A regularly scheduled meeting of the Sussex County Council was held on Tuesday, September 29, 2015, at 1:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers, Sussex County Administrative Office Building, Georgetown, Delaware, with the following present:

- Michael H. Vincent, President
- Samuel R. Wilson, Jr., Vice President
- George B. Cole, Councilman
- Joan R. Deaver, Councilwoman
- Robert B. Arlett, 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. Vincent.

Call to Order

Mr. Vincent called the meeting to order.

M 493 15 Approve Agenda

A Motion was made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Arlett, to approve the Agenda, as posted.

Motion Adopted: 5 Yeas.

Vote by Roll Call: Mrs. Deaver, Yea; Mr. Cole, Yea; Mr. Arlett, Yea; Mr. Wilson, Yea; Mr. Vincent, Yea

Minutes

The minutes of September 22, 2015 were approved by consent.

Correspondence

Mr. Cole read the following correspondence:

REHOBOTH SUMMER CHILDREN’S THEATRE, REHOBOTH BEACH, DELAWARE.
RE: Letter in appreciation of grant.

Public Comments

Dan Kramer commented on the grant request from the Greater Georgetown Chamber of Commerce for the Wings & Wheels event.

Stephen Wilz commented on Paradise Grill located at Pot Nets Bayside.

Wastewater Agreement

Mr. Lawson presented a wastewater agreement for the Council’s consideration.
A Motion was made by Mrs. Deaver, seconded by Mr. Arlett, based upon the recommendation of the Sussex County Engineering Department, for Sussex County Project No. 81-04, Agreement No. 831-1, that the Sussex County Council execute a Construction Administration and Construction Inspection Agreement between Sussex County Council and Fernmoor Holdings at Vineyards DE, LLC, for wastewater facilities to be constructed in The Vineyards at Nassau Valley – Phase 1A, in the West Rehoboth Expansion of the Dewey Beach Sanitary Sewer District.

Motion Adopted: 5 Yeas.

Vote by Roll Call: Mrs. Deaver, Yea; Mr. Cole, Yea; Mr. Arlett, Yea; Mr. Wilson, Yea; Mr. Vincent, Yea

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

1. **Sussex County Property Taxes Due September 30th**

   A final reminder for property owners in Sussex County, Wednesday, September 30th, is the deadline to pay annual County property tax bills. Payments can be made in person, online, by phone, or by mail. Any payments mailed must be postmarked no later than September 30th. Payments made October 1st or later will be subject to penalty.

   This year’s tax bills once again feature an easier-to-read format, unveiled in 2013, to help taxpayers better understand their bills and payment options. A number of payment options are available for the public’s convenience. A tutorial explaining how to view account information and make payments is available on the County website at [http://www.sussexcountyde.gov/property-tax-portal-tutorial](http://www.sussexcountyde.gov/property-tax-portal-tutorial).

   Sussex County accepts tax payments by cash, check, money order, and debit or credit cards.

John Ashman, Director of Utility Planning, requested permission to prepare and post notices for the expansion of the South Bethany Sanitary Sewer District to include the balance of parcels of a proposed subdivision known as Berzin, and the surrounding area (4 parcels). The area is contiguous to an existing sewer district boundary. The project has an approved Concept Plan for the residential portion of the project and will submit the commercial portion as they proceed. A portion of the project is already located in the sanitary sewer district. The entire annexation area is 45.34± acres. The developer has requested that the development be annexed. The project currently consists of 102 EDUs with a commercial portion. The project will be providing a connection point for three other parcels currently in the sewer district but not yet served. The Developer and property owners will be responsible for system connection fees in the
A Motion was made by Mr. Cole, seconded by Mr. Arlett, that the Sussex County Council authorizes the Sussex County Engineering Department to prepare and post notices for the extension of the South Bethany Sanitary Sewer District boundary to include the balance of the proposed subdivision of Berzin and the surrounding area, as presented.

Motion Adopted: 5 Yeas.

Vote by Roll Call: Mrs. Deaver, Yea; Mr. Cole, Yea; Mr. Arlett, Yea; Mr. Wilson, Yea; Mr. Vincent, Yea

Julie Cooper, Project Engineer, presented a request to grant Substantial Completion for the South Coastal Regional Wastewater Facility (SCRWF) Septage Acceptance Plant, which was placed into operation on September 21, 2015.

A Motion was made by Mrs. Deaver, seconded by Mr. Arlett, based upon the recommendation of the Sussex County Engineering Department, that Sussex County Council grant Substantial Completion, effective September 21, 2015, to Lakeside Equipment Corporation, of Barlett, Illinois, for project 14-20, SCRWF Septage Acceptance Plant, and further, that final payment be made and all retainage returned in accordance with the contract documents.

Motion Adopted: 5 Yeas.

Vote by Roll Call: Mrs. Deaver, Yea; Mr. Cole, Yea; Mr. Arlett, Yea; Mr. Wilson, Yea; Mr. Vincent, Yea

Joe Wright, Assistant County Engineer, reported on the bid results for a Sussex County Improvement (SCI) Project, Undergrounding of Utilities within Sussex Shores Community. Three bids were received and A.P. Croll was the lowest responsive bidder in the amount of $574,943.00. The Engineer’s estimate was $565,893.00. Mr. Wright noted that the award to A.P. Croll is to have new conduits placed underground and then the County will contract separately with each of the utility companies to place their services into the new conduits and remove the old services.

A Motion was made by Mrs. Deaver, seconded by Mr. Arlett, based upon the recommendation of the Sussex County Engineering Department, that the Sussex County Council approves the award of Sussex County Project No. 14-13 A, Sussex Shores Subdivision - Chapter 96 - Utility Relocations, to A.P. Croll & Sons, Inc. of Georgetown, Delaware, at the bid amount of $574,943.00 and also approves an estimate from Delmarva Power in the amount of $400,000.00 for installing new electrical services and removing the amount of $5,775.00 per EDU.
existing overhead services; an estimate with Verizon in the amount of $168,364.00 for installing new underground services and removing existing overhead services; and an estimate from Mediacom in the amount of $21,942.00 for installing new underground services and removing existing overhead services.

Motion Adopted: 4 Yeas, 1 Abstention.

Vote by Roll Call: Mrs. Deaver, Yea; Mr. Cole, Abstained; Mr. Arlett, Yea; Mr. Wilson, Yea; Mr. Vincent, Yea

In regards to the same project, Sussex Shores - Chapter 96 - Utility Relocations, Joe Wright, Assistant County Engineer, presented a request for GMB to provide Construction Administration and Resident Project Representative Services, in an amount not to exceed $178,854.00.

A Motion was made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mrs. Deaver, based upon the recommendation of the Sussex County Engineering Department, that the Sussex County Council approves Contract Amendment No. 1 for Construction Administration and Resident Project Representative Services with George, Miles & Buhr, for Chapter 96 Project Nos. 14-13 A and B, Sussex Shores Utility Relocations and Roadway Improvements (respectively), in an amount not to exceed $178,854.00, effective today, September 29, 2015.

Motion Adopted: 4 Yeas, 1 Abstention.

Vote by Roll Call: Mrs. Deaver, Yea; Mr. Cole, Abstained; Mr. Arlett, Yea; Mr. Wilson, Yea; Mr. Vincent, Yea

Joe Wright, Assistant County Engineer, presented the bid results for the PS 210 Force Main to Inland Bays Regional Wastewater Facility contract (Contract 15-08A). Three bids were received; however, there are discrepancies in the bid documents. The Engineering Department recommends that the project be re-bid so that the bidders can correct those discrepancies.

A Motion was made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Arlett, based upon the recommendation of the Sussex County Engineering Department, that all bids for Contract 15-08A, PS 210 Force Main to Inland Bays Regional Wastewater Facility, Indian Mission and Beaver Dam Roads, be rejected and the contract be re-bid.

Motion Adopted: 5 Yeas.
Vote by Roll Call: Mrs. Deaver, Yea; Mr. Cole, Yea; Mr. Arlett, Yea; Mr. Wilson, Yea; Mr. Vincent, Yea

Planning Services RFP Results
Janelle Cornwell, Planning and Zoning Manager, reported that, on July 8th, a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Planning Services was advertised. The Planning Services contract is for five (5) years and includes the Comprehensive Plan, carrying capacity study, and updates to the current ordinances. The County received four responses. Three firms were interviewed based on the requirements in the RFP: McCormick Taylor, AECOM, and ERM. Ms. Cornwell reported that the Planning and Zoning Office recommends that an offer for consulting services be made to McCormick Taylor and AECOM as they were the top two scored firms. The two firms have more expertise in one area, thus allowing the County full flexibility depending upon the project and needs of the Planning and Zoning Office. McCormick Taylor has experience with Comprehensive Plans and transportation projects; AECOM has experience with planning in Sussex County.

