach towns have already put similar Ordinances in place.

Millsboro residents, Lizzy and Mark Golob gave their opinions on the benefits of marijuana for medical ailments and the possible financial benefits for the Town of Millville if they allow retail sales of recreational marijuana.

Hearing no other public comments, Mayor Ron Belinko closed the public hearing at 7:30 PM and asked the Town Council for further discussion and to vote on the Ordinance.

***Ms. Sharon Brienza made a motion to approve the Ordinance amendment, Mr. Joseph Parent seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0 with one absent.***

7. **Announcement of next meeting** – August 8, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

8. **Adjournment**

***Ms. Sharon Brienza made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Mr. Joseph Parent seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0 with one absent.***

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Kain-Bolen  
Parks & Recreation Administrator