

SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL - GEORGETOWN, DELAWARE, JUNE 3, 2025

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sussex County Council was held on Tuesday, June 3, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., in Council Chambers, with the following present:

Douglas B. Hudson	President
John L. Rieley	Vice President
Jane Gruenebaum	Councilwoman
Matt Lloyd	Councilman
Steve C. McCarron	Councilman
Todd F. Lawson	County Administrator
Gina A. Jennings	Finance Director
J. Everett Moore, Jr.	County Attorney

The Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were led by Mr. Hudson.

**Call to
Order**

Mr. Hudson called the meeting to order.

**M 236 25
Approve
Agenda**

A Motion was made by Mr. Rieley, seconded by Mr. McCarron, to approve the Agenda as presented.

Motion Adopted: 5 Yeas

Vote by Roll Call: Ms. Gruenebaum, Yea; Mr. McCarron, Yea;
Mr. Lloyd, Yea; Mr. Rieley, Yea;
Mr. Hudson, Yea

Minutes

The minutes from May 20, 2025 were approved by consensus.

**Correspon-
dence**

There was no correspondence.

Mr. Johannes Sayre spoke about the Resolution regarding local governance.

Public

Comments

A presentation was given by George Chamberlin, Kim Hoey-Stevenson, Dr. Ed Hale and Mimi DuPont from the Fisheries and Aquaculture Innovation Center. An overview was provided showing the proposed phases for the project and the work that is completed at the center.

Presentation

**Second
Quarter
Employee
Recognition**

Karen Brewington, Human Resources Director presented the second quarter employee recognition awards. She reported that there were 36 submissions for this quarter. The winners for this quarter were Valerie Thompson from Engineering, Michael Lowery from Planning & Zoning and Amy Hollis from Planning & Zoning.

**FACETS
Presentation**

Mr. Kevin Roche and Ms. Natasha Nau, FACETS Consulting – Delaware Fire Service Financial Review provided Council with a fire service financial review and analysis. During the presentation, observations of the

departments, financial health factors and the grading system and recommendations were discussed.

BOA Interview A public interview was held for Board of Adjustment Nominee Dr. Lauren Hitchens Rowan.

M 237 25 Approve BOA Appointment A Motion was made by Ms. Gruenebaum, seconded by Mr. Rieley, that be it moved that the Sussex County Council approves the appointment of Dr. Lauren Hitchens Rowan to the Sussex County Board of Adjustment effective July 1, 2025, for a term of three years.

Motion Adopted: 5 Yeas

Vote by Roll Call: Ms. Gruenebaum, Yea; Mr. McCarron, Yea;
Mr. Lloyd, Yea; Mr. Rieley, Yea;
Mr. Hudson, Yea

Resolution/ Local Governance Mr. Lawson reported that the Resolution is following suit of the other two Counties. Both Kent County and New Castle County have adopted Resolutions that are similar to the Resolution being considered today. Mr. Lawson reviewed the language in the Resolution.

Mr. McCarron and Ms. Gruenebaum gave statements prior to their vote.

M 238 25 Adopt R 013 25/ Local Governance A Motion was made by Mr. Rieley, seconded by Mr. McCarron to Adopt Resolution R 013 25 entitled “A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL’S SUPPORT FOR THE PRESERVATION OF LOCAL GOVERNANCE AMONG DELAWARE’S COUNTIES”.

Motion Adopted: 5 Yeas

Vote by Roll Call: Ms. Gruenebaum, Yea; Mr. McCarron, Yea;
Mr. Lloyd, Yea; Mr. Rieley, Yea;
Mr. Hudson, Yea

Administrator’s Report Mr. Lawson read the following information in his Administrator’s Report:

1. Sussex County wants to take this opportunity to thank the community for its show of support during the recent EMS Blood Drive event held on Friday, May 30, 2025, at the Public Safety Complex in partnership with the Blood Bank of Delmarva. Donors provided nearly 60 units of blood as part of the drive, the second annual event held to coincide with the anniversary of the County EMS’ launch of the “Whole Blood Program” that began in 2023. Sussex County EMS and the Blood Bank of Delmarva look forward to hosting this event again next year to continue the lifesaving efforts provided to our citizens here in Sussex County.

[Attachments to the Administrator’s Report are not attached to the

minutes.]