Motion Adopted: 5 Yeas.

Vote by Roll Call: Mrs. Deaver, Yea; Mr. Cole, Yea; Mr. Arlett, Yea; Mr. Wilson, Yea; Mr. Vincent, Yea

Arbors of Cottagedale/ Suspension of Substantial Construction Deadline
Lawrence Lank, Director of Planning and Zoning, reported that, on August 27, 2015, the Planning and Zoning Commission considered a request for a one year time extension regarding the Arbors at Cottagedale project (CU 1845) for the construction of 168 affordable housing dwelling units to be located off of Mackenzie Way off Plantations Road. The Commission approved a suspension of the time extension for six months beginning on August 27, 2015. The suspension means that the site shall be substantially under construction by July 1, 2016. The decision was based on letters received on August 5 and 7, 2015 from the Applicant explaining the history of the site including the Brownfield remediation required prior to construction of the proposed housing and the fact that the site is utilizing the County’s Moderately Priced Rental Unit Program (MPHU). The Applicant’s attorney has requested that the Council affirm or grant approval of the decision made by the Commission. Mr. Lank reported that a letter was received from the Secretary of DNREC suggesting that, due to the remediation, it would be beneficial for a time extension to be granted for the project to allow time for remediation of the site.
A Motion was made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Arlett, that the Sussex County Council affirms the decision of the Planning and Zoning Commission for a suspension of the time extension for the Arbors of Cottagedale (until July 1, 2016).

Motion Adopted: 4 Yeas, 1 Nay.

Vote by Roll Call: Mrs. Deaver, Nay; Mr. Cole, Yea;
Mr. Arlett, Yea; Mr. Wilson, Yea;
Mr. Vincent, Yea

Mrs. Jennings presented a grant request for the Council’s consideration.

A Motion was made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mrs. Deaver, to give $2,500.00 ($500.00 from each Councilmanic Grant Account) to the Greater Georgetown Chamber of Commerce for Wings & Wheels – a Georgetown Fall Festival.

Motion Adopted: 5 Yeas.

Vote by Roll Call: Mrs. Deaver, Yea; Mr. Cole, Yea;
Mr. Arlett, Yea; Mr. Wilson, Yea;
Mr. Vincent, Yea

Mrs. Deaver commented on educating the public on the land use process and commented on the size of signs used to advertise Public Hearings.

Mr. Arlett commended a Gumboro youth for organizing the second Will’s Carnival for a Cause to raise money for the Sturge Weber Foundation.

Mr. Lawson reported to Council on the limited agenda items for the October 6th Council meeting.

A Motion was made by Mrs. Deaver, seconded by Mr. Arlett, to cancel the October 6, 2015 Council meeting.

Motion Adopted: 5 Yeas.

Vote by Roll Call: Mrs. Deaver, Yea; Mr. Cole, Yea;
Mr. Arlett, Yea; Mr. Wilson, Yea;
Mr. Vincent, Yea

Mr. Moore read the Rules of Procedure for Public Hearings.

A Public Hearing was held on the Proposed Ordinance entitled “AN ORDINANCE TO GRANT A CONDITIONAL USE OF LAND IN AN AR-1 AGRICULTURAL RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT FOR BOAT SALES,
The Planning and Zoning Commission held a Public Hearing on this application on August 27, 2015 at which time action was deferred. On September 24, 2015, the Commission recommended that the application be denied.

(See the minutes of the Planning and Zoning Commission dated August 27 and September 24, 2015.)

Lawrence Lank, Director of Planning and Zoning, read a summary of the Planning and Zoning Commission’s Public Hearing and recommendation.

Mr. Lank reported that, since the Public Hearing before the Commission, two emails were received in support of the application and one email was received in opposition to the application.

Mr. Lank distributed Exhibit Booklets which were provided by the Applicant.

The Council found that Tom Rudloff was present on behalf of his application. Mr. Rudloff, Applicant, and Robert Palmer of Beacon Engineering gave a presentation on the application and provided information on the proposed use of the property for boat sales, service and storage. Mr. Rudloff stated that he owns businesses known as Rudy Marine and T&C Properties, LLC. Mr. Rudloff presented information on: (1) his business, Rudy Marine, (2) boating services needed in the area, (3) selection of the location, (4) the proposal for an eco-friendly business, and (5) local boating facilities and other business uses in the vicinity. Mr. Rudloff responded to objections raised at the Public Hearing before the Planning and Zoning Commission and objections stated by the Commission.

