

Town of Oriental – Board of Commissioners Meeting
and Public Hearings
October 3, 2006

The Oriental Town Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday October 3 at 7 pm at the Oriental Town Hall. Present were Mayor Styron, Commissioners Bohmert, Herlands, Inger, Johnson and Venturi. Public attendance was standing room only.

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

Commissioner Herlands made a motion to approve the August 31st minutes with one correction. Second by Commissioner Bohmert. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to approve the September 5th minutes with corrections. Second by Commissioner Johnson. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to approve the September 18th minutes. Second by Commissioner Herlands. Vote 5-0.

Mayor Styron opened the first hearing concerning Section 182 of the GMO. After over an hour of listening to people's comments on density, both against and for changing the density numbers, Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to close the public hearing. Second by Commissioner Johnson. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to "schedule a public hearing for November 7th to adopt the Pamlico County Group Housing Ordinance for a period of 12 months or a shorter period of time once the Town of Oriental amends their GMO through the Long Range Plan that is now being worked on." Second by Commissioner Inger. Vote 2-3 with Commissioner Bohmert, Herlands and Venturi voting against it. Motion did not carry.

Commissioner Venturi made a motion to continue the first public hearing and to add a new public hearing to hear opinions on amending Article XI – Density and Dimensional Regulations, Sections 181, 182, 183 paragraph 1, 184 paragraph 2, 185 paragraph 2, 186 paragraphs 4, 5, and 6, as well as adding a new section 187 – Number of Stories per Building.

This motion was deferred until after discussing public hearings # 2 and # 3.

Mayor Styron opened public hearing # 2, the proposed amendment to Section 186 (4) Lot Coverage of the GMO reducing the building lot coverage percentage allowed in the MU-1 and MU zones from 40% to 35%. After a few comments from the audience Commissioner Johnson made a motion to close the public hearing. Second by Commissioner Venturi. Vote 5-0.

Mayor Styron opened public hearing # 3, the proposed amendment to Section 186 (6) Lot Coverage of the GMO reducing the total lot coverage percentage allowed in the MU-1 and MU zones from 60% to 50%. After a few comments from the audience Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to close the public hearing. Second by Commissioner Johnson. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Venturi then amended her prior motion to include continuing the 2nd and 3rd public hearings and to schedule these public hearings for Monday, October 23th at 7:00 pm. Second by Commissioner Herlands. Vote 5-0.

Mayor Styron opened public hearing # 4, the proposed amendment to Chapter G, Section 4 (c) of the General Ordinance. After summarizing the amendment for the audience and hearing a few comments, Commissioner Johnson made the motion to close the public hearing. Second by Commissioner Bohmert. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to approve the amendment. Second by Commissioner. Vote 5-0.

The Planning Board report was given by Dee Sage (copy of report in minutes book). She emphasized the Planning Board's request for an update of the drainage survey.

The two new members of the Planning Board were then voted in. The results of the written ballots were; with 5 votes, William Marlowe will fill the unexpired term of Katy Pugh which ends June 2009. With 3 votes, David Cox will fill the unexpired term of Don Mau which ends June 2008. Commissioner Herlands made the motion the appoint William Marlow and David Cox to the Planning Board. Second by Commissioner Bohmert. Vote 5-0.

The hiring of a professional planner was discussed yet again. While it was agreed to hire a planner from East Carolina Council no official action was taken.

Attorney Scott Davis will be meeting this week with Lacy Henry's lawyer to discuss to the South Avenue right-of-way issue.

The Tourism Report was given by Commission Bohmert (copy of report in minutes book). Commissioner Herlands made a motion to give \$1,000 towards the creation of the Pamlico County Parks & Recreation and Tourism Plan. Second by Commissioner Bohmert. Vote 5-0. Commissioner Inger urged that a completion date be given.

Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to adopt the 'Resolution Authorizing Local Government Execution of a Public Access Grant' contract. Second by Commissioner Inger. Vote 5-0.

The Parks & Recreation Report was given by Lori Wagoner (copy of report in minutes book). Commissioner Bohmert stated that she has the big maps that will go on the back of the boards and that there is yet another grant available to help create the bike path. Commissioner Inger raised questions about allowing the Rotary Club to put a picnic shelter at the Town Beach. She prefers to have it put out at the Recreation Park. The Parks & Rec Committee will discuss this at their next meeting and make a recommendation.

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

The Police Report was given by Chief Casassa (copy of report in minutes book). The Chief and the Board discussed the possible purchase of software to allow the officers to process all forms, claims and reports directly from the police cars. Commissioner Inger made a motion to authorize the expenditure of \$2700 for the software licensing. The money will come out of line item # 61500 Police Capital Outlay. Second by Commissioner Bohmert. Vote 5-0.

Manager Cutler gave the manager's report. The underground pipe for the altitude valve has been put in. The water test for the discharge DWQ permit came back favorable. Still working on the engineering and permit for the 10" pipeline on White Farm Road. The audit process has begun. Commissioner Inger stated that the office, under the guidance of Heidi Artley, ran very smoothly while Manager Cutler was away on vacation.

The Financial Report was given by Manager Cutler (copy of report in minutes book).

No action was taken on the personnel policy as not everyone has submitted his/her revisions. This will be put on next month's agenda.

Commissioner Herlands made a motion to schedule 3 public hearings for special use permits:

- 1) The Whittaker Creek Condo Project
- 2) The Inn at Oriental Condo Project
- 3) The Harbour Way Condo Project

Second by Commissioner Bohmert. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Inger asked that the financing of the professional planner be put on next month's agenda.

Commissioner Venturi gave an update on the Long Range Plan (copy of report in minutes book.) She again requested that one member of each board and committee volunteer to serve on the Long Range Plan Committee. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 17 at 8:00 am. Commissioner Venturi made a motion to request Eastern Carolina Council to conduct a charette to assist in the definition of the Oriental Harbor Overlay District; that the meeting be scheduled for Saturday, November 4th and that a budget of \$1500 be allocated to conduct this event. Second by Commissioner Bohmert. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Bohmert mentioned that, with the help of several grants, it might be possible to reopen Raccoon Creek. That would involve tearing up a portion of Hodges, Main, and Factory Streets and installing a constructed wetlands to help with storm water runoff. It could help with drainage problems in that part of Town and enlarge the space for boats to dock.

During the Public Comment Period, new chairs were requested for the meeting hall. A limb pick up day was also requested.

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Herlands made a motion to adjourn. Second by Commissioner Inger. Vote 5-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 pm.

Mayor

Town Manager