Proposed Lease/Pats Aircraft **Bill Pfaff, Economic Development Director presented a proposed lease agreement with Pats Aircraft, LLC dba Aloft AeroArchitects for Council's consideration.**

M 239 25 Approve Lease/Pats Aircraft **A Motion was made by Mr. Lloyd, seconded by Mr. McCarron, that be it moved that the Sussex County Council approve the lease agreement with Pats Aircraft, LLC d/b/a Aloft AeroArchitects, in the Delaware Coastal Business Park, to be located at 21628 Balimore Avenue, Georgetown, DE for the purpose of creating a space called The Aloft Innovation Center.**

Motion Adopted: 5 Yeas

**Vote by Roll Call: Ms. Gruenebaum, Yea; Mr. McCarron, Yea;
Mr. Lloyd, Yea; Mr. Rieley, Yea;
Mr. Hudson, Yea**

Aeronautical Removal **Mark Parker, Assistant County Engineer presented a recommendation to award for aeronautical obstruction removal, project A25-26 for Council's consideration.**

M 240 25 Approve Aeronautical Removal **A Motion was made by Mr. Lloyd, seconded by Mr. McCarron, be it moved based on the recommendation of the Sussex County Engineering, that contract A25-26 Aeronautical Obstruction Removal be awarded to Strobert Tree Service, Inc. in the amount of \$705,387.00.**

Motion Adopted: 5 Yeas

**Vote by Roll Call: Ms. Gruenebaum, Yea; Mr. McCarron, Yea;
Mr. Lloyd, Yea; Mr. Rieley, Yea;
Mr. Hudson, Yea**

Parallel Taxiway B **Bob Bryant, Airport Manager presented acceptance of FAA grant offers, authority of signature and construction bid award for construct parallel taxiway B for Council's consideration.**

M 241 25 Acceptance of FAA Grant Offers **A Motion was made by Mr. Lloyd, seconded by Mr. McCarron that be it moved based upon the recommendation of the Sussex County Engineering Department, that approval from the Sussex County Council be given to accept a FAA grant in the amount of \$2,686,767.00 for work associated with a new parallel taxiway bravo phase 3 construction.**

Motion Adopted: 5 Yeas

**Vote by Roll Call: Ms. Gruenebaum, Yea; Mr. McCarron, Yea;
Mr. Lloyd, Yea; Mr. Rieley, Yea;
Mr. Hudson, Yea**

M 242 25
Approve
Authority of
Signature

A Motion was made by Mr. Lloyd, seconded by Mr. Rieley that be it moved based upon the recommendation of the Sussex County Engineering Department, that the Sussex County Council authorizes the County Administrator the authority of signature for a FAA grant offer in the amount of \$2,686,767.00 for work associated with a new parallel taxiway bravo phase 3 construction.

Motion Adopted: 5 Yeas

**Vote by Roll Call: Ms. Gruenebaum, Yea; Mr. McCarron, Yea;
Mr. Lloyd, Yea; Mr. Rieley, Yea;
Mr. Hudson, Yea**

M 243 25
Approve
Construc-
tion Bid

A Motion was made by Mr. Lloyd, seconded by Mr. Rieley that be it moved based upon the recommendation of the Sussex County Engineering Department, that Sussex County Council approves a bid award to Allan Myers MD, Inc. in the amount of \$2,447,777.00 for work associated with a new parallel taxiway bravo phase 3 construction.

Motion Adopted: 5 Yeas

**Vote by Roll Call: Ms. Gruenebaum, Yea; Mr. McCarron, Yea;
Mr. Lloyd, Yea; Mr. Rieley, Yea;
Mr. Hudson, Yea**

Grant
Requests

Mrs. Jennings presented grant requests for Council's consideration.

M 244 25
Children's
Beach House

A Motion was made by Ms. Gruenebaum, seconded by Mr. Rieley to give \$5,000 (\$1,000 from Ms. Gruenebaum's Councilmanic Grant Account, \$1,000 from Mr. Hudson's Councilmanic Grant Account, \$500 from Mr. Rieley's Councilmanic Grant Account and \$2,500 from Countywide Youth Grant Account) to Children's Beach House for their youth development program.