Public comments were heard.

Greg Brennan, Bill Crist, Vonda Lumsford and Paul Reiger spoke in support of the application. Comments referenced the Applicant’s integrity, the Applicant’s efforts to minimize any impact on the area; and the need for boating services in the area.

Laura Hill, Bill Baydalla, and Billy Reed Hudson spoke in opposition to the application. They stated that the proposed use is not compatible with the area; that the site is surrounded by AR land; that approval of the application would set a precedent for other Conditional Uses in the area; and that the site could become a large storage area for boats.
The Public Hearing and public record were closed.

A Motion was made by Mr. Arlett, seconded by Mr. Wilson, to defer action on Conditional Use No. 2025 filed on behalf of Rudy South c/o T & C Properties, LLC.

Motion Adopted: 5 Yeas.

Vote by Roll Call: Mrs. Deaver, Yea; Mr. Cole, Yea; Mr. Arlett, Yea; Mr. Wilson, Yea; Mr. Vincent, Yea

It was noted that the Applicants for the next Public Hearing (Conditional Use No. 2026 filed on behalf of Cristian Omar Hernandez Perez and Terri L. Martin) were not in attendance and it was decided that this Hearing would be moved to the end of the meeting.

A Public Hearing was held on the Proposed Ordinance entitled “AN ORDINANCE TO GRANT A CONDITIONAL USE OF LAND IN AN AR-1 AGRICULTURAL RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT FOR A HOME BUSINESS – RETAIL GUN SHOP AND GUNSMITHING TO BE LOCATED ON A CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN DAGSBORO HUNDRED, SUSSEX COUNTY, CONTAINING 6.61 ACRES, MORE OR LESS OF A 14.04 ACRE TRACT” (Conditional Use No. 2027) filed on behalf of SLC Homestead, LLC (Tax Map I.D. 233-11.00-17.00 (Part of) (911 Address: 31005 Iron Branch Road, Dagsboro).

The Planning and Zoning Commission held a Public Hearing on this application on August 27, 2015 at which time action was deferred. On September 10, 2015, the Commission recommended that the application be approved, with conditions.

(See the minutes of the Planning and Zoning Commission dated August 27 and September 10, 2015.)

Lawrence Lank, Director of Planning and Zoning, read a summary of the Commission’s Public Hearing and recommendation.

Mr. Lank reported that, since the Public Hearing before the Commission, one email was received in opposition to the application.

Stuart Jones, Applicant, gave a presentation on the application and provided information on the proposed use of the property for a home business - a retail gun shop and gunsmithing. Mr. Jones provided information on his existing business, his need for additional space, his wish to have his residence and business located on the same property, the application site and the existing house and buildings located on the site; and his need for a letter of approval from the County for the ATF.
There were no public comments and the Public Hearing was closed.

A Motion was made by Mr. Arlett, seconded by Mr. Wilson, to Adopt Ordinance No. 2419 entitled “AN ORDINANCE TO GRANT A CONDITIONAL USE OF LAND IN AN AR-1 AGRICULTURAL RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT FOR A HOME BUSINESS – RETAIL GUN SHOP AND GUNSMITHING TO BE LOCATED ON A CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN DAGSBORO HUNDRED, SUSSEX COUNTY, CONTAINING 6.61 ACRES, MORE OR LESS OF A 14.04 ACRE TRACT” (Conditional Use No. 2027) filed on behalf of SLC Homestead, LLC, with the following conditions:

A. The Applicant must comply with all Federal and State licenses and regulations for the use.
B. As stated by the Applicant, there shall not be a firing range on the site.
C. The hours of operation shall be 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. weekdays, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturdays, and no Sunday hours.
D. As stated by the Applicant, the use shall be operated within the structures that currently exist on the site, as shown on the preliminary site plan submitted with the application.
E. One lighted sign, not to exceed 32 square feet per side, shall be permitted.
F. Security lights shall be installed. All lighting shall be downward screened so that it does not shine onto neighboring properties or roadways.
G. The Final Site Plan shall be subject to the review and approval of the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Motion Adopted: 5 Yeas.

