



TOWN COUNCIL
Special Meeting
Cape Charles Civic Center
June 30, 2015
6:00 PM

At approximately 6:00 p.m., Mayor George Proto, having established a quorum, called to order the Town Council Special Meeting. In addition to Mayor Proto, present were Vice Mayor Bannon, Councilmen Brown, Godwin and Wendell, and Councilwoman Natali. Councilman Bennett was not in attendance. Also in attendance were Town Manager Brent Manuel, Recreation/Community Events Coordinator Jen Lewis, Public Works/Utilities Director Dave Fauber, Sergeant Chelsea Pfeiffer and Town Clerk Libby Hume. There were 12 members of the public in attendance.

Mayor Proto announced the business for the evening would be to discuss the status of the safety improvements at the beach.

Town Manager Brent Manuel informed Council that the float line had been put in place earlier in the day by staff members and a number of volunteers. There were still some minor adjustments to be made and the Town was still waiting for the buoys to arrive.

There was much discussion regarding the following: i) The issue and difference between a boat exclusionary area and a swim only area. Prior to the first drowning last year, staff had begun work on a boat exclusionary area in an effort to create a safe area prohibiting no motorized boats and jet skis. This area would serve both purposes; ii) The issue with swimmers going outside the float line. There was nothing the Town could do to mandate that swimmers stay inside the float line; iii) The issue and cost associated with lifeguards. The certification was more stringent for lifeguards in open water vs. swimming pools. Kiptopeke State Park had a designated swim area but no lifeguards. It was noted that the drowning occurred after 6:00 p.m. and even if the Town had lifeguards, they most likely would not have been on duty. Staff was instructed to poll other localities with lifeguards on their beaches to gather information regarding the costs, certification and staffing for lifeguards. Mayor Proto wanted to know the footage of beaches in Virginia Beach, Norfolk, on the Eastern Shore and Ocean City which were covered by lifeguards and those that were not; iv) The depth of the water at the float line. The depth at the float line was approximately 4' at high tide; v) Signage placement and size. Dave Fauber stated that the signs were approximately 2' x 2' and 12 signs had been ordered, in both English and Spanish, and would be spaced along the beachfront. It was suggested that additional signage be placed at each entrance to the beach; vi) The distance to the channel. Dave Fauber stated that the float lines were closer to the beach than the channel; and vii) The possible future expansion of the area.

Brent Manuel stated that staff would prepare answers to the questions and provide them to Council as soon as possible.

Motion made by Councilman Brown, seconded by Vice Mayor Bannon, to adjourn the Town Council Special Meeting. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Mayor Proto

Town Clerk