Motion Adopted: 5 Yeas

**Vote by Roll Call: Ms. Gruenebaum, Yea; Mr. McCarron, Yea;
Mr. Lloyd, Yea; Mr. Rieley, Yea;
Mr. Hudson, Yea**

M 245 25
Make-a-
Wish
Foundation

A Motion was made by Mr. Rieley, seconded by Mr. McCarron to give \$6,500 (\$5,000 from Countywide Youth Grant Account, \$1,000 from Mr. Rieley's Councilmanic Grant Account and \$500 from Mr. Hudson's Councilmanic Grant Account) to Make-a-Wish Foundation of Philadelphia, Delaware & Susquehanna Valley for their wishes transforming lives program.

Motion Adopted: 5 Yeas

Vote by Roll Call: Ms. Gruenebaum, Yea; Mr. McCarron, Yea;
Mr. Lloyd, Yea; Mr. Rieley, Yea;
Mr. Hudson, Yea

M 246 25 A Motion was made by Mr. Rieley, seconded by Mr. McCarron to give
Big Brothers \$1,038 (\$1,038 from Countywide Youth Grant Account) to Big Brothers Big
Big Sisters Sisters of Delaware, Inc. for their Sussex County mentoring program.

Motion Adopted: 5 Yeas

Vote by Roll Call: Ms. Gruenebaum, Yea; Mr. McCarron, Yea;
Mr. Lloyd, Yea; Mr. Rieley, Yea;
Mr. Hudson, Yea

Proposed Ordinance Ms. Gruenebaum introduced a Proposed Ordinance entitled “AN
Introduction ORDINANCE TO GRANT A CONDITIONAL USE OF LAND IN AN AR-
1 AGRICULTURAL RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT FOR A GENERAL
CONTRACTOR AND CONSTRUCTION BUSINESS WITH AN OFFICE,
SHOWROOM, AND STORAGE INCLUDING VEHICLES TO BE
LOCATED ON A CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN
SUSSEX COUNTY, CONTAINING 0.46 ACRE, MORE OR LESS” filed on
behalf of Paulina Owedyk.

Mr. McCarron introduced a Proposed Ordinance entitled “AN
ORDINANCE TO GRANT A CONDITIONAL USE OF LAND IN AN AR-
1 AGRICULTURAL RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT FOR GENERAL
TRADE CONTRACTING BUSINESS WITH OFFICE AND STORAGE
TO BE LOCATED ON A CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND
BEING IN SUSSEX COUNTY, CONTAINING 1.73 ACRES, MORE OR
LESS” filed on behalf of Ryan Brower.

The Proposed Ordinances will be advertised for a Public Hearing.

CM
Comments There were no Council Member comments.

M 247 25 At 12:00 p.m., a Motion was made by Mr. Lloyd, seconded by Mr.
Go Into McCarron to go into an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing
Executive matters related to land acquisition.
Session

Motion Adopted: 5 Yeas

Vote by Roll Call: Ms. Gruenebaum, Yea; Mr. McCarron, Yea;
Mr. Lloyd, Yea; Mr. Rieley, Yea;
Mr. Hudson, Yea

Executive At 12:05 p.m., an Executive Session was held in the Basement Caucus Room
Session to discuss matters related to land acquisition. The Executive Session ended
at 12:28 p.m.

M 248 25 Reconvene **At 12:30 p.m., a Motion was made by Mr. McCarron, seconded by Ms. Gruenebaum to come out of Executive Session and go back into Regular Session.**

Motion Adopted: 3 Yeas, 2 Absent

**Vote by Roll Call: Ms. Gruenebaum, Yea; Mr. McCarron, Yea;
Mr. Lloyd, Absent; Mr. Rieley, Absent;
Mr. Hudson, Yea**

E/S Action **There was no action related to Executive Session matters.**

M 249 25 Adjourn **A Motion was made by Ms. Gruenebaum, seconded by Mr. McCarron to adjourn at 12:31 p.m.**

Motion Adopted: 3 Yeas, 2 Absent

**Vote by Roll Call: Ms. Gruenebaum, Yea; Mr. McCarron, Yea;
Mr. Lloyd, Absent; Mr. Rieley, Absent;
Mr. Hudson, Yea**

Respectfully submitted,

**Tracy N. Torbert
Clerk of the Council**

{An audio recording of this meeting is available on the County's website.}