

Town of Oriental – Board of Commissioners Meeting
March 3, 2009

The Oriental Town Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, March 3 at 7:00 pm at the Oriental First Baptist Church.

Present were: Mayor Sage and Commissioners Bohmert, Cox, Kellam, Inger and Styron
Planning Board/Parks & Rec member Cordes
Long Range Planning members Venturi and Sage
Attorney Scott Davis
Interim Town Manager Artley and new Town Manager Cahoon
Chief Casassa
78 members of the public

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to approve the closed session minutes for February 11th and 16th. Second by Commissioner Inger. Vote 5-0.

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to approve the minutes for January 29, February 3 (with one correction), February 6 (with one correction), and February 16 (with one correction). Second by Commissioner Styron. Vote 5-0.

HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN RENEWAL – This was approved at the Agenda Workshop.

PAWS – REQUEST TO USE LOU MAC PARK FOR DOG PARADE – This was approved at the Agenda Workshop.

NOISE ORDINANCE – Mayor Sage explained how the decibel level tests were performed on Sunday, March 1. (Scott Davis pointed out that the event should have been advertised as most of the board members were present.) After a lengthy discussion that included input from the public;

MOTION: Commissioner Kellam made a motion to adopt the revised noise ordinance with amendments. Second by Commissioner Cox. Vote 3-2 with Commissioners Bohmert and Styron voting no. The town's attorney will review the final draft and run it against case law.

PLANNING BOARD REPORT - A copy of the report is in the minutes book.

PARKS & REC COMMITTEE – A copy of the report is in the minutes book.

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE – Mrs. Sage reported that they received 450 questionnaires. The committee will hold a special meeting for business owners and civic groups to get their input.

POLICE REPORT – A copy of the report is in the minutes book. Chief Casassa reported that the newly acquired boat is now seaworthy and he hopes to take it out on a test run very soon. Hopefully the maintenance costs will be shared with the fire department. The new equipment trailer is still being built and he has already received some of the equipment that will go in it.

MANAGER'S REPORT - Interim town manager Heidi Artley reported that while being without a manager, the town staff pulled together and has been working hard to keep the town running smoothly. Robert Fears in particular has been working very hard to resolve some issues at the water plant. The town hall office has been painted. The papers for the Hodges Street pier have been received, signed and returned. Once the documents are returned the bidding process will begin. A stimulus pre-grant form has been submitted to buy radio read meters. The Tree Board has begun work on creating a rain garden at the town hall.

CONTRACT WAGE/MR. CUTLER - This was discussed in closed session.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – A copy of the report is in the minutes book. Some budget amendments will be necessary.

DUCK POND PROJECT – This was discussed in closed session.

ECC- APPOINTMENT TO THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP BOARD –

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to appoint Randy Cahoon to the ECC General Membership Board. Second by Commissioner Inger. Vote 5-0.

SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED OVERLAY DISTRICT ORDINANCE –

MOTION: Commissioner Inger made a motion to schedule a public hearing on April 7, 2009. Second by Commissioner Kellam. Vote 5-0.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENT PERIOD - Commissioner Bohmert raised the issue of home insurance rate increases. Mayor Sage drafted a resolution that better suits the town.

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to adopt the resolution. Second by Commissioner Styron. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Bohmert also informed the Board that a copy of the grant submitted for the Duck Pond Project is at the town hall for public review.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Mr. Al Herlands made observations about home owner's insurance.

CLOSED SESSION –

MOTION: Commissioner Inger made the motion to go into closed session to discuss a personnel matter and the purchase of property. Second by Commissioner Bohmert. Vote 5-0.

CLOSED SESSION

BACK IN OPEN SESSION:

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to approve Randy Cahoon's contract. Second by Commissioner Styron. Vote 5-0.

MOTION: Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to approve Wyatt Cutler's contract. Second by Commissioner Styron. Vote 5-0.

There being no further business;

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

William Sage, Mayor

Interim Town Manager, Heidi Artley