Vote by Roll Call: Mrs. Deaver, Yea; Mr. Cole, Yea; Mr. Arlett, Yea; Mr. Wilson, Yea; Mr. Vincent, Yea

A Public Hearing was held on the Proposed Ordinance entitled “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE COMPREHENSIVE ZONING MAP OF SUSSEX COUNTY FROM AN AR-1 AGRICULTURAL RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO A CR-1 COMMERCIAL RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT FOR A CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN LEWES AND REHOBOTH HUNDRED, SUSSEX COUNTY, CONTAINING 4.38 ACRES, MORE OR LESS” (Change of Zone No. 1782) filed on behalf of Robert Atallian (Tax Map I.D. No. 334-4.00-88.00) (911 Address: 18501 Stamper Drive, Lewes).

The Planning and Zoning Commission held a Public Hearing on this application on August 27, 2015 at which time action was deferred. On September 10, 2015, the Commission recommended that the application be denied.
Defer Action on CZ 1782

Lawrence Lank, Director of Planning and Zoning, read a summary of the Commission’s Public Hearing and recommendation.

The Council found that Robert Attalian was present on behalf of his application. Mr. Attalian gave a presentation on the application and provided information on his request for rezoning to CR-1, his proposed uses for the property including an antique mall and produce stand, history of the property, economic challenges and hardships, information on the 50 foot ingress/egress, business plan, other business uses in the area, and the commercial trend of the area.

Public comments were heard.

Bill Massey, Carol Attalian, Zach King, and Billy Reed Hudson spoke in support of the application. They commented on Mr. Attalian’s work ethics and business operations and the commercial trend of the area.

There were no comments in opposition to the application.

The Public Hearing and public record were closed.

Mrs. Deaver stated that she would like to defer action for the purpose of further consideration of the information provided on this date.

A Motion was made by Mrs. Deaver, seconded by Mr. Cole, to defer action on Change of Zone No. 1782 filed on behalf of Robert Attalian.

Motion Adopted: 4 Yeas, 1 Absent.

Vote by Roll Call: Mrs. Deaver, Yea; Mr. Cole, Yea; Mr. Arlett, Yea; Mr. Wilson, Absent; Mr. Vincent, Yea

A Public Hearing was held on the Proposed Ordinance entitled “AN ORDINANCE TO GRANT A CONDITIONAL USE OF LAND IN AN AR-1 AGRICULTURAL RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT FOR A HOME BASED BUSINESS (AUTO REPAIR, DETAILING, AND AUTO RESALES) TO BE LOCATED ON A CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND BEING IN BROADKILL HUNDRED, SUSSEX COUNTY, CONTAINING 1.982 ACRES, MORE OR LESS” (Conditional Use No. 2026) filed on behalf of Cristian Omar Hernandez Perez and Terri L. Martin (Tax I.D. No. 235-30.00-60.00) (911 Address: 26740 Lewes-Georgetown Highway, Harbeson).

The Planning and Zoning Commission held a Public Hearing on this application on August 27, 2015 at which time action was deferred.
(See the minutes of the Planning and Zoning Commission dated August 27, 2015.)

Lawrence Lank, Director of Planning and Zoning, read a summary of the Commission’s Public Hearing and recommendation.

The Council found that the Applicants, Cristian Omar Hernandez Perez and Terri L. Martin, were present. They provided information on the request for a home based business (auto repair, detailing, and auto resales) and they stated that there is a need for Spanish speaking people in the business; that the site has a single car garage (20 x 24), that there is adequate space for parking on the site; and that there will be adequate facilities for oil changes with proper disposal methods.

(Guillermo Montalvo, Project Manager, Sussex County Community Development & Housing Division, was in attendance to assist with interpreting.)

There were no public comments.

The Public Hearing and public record were closed.

A Motion was made by Mrs. Deaver, seconded by Mr. Wilson, to defer action on Conditional Use No. 2026 filed on behalf of Cristian Omar Hernandez Perez and Terri L. Martin.

Motion Adopted: 4 Yeas, 1 Absent.

Vote by Roll Call: Mrs. Deaver, Yea; Mr. Cole, Yea; Mr. Arlett, Yea; Mr. Wilson, Absent; Mr. Vincent, Yea

A Motion was made by Mrs. Deaver, seconded by Mr. Arlett, to adjourn at 4:20 p.m.

Motion Adopted: 4 Yeas, 1 Absent.

Vote by Roll Call: Mrs. Deaver, Yea; Mr. Cole, Yea; Mr. Arlett, Yea; Mr. Wilson, Absent; Mr. Vincent, Yea

Respectfully submitted,

Robin A. Griffith
Clerk of the Council