

**TOWN OF BETHANY BEACH
TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING/WORKSHOP
JANUARY 18, 2022**

Members present for the meeting were: Rosemary Hardiman, Mayor; who presided; Lew Killmer, Jerry Morris, Bruce Frye, Faith Denault, Patrick Sheplee and Scott Edmonston

Also present were: Cliff Gravier, Town Manager; John Apple, Assistant, Town Manager and Molly Daisey, Administrative Assistant.

Mr. Gravier advised members of the public how to access the meeting online and how to submit a comment.

Review, Discussion and Comment on Alternate Park Signage

Mr. Gravier discussed that the park sign is a heavy concrete & steel base. Leaving the base as is, he asked if there was an interest in changing the font and wording on the sign. A local sign maker has come up with several options that were presented to the Council for consideration. If this is something the Council would like to look into, the price would be about \$6,000.00. After some discussion regarding whether to change the sign, Mr. Edmonston volunteered to look at the sign and see if he could suggest other options.

Review and Discussion of Possible Changes in Yard Waste and Bulk Trash Policy

Mr. Apple went over some of the issues that Public Works came across this past year during bulk trash pickup. He distributed a packet to Council with photos showing the types and overwhelming volume of items placed out for pick up and how early items are placed out for pick up. After meeting with Public Works and researching how other municipalities handle these issues, Mr. Apple offered recommended changes to current policy to improve this service.

Regarding yard waste pick up, he suggests a better definition for yard waste and maximum diameter and length of limbs and logs. This will aid in what residents are placing out for pick up.

Review and Discussion Regarding New Beach Signage

Mr. Apple had several drafts to show to the Council to update and replace beach signage, to include new rules and regulations. There are currently 19 signs at the entrances to the beach. Signs that are there now have been there for quite some time. The summary of rules listed on the new signs came from working with different departments.

Review and Discussion of Possible Increase in Residential Parking Permit

Mr. Gravier stated that the Town has recently changed the policy that now allows residents to park in beach front parking lots at no charge with their residential parking permit. Currently residents receive one free residential parking pass and may purchase a second for \$35.00. This price has not changed in a decade. The Parking Department is requesting an increase from \$35.00 to either \$45.00 or \$50.00. Increasing this amount would help cover the loss of income from the beachfront parking lots because of free parking. Current pay to park cost is \$2.50 per hour in those lots. He does not feel this is an unreasonable request since residents may park there all summer with their permit.

Review and Discussion of Events Schedule for 2022

Mr. Gravier noted that one thing the Town has done to try to limit the number of people in Town, especially in July and August, is to move events and shows to the shoulder season. The new schedule shows fewer events in the 'heart' of the summer. The survey that is handed out at the end of the year shows the shoulder season events were well appreciated. It also provided that there wasn't a lot of interest in moving the shows and events back into the summer. This will be an agenda item for February.

The workshop was adjourned at 3:35 PM