



TOWN OF MILLVILLE
Town Council Meeting Minutes
February 25, 2025
Executive Session at 6:00 p.m.
Reconvene to Regular Meeting immediately after

1. **Call Meeting to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/ Roll Call**

Mayor Ronald Belinko called the Executive meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the **Pledge of Allegiance**. **Present:** Mayor Ronald Belinko, Deputy Mayor Sharon Brienza, Secretary Deborah Sosnoski, Treasurer Joseph Parent, Council Member Robert Wisgirda, Town Manager Eileen Scerra, Finance William Mumford, Code & Building Officer Eric Evans, and Town Clerk Wendy Mardini; **Absent:** None

2. **Motion to Enter Executive Session**

A motion was made by Ms. Brienza to move into the Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wisgirda. The motion was carried 5-0.

Executive Session ended 7:00 p.m.

3. **Motion to Reconvene the Regular Meeting**

Present: Mayor Ronald Belinko, Deputy Mayor Sharon Brienza, Secretary Deborah Sosnoski, Treasurer Joseph Parent, Council Member Robert Wisgirda, and Town Manager Eileen Scerra.

A motion was made by Ms. Brienza to come out of the Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sosnoski. The motion was carried 5-0.

4. **Citizen's Privilege**

Jacqueline Reed – 32139 Warren Road, Millville DE 19967, (Denton Mills Community). Ms. Reed addressed concerns about the landscaping/fencing around the basketball and pickleball courts at Bishop's Landing Phase Five. She referred to a July 10, 2018 meeting, page 3, third paragraph down, where the buffer and landscaping plans were discussed, highlighting discrepancies between the planned and current landscaping. Mr. Joe Parent explained he lives in Bishop's Landing and also on the Grounds

Committee. He mentioned the committee's plans are to plant arborvitae hedges around the court area and ongoing landscaping efforts. Mr. Parent elaborated on the communities' efforts to enhance landscaping, including adding street trees and perennials. Ms. Reed expressed the desire for more variety in the landscaping, suggesting flowering bushes with the arborvitae. Mr. Parent explained the reasons for choosing arborvitae including wind barrier and sound buffers. Mr. Wisgirda, Mayor Belinko and other council members suggested Ms. Reed contact Bishop's Landing Management company available on site inside the clubhouse with concerns.

5. **Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes**

- A. **January 14, 2025** – Reviewed – no changes
- B. **January 28, 2025** – Reviewed – no changes

Mr. Parent made a motion to approve January 14, 2025, and January 28, 2025, Town Council Meeting Minutes. Mr. Wisgirda second the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

6. **Administrative Matters**

- A. **Town Manager Report – Eileen Scerra (read and entered)**
- B. **Code & Building Department Report – Eric Evans (read and entered)**
- C. **Financial Report – Will Mumford (read and entered)**
- D. **Delaware State Police Report (read and entered)**
- E. **MVFC Report (read and entered)**

Mayor Belinko emphasized the importance of reviewing the DE State Police and Millville Fire Company reports to stay informed about community safety and crime trends.

7. **Old Business**

- A. **Discuss, consider, and possible vote on Ordinance 25-05 tabled from January 28, 2025, to amend the Town of Millville Code Chapter 125, entitled “Subdivision of Land”, regarding trees.**

Synopsis: At the last Town Council Meeting it was determined that more discussion was needed to clarify language for proper enforcement. This ordinance amends the Town's subdivision regulations regarding trees.

The council discussed the ordinance and recommended changes to street tree heights. Mr. Parent would like to amend the height to 25 - 40 feet. The current ordinance is 15 to 20 feet. Reason, it will allow the builder more options for tree planting and allow more native trees. Mayor Belinko emphasized this ordinance applies to all new development or new applications.

Mr. Parent made a motion for Ordinance 25-05 to amend the Town of Millville Code Chapter 125, entitled “Subdivision of Land”, regarding trees changing the

street tree height to maximum sizes of 25 to 40 feet. Ms. Brienza second the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

8. New Business

A. Discuss and possible vote on Executive Session items.

Ms. Brienza made a motion on the Executive Session Agenda for a five-year contract with the Town Manager with the salary open to negotiation each year of the contract. Mr. Wisgirda second the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

B. Discuss, consider, and possible vote on recommendation of AD Hoc Park Plan Committee on proposed Evans Park hours.

Discussion was made regarding established hours for the park. Currently the park is operating from dawn to dusk. The proposed May 1 to October 30 would be 7am to 9pm and November 1 to April 30 would be 7am to 7pm. Concerns about lighting and safety were discussed. It was suggested to take the proposed park hour recommendation back to the AD Hoc Committee for further discussion.

Ms. Sosnoski made the motion to take the Evans Park hours proposal back to the Ad Hoc Committee for further discussion. Mr. Parent second the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

C. Discuss, consider, and possible vote on recommendation of AD Hoc Park Plan Committee on Evans Park pavilion rental.

The AD Hoc Committee felt there isn't enough staff for cleanup, trash, supervision on a full-time basis and no need to rent it at this time. The council agreed.

Ms. Brienza made a motion not to rent the pavilion at Evans Park at this time. Mr. Wisgirda second the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

D. Discuss, consider, and possible vote on recommendation of AD Hoc Park Plan Committee on Evans Park mission statement.

The mission statement was accepted. "Our mission is to enrich the lives of Millville residents by providing a safe, welcoming park and recreation facilities through affordable recreation, and opportunity for people of all ages."

Mr. Wisgirda made a motion to accept the Evans Park mission statement removing the comma after affordable, and Ms. Brienza second the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

- E. **Discuss, consider, and possible vote on Resolution 25-18 proposing the Mayor refer an annexation petition to an annexation committee to investigate the possibility of annexing the following Tax Map Parcels.**

Synopsis: The application was received by the Town on February 7, 2025. The proposed properties are located at 36587 and 36610 Club House Road. Tax Map Parcel# 134-12.00-138.01 and 134-12.00-151.00.

Ray Blakeney, with Plitko Engineering. Located at 53 Atlantic Avenue. Like to get vote to proceed with the Annexation Committee for the properties located at 36587 and 36610 Club House Road.

Mr. Wisgirda made a motion to accept Resolution 25-18 and to move it to the Annexation Committee. Ms. Brienza seconded the motion. Motion was carried 5-0.

- F. **Discuss Council input on proposed FY26 Budget.**

Mr. Wisgirda proposed allocating \$7,000 for a study on potential voting districts, citing the need for better representation of residents. The council agreed to include this in the budget verifying the amount needed and authorizing a study to be conducted by the University of Delaware.

Mr. Wisgirda made a motion to verify the \$7,000 quoted to him to be put into the budget. Ms. Sosnoski second the motion. Motion was carried 5-0.

Ms. Sosnoski proposed paying the \$50 ambulance subscription fee for each Millville resident again this year.

Eric Evans proposed fencing or boulders to prevent cars from parking on the grass near the bocci ball courts. The council agrees to consider this in the budget, and it will be proposed at the next AD Hoc Committee.

9. **Announcement of next meeting – March 11, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.**

10. **Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.**

Ms. Brienza made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Sosnoski second the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Trish Marcules
Administrator to the Town Manager