



TOWN COUNCIL
Work Session
Cape Charles Civic Center
April 28, 2016
6:00 p.m.

At approximately 6:00 p.m., Mayor George Proto called to order the Work Session of Town Council. In addition to Mayor Proto, present were Vice Mayor Bannon, Councilmen Bennett, Brown and Godwin and Councilwoman Natali. Councilman Wendell was not in attendance. Also present were Town Manager Brent Manuel, Town Clerk Libby Hume and Ms. Judy Morgan from Eastern Shore Communications. There were no members of the public in attendance.

Mayor Proto announced the business for the evening would be to review information regarding i) Cape Charles Beach; ii) Wastewater Treatment Plant; iii) Wi Fi Service Central Park and Beach; and iv) Northampton County Resolution. Item 2C-Wi Fi Service Central Park and Beach would be moved to the beginning of the meeting since Ms. Judy Morgan was in attendance.

C. Wi Fi Service Central Park and Beach:

Mayor Proto invited Ms. Morgan to address Council regarding the unsolicited Wi Fi Service proposal.

Ms. Morgan informed Council that Eastern Shore Communications had done similar projects in other localities and Wi Fi connectivity was a nice amenity and especially important for destination communities. Ms. Morgan went on to explain the proposal.

The proposal included the following information: i) The appropriate poles and equipment would be installed along the beach and in Central Park to provide free Wi Fi access to users; ii) The initial cost to install the service would be \$12,873, \$15,187 or \$9,455 depending in the option chosen; iii) The monthly cost to the Town would be \$314.95 for the service; and iv) Users would be able to obtain basic Wi Fi at no cost but also had the opportunity to pay for upgraded service. 25% of revenues generated by the paid upgrades would be credited to the Town's account.

There was some discussion as follows: i) There was concern regarding the residents in houses neighboring the beach and Central Park possibly being able to access the free Wi Fi vs. the other residents having to pay for their own internet service; ii) Was Wi Fi service at the beach and in Central Park a necessity? Most of the vacation rentals provided internet service; and iii) The cost of the project and possible return on investment.

Mayor Proto stated that he felt it was a great idea and the question was not whether the Town should provide free Wi Fi services at the beach and in Central Park, but when the Town was going to be able to do it. Council needed to get through the budget process for FY 2017 to see if there would be any funding available for such a project.

Ms. Morgan added that she would recommend moving forward with the project before the tourism season began so the Town could get the full benefit of the subscription revenue. If the Town waited until August, it would not have an opportunity to recover any of the initial installation costs until the 2017 season.

A. Cape Charles Beach:

Town Manager Brent Manuel informed Council that the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) issued the Notice to Proceed for the dredge of the southern channel on April 28, 2016. The contractor had 20 days to begin the project. The sand placement would begin at the north end of the beach. There was concern that the longer it took the contractor to

mobilize, the closer the timeline would be to Memorial Day. Brent Manuel stated that he would contact the USACE to obtain permission to call the contractor regarding their timeline. There was also the concern with the installation of the float lines off the beach and whether the dredge pipeline would interfere with the float lines. Harbor Master Charlie Farlow would be assessing the area regarding locating the anchors from last year and the installation of the new buoys. Once more information was obtained, the Town would notify the public via a Special Gazette, the Cape Charles Happenings, the website, etc. regarding the project timeline.

There was much discussion regarding placement of 100K cubic yards of sand along the beach in addition to the approximately 70K cubic yards that was placed on the beach last year. Several possible alternate locations were mentioned but Council was unsure whether the USACE could place sand on private property.

Discussion continued regarding beach signage, float installation and safety. Additional signage would be installed. Some of the signage from last year were stolen. Brent Manuel stated that he asked Charlie Farlow about beach signage in Virginia Beach and was told that Virginia Beach did not have signs up except at the oceanfront. Some of the suggested signage language included: No lifeguard on duty; Conditions change rapidly, please take precautions along with a graphic of a swimmer wearing a life vest; and Swim at your own risk – No lifeguard on duty. After further discussion, Council agreed that the lifeguard issue would not be pursued at this time.

B. Wastewater Treatment Plant:

Brent Manuel stated that Dave Fauber was off today so the discussion regarding the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) would be postponed to another work session.

There was some discussion regarding recent issues, the taking of samples to Virginia Beach multiple times each week, equipment failure at the WWTP, fines and having the operators obtain their Class 1 Operator licenses. Mayor Proto asked the Council to submit their questions in writing to Brent Manuel who would provide them to Dave Fauber to get the answers. Mayor Proto added that the Town could possibly bring in an engineering firm to review the issues.

Councilman Bennett suggested that issues regarding the water plant be addressed as well.

D. Northampton County Resolution:

Brent Manuel stated that Mr. Kris Tucker, the new economic development director at Northampton County, spoke at the April 19th Council meeting and requested the Town's support for the development of a small business incubator or community kitchen at the former middle school in Machipongo.

Councilwoman Natali stated that she didn't want to adopt the resolution until a joint meeting had been scheduled with the Northampton County Board of Supervisors.

Mayor Proto informed Council that he had spoken with Supervisors Spencer Murray and Granville Hogg and they were interested in meeting with the Town Council. Mayor Proto added that he had drafted a letter to the Board of Supervisors requesting a joint meeting and asked Council to send him topics for discussion. Some potential topics were discussed as follows: i) Town Edge Overlay; and ii) Property transfers and the length of time it took the County staff to provide the information to the Town.

Mayor Proto went on to state that adoption of the resolution would be an act of goodwill and show that the Town was willing to work with the County regarding economic development and support for small businesses. The County was working with the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission which was trying to apply for a grant and this resolution was

necessary to proceed with the application. The resolution would be an action item on the May 19th Council meeting agenda.

Other Matters

Councilwoman Natali suggested that a strategic planning session be scheduled this summer after the new Council was in place.

Councilman Bennett stated that, during the Candidate Forum, David Gay had commented that the grass in Central Park had died. Brent Manuel stated that the weeds were treated every year, but this year, the Bermuda grass was still dormant and the weeds had died and turned orange.

Vice Mayor Bannon stated that he would like to see the Civic Center floor refinished.

Motion made by Councilman Bennett, seconded by Vice Mayor Bannon, to adjourn the Town Council Work Session. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Mayor Proto

Town Clerk