

Town of Oriental – Board of Commissioners Meeting  
May 1, 2007

The Oriental Town Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, May 1, 2007 at 7:00 pm at the Oriental Town Hall. Present were Mayor Styron and Commissioners Bohmert, Herlands, Johnson, and Venturi. Also present were Planning Board members Cox, Olson and Sage and 8 members of the public. (Commissioner Inger was at a Bay River Sewer meeting and arrived near the end of the meeting.)

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

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections to the April 12 minutes. Second by Commissioner Herlands. Vote 4-0.

Town Manager Cutler informed the Board that the agenda meetings will now be called “Agenda / Workshops”.

PLANNING BOARD REPORT: Chairman Sage gave the Planning Board report (copy of report is in the minutes book.) The commissioners requested a joint meeting with the Planning Board to discuss the final recommendations on Article XI. They will meet on May 8, 2007 at 7:00 pm. Commissioner Bohmert thanked Mrs. Sage for all the hard work she and the Planning Board did in revising the ordinance.

PUBLIC HEARING ADVERTISEMENTS: Attorney Scott Davis explained that the notices should be as explicit as possible. While it is not necessary to list all the proposed changes, it is best to describe them in a short list (bullet points). Then state that the changes can be reviewed in their entirety at the Town Hall as well as on the town website, [www.townoforiental.com](http://www.townoforiental.com).

PUBLIC HEARING - EVIDENCE SUBMITTED: A citizen pointed out that at a recent public hearing evidence was submitted on behalf of absent family members. According to past discussions, this constituted hearsay and the evidence should not have been accepted. Mr. Davis confirmed that was correct.

BOARD VACANCIES: There are, and will be, vacancies on the Parks & Rec, Tourism and Planning boards. This will be posted on the town website. Anyone interested in serving on a board needs to submit a letter of intent to the Town Hall.

OVERLAY DISTRICTS: Clarification – overlay districts create more restrictive rules, not less.

TOURISM BOARD REPORT: Copy of report is in the minutes book. Commissioner Bohmert reported that the board wants to make an insert for the remaining 5,600 town pamphlets which will be taken to River Dunes. They are requesting \$300 to cover the cost.

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to approve spending \$300 on the inserts. Second by Commissioner Herlands. Vote 4-0.

PARKS & REC REPORT: A copy of the report is in the minutes book. Ms. Wagoner also reported that when the committee was newly formed, one of the plans was to create a bike path map combined with a walking/historical map. The bike path is a long way from being constructed but the Oriental Museum is ready with the historical walking tour. The Parks & Rec committee would like to meet with the Tourism Board and the Museum Board to see how they can all work together.

POLICE REPORT: Copy of report is in the minutes book.

LAND PURCHASE: Regarding the purchase of the 3 lots on South Water Street:  
MOTION: Commissioner Johnson made a motion to stop pursuing the purchase of land on South Water Street. Second by Commissioner Herlands. Vote 3-1 with Commissioner Bohmert voting against.

Commissioner Venturi asked that the other board members develop a wish list of property to buy.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Copy of the report is in the minutes book. The occupancy tax revenue is lower than budgeted as the River Neuse Motel has been closed for renovation. Property tax is still coming in. Line item #582 – Police: part of the budgeted \$23,000 will come out of grant money which will be paid from April 10<sup>th</sup> to October 1<sup>st</sup>. Line item #632 – Powel Bill, a budget amendment will be done once all the paving is completed.

LONG RANGE PLANNING: Will be meeting again May 2 at 5:00 pm. At the present time, committee members are; Dee Sage, David Cox, Katy Pugh, Christie Foster, Ben Hollowell, Marvin Bullock, Warren Johnson and Barb Venturi.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Ms. Jacksie Pitts pointed out that when driving on to Hodges St. from South Water St. there are no speed limit signs. She asked the town to consider painting the speed limit on the street. (Chief Casassa was already looking into this.)

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS: Commissioner Johnson inquired about (1) the business in town that is not in compliance with the sign ordinance. He asked if a fine would be imposed. (2) He voiced his displeasure that the River Neuse Suites only has one water meter for all of the units. (3) Regarding the boardwalk from the Wild Life Ramp to the Oriental Harbor; he was contacted by Henry Campton, President of the condo owners association. Mr. Campton would like to discuss the matter further. (4) He received an e-mail from someone stating that he could not use the public dock because a yacht broker had a boat for sale tied up there. An amendment to the General Ordinance disallowing this kind of use of the public dock will be pursued. (5) Requested an update on the ETJ project. Commissioner Venturi will look into this.

Commissioner Venturi informed the Board that Pamlico Rescue now has a sub-station in the Town of Arapahoe. While Oriental has made great progress in forming the First Responders and the Dottie Gray Ambulance Fund, the sub-station went to Arapahoe based on the number of response calls made to that area.

Mrs. Rosamund Boyles suggested that a notice be put in the rooms of the local lodgings informing visitors what it means when the siren goes off.

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to discontinue pursuing the CAMA grant for the land purchase. Second by Commissioner Johnson. Vote 4-1 with Commissioner Inger voting no.

REVISED MOTION: As the deadline for the grant application is May 22<sup>nd</sup>, Commissioner Inger asked the Board to reconsider and continue to pursue the CAMA grant for the land purchase. Vote 4-1 with Commissioner Bohmert voting no. The original motion did not pass.

BAY RIVER REPORT: Commissioner Inger reported that Mr. Jim Krauss had resigned from the Bay River Sewer and Mr. Himbry was given his 30 day notice to terminate his contract.

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

Meeting ended at 9:20 pm.

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Mayor

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Town Manager