

Town of Oriental – Board of Commissioners Meeting
and
Public Hearing
February 1, 2005

The Oriental Town Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, February 1, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. at the Oriental Town Hall. Present were Mayor Styron, Commissioners Bohmert, Midyette, Moat and Wagoner. Commissioner Harris was present to conclude his resignation and did not continue with the meeting.

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

Commissioner Wagoner made a motion to approve the January 4, 2004 minutes as corrected. Second by Commissioner Bohmert. Vote 4-0.

The Board discussed replacing the position vacated by Commissioner Harris but decided to delay the decision pending further public input.

Commissioner Wagoner volunteered for Mayor Pro-tem position. Commissioner Moat made a motion to nominate Commissioner Wagoner as Mayor Pro-Tem. Second by Commissioner Midyette. Vote 4-0.

Mayor Styron praised Joe Harris for his years of outstanding service to the Town.

A question was raised by Hector LeDuc regarding who may be appointed to fill the vacated Commissioner position. He was informed that the Town Board may choose whomever they feel is qualified.

Audit Report: Auditor David Singleton was present to review the FY 2003-2004 audit report. After explaining new audit requirements, he stated, that with the exception of the segregation of duties which is a problem in all small towns with a limited staff, the Town had received a favorable audit (unqualified audit).

Mayor Styron continued the public hearing pertaining to the possible closing of Second Avenue between Freemason and Neuse Street. Several concerns were addressed including the creation of a landlocked parcel by the possible closing, how closing would affect adjoining landowners, and cost of the action to the Town.

With no further comments, Commissioner Wagoner made a motion to close the public hearing. Second by Commissioner Moat. Vote 4-0

Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to take no action on the proposed abandonment (closing) of that portion of Second Avenue between Freemason and Neuse. Second by Commissioner Midyette. Vote 4-0.

Alice DeBaun presented the Planning Board Report:

1. The Planning Board continues to meet with planner Chris Padgett
2. Property owners of areas being considered for zoning changes were notified.
3. Request by First Baptist Church to enclose an entrance porch was approved.
4. Recommended the Town hire a Land Use Administrator.

Financial Report: Town Manager Cutler reported that the year-to-date property taxes collected were \$185,000 out of the budgeted \$250,000. Also reported was the receipt of \$78,000 from the \$400,000 Rural Center grant. After discussing the additional funds needed for the water plant renovation and the new well, Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to rescind a previous motion to obtain additional funding by bank loan. Second by Commissioner Midyette. Vote 4-0

Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to move funds from the General Fund to the Water Fund in the amount of \$150,000 if needed. Second by Commissioner Midyette. Vote 4-0

BRMSD Report by Commissioner Midyette:

1. Bay River received a clean opinion from their auditors
2. The Division of Water Quality had requested and had been granted permission to study THM's on the Bay River spray site. The study would take approximately one year.
3. The \$20 surcharge would be billed in February 2005.
3. Sewer allocation available at the present time was less than 10,000 gallons (per day). Capacity was expected to improve once River Dunes went on line as they are providing their own spray site.
4. New officers were elected: Jason Rose as Chairman, Tracy Caroon as Vice-Chairman and Jim Krause as Secretary.

Attorney Davis informed the Board that, with their permission, he planned to represent Bay River in their discussions with the State to release some of the sewer flow allocation. The Town Board had no objections.

Leash Law Request: Tina Dykins presented the Board with a petition to impose a leash law in the Town. Numerous stories were related, both supporting and not supporting a leash law. It was the consensus of the Board that with proper enforcement of the existing ordinances and promptly reporting of problems, no additional ordinances were needed. Pamlico County Sheriff Sawyer, present at the meeting, expressed his desire to help with enforcement whenever possible.

The hiring of a part-time zoning administrator was discussed. Alice DeBaun recommended that the Planning Board prepare a job description as well as determine the number of hours required.

Manager Cutler asked the Board's permission to use funds in the Public Works Capital Outlay line item and proceeds from the sale of surplus used trucks to purchase a new truck on State Contract. Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to approve the request. Second by Commissioner Moat. Vote 4-0.

Dawn Keller reported for the Tourism Board:

1. Dog potty bags have been ordered and will be placed in the parks
2. Concern over untreated wastewater bubbling out of manhole covers at times near local businesses and the concern over impression this will leave with tourist.
3. Question regarding whom was subject to occupancy tax and how it was figured.
4. Concern over unfinished canoe/kayak ramp on Midyette.
5. The Tourism Board planned to revise the list of businesses on the web-site.

Manager Cutler relayed a request from PINE that they be permitted to place two 1 square foot antennas on the water tower. Commissioner Moat made a motion to approve the request. Second by Commissioner Midyette. Vote 4-0.

Commissioner Moat made a motion to declare March 30, 2005 as Arbor Day. Second by Commissioner Bohmert. Vote 4-0.

The Board briefly discussed the possibility of having recycling picked up every other Monday instead of the first and third Mondays. Due to the five-year contract and additional cost no action was taken. It was suggested that neighbors might share unused capacity.

Mayor Styron thanked those present for their cooperation and restraint during some of the highly emotional proceedings.

Commissioner Midyette made a motion to continue the meeting until February 2, 2005 at 6 p.m. at the Oriental Town Hall. Second by Commissioner Bohmert. Vote 4-0.

Mayor

Town Manager