

Town of Oriental – Board of Commissioners Meeting
February 6, 2007

The Oriental Town Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, February 6, 2007 at 7:00 pm at the Oriental Town Hall. Present were Mayor Styron and Commissioners Bohmert, Herlands, Inger, Johnson, and Venturi. Also present were Planning Board members Cox, Miller, Olson and Sage as well as County Commissioner Paul Delamar. There were 27 members of the public present.

Mayor Styron opened the meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION: Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the following minutes:

- December 4th and 28th, 2006;
- January 2, 2007 (with corrections) joint Town and Planning Board;
- January 2, 2007 (with corrections) regular Town Board meeting;
- January 24, 2007 (with corrections) joint Town and Planning Board with SAG
- January 28, 2007 (with addition) closed meeting

Second by Commissioner Bohmert. Vote 5-0.

Mr. Keith Crisco addressed the Town Board with his concerns about the placement of the pier at Lou Mac Park. After discussion, as the layout appears to differ from the original plan approved by the Board, Manager Cutler will check into this matter.

The Planning Board report was given by Chairman Sage (copy of report in minutes book).

Attorney Scott Davis reported that a hearing date of May 29, 2007 has been set for the South Avenue litigation at the Superior Court in Bayboro. Fortunately, Mr. Paul Jones of Lenoir County will be the presiding judge so there will be no conflicts to be concerned about. It is still hoped that a resolution will be reached before that date.

MOTION: Commissioner Herlands made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the deed of trust releasing our hold on Lot 7 of Whittaker Pointe subject to Mr. Cutler's final inspection. Second by Commissioner Venturi. Vote 5-0.

The Tourism Board report was given by Commissioner Bohmert (copy of report is in the minutes book). On February 15 & 16 a class from NC State will be in town working on long range planning on parks & recreation and tourism in the county. They will be at M&M's on Thursday, February 15 at 5:30 pm and we are encouraged to stop by and give them input.

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to appoint Dottie Miller to the Tourism Board. Second by Commissioner Inger. Vote 5-0.

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to approve the decisions of the Tourism Board in regards to the “Get Loose On The Neuse” concerts on July 28, August 25 and September 22 and, the town wide yard sale on May 5. Second by Commissioner Johnson. Vote 5-0.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: Mr. Davis reviewed the proper procedure for advertising public hearings. The ad needs to be as specific as possible so the public is clear on what will be discussed. If a public hearing ends up deviating from the topic advertised no official action can be taken until another public hearing is held advertising the change.

MOTION: Commissioner Johnson made a motion to hold public hearings on Monday March 5 at 7:00 pm to (1) extend the revised density ordinance an additional three months, from March 7th to June 6th and, (2) to hold general discussions on Article XI, Section 182. Second by Commissioner Herlands. Vote 5-0.

MOTION: Commissioner Herlands made a motion to hold the following public hearings on Tuesday, March 6 at 7:00 pm: (1) River Neuse’s request for a special use permit, (2) rezoning of a portion of Pecan Place on Midyette St. from MU to R-3; (3) rezoning of the Paling property from MU to R-1; and, (4) zoning of three pieces of Town property. Second by Commissioner Bohmert. Vote 5-0.

Parks & Recreation report was given by Commissioner Venturi (copy of report in minutes book).

The Bay River report was given by Commissioner Inger (copy of report in minutes book).

The Police report was given by Chief Casassa (copy of report in the minutes book).

The Manager’s report was given by Mr. Cutler (copy of report is in the minutes book).

The financial statement was reviewed.

The renovations to the Town Hall were discussed. The Board has asked Manager Cutler to get an estimate on the price.

MOTION: Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve Pierce Creek Landing’s request to modify their SUP to develop buildings 2 & 6 first instead of buildings 1 & 2. Second by Commissioner Bohmert. Vote 5-0.

ETJ update was given by Manager Cutler: Alice Underhill will send the “local bill” to the legislature.

An update on the Town’s new website, www.townoforiental.com, was given by Commissioner Venturi. Currently set in a test mode, she has started training the office staff to take over its maintenance and will hopefully put it into full operation next week.

Commissioner Venturi proposed creating a Business and Economic Development Committee and distributed a possible ordinance for consideration.

Participating in an ECC facilitated retreat was briefly discussed. Commissioner Venturi stated she will soon attend a similar meeting at Pine Knoll Shores and will report back as to its benefits.

Public Comment Period: None

MOTION: Commissioner Johnson made a motion to appoint Commissioner Venturi to ECC’s General Management Board. Second by Commissioner Inger. Vote 5-0.

MOTION: Commissioner Johnson made a motion to appoint Manager Cutler as the Town’s mosquito agent. Second by Commissioner Bohmert. Vote 5-0.

Budget workshop meetings: The Commissioners were asked to submit the days and times they can meet. Commissioner Herlands requested that Manager Cutler start work on the “historical budget”.

MOTION: Commissioner Johnson made a motion to go into closed session as permitted by General Statute 143-318.11. Section (a) (5). Second by Commissioner Venturi. Vote 5-0.

After coming out of closed session and nothing to report in open session:

MOTION: Commissioner Johnson made the motion to adjourn. Second by Commissioner Bohmert. Vote 5-0

Meeting ended at 10:15 pm.

Mayor

Town Manager

Town Board Meeting – Closed Session – February 6, 2007

CLOSED SESSION:

Continued discussion of negotiating purchase of property from Henry Frazer.

The appraisal of the property came in at \$329,000.

The Board discussed the various possible uses for the property (parking, staging area for the New Year dragon, a farmer's market, and community pot lucks).

The Board advised Commissioner Inger and Manager Cutler to continue negotiating with Mr. Frazer.

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to go out of closed session. Second by Commissioner Johnson. Vote 5-0.

Mayor

Town Manager