

Town of Oriental – Board of Commissioners Meeting
and
Public Hearing
January 4, 2005

The Oriental Town Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, January 4, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. at the Oriental Town Hall. Present were Mayor Styron, Commissioners Bohmert, Harris, Midyette, Moat and Wagoner. Mayor Styron opened the meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Wagoner made a motion to approve the December 7, 2004 minutes. Second by Commissioner Bohmert. Vote 5-0. Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to approve the minutes, as corrected, for the September 22, October 6, 10, 14 and 25, 2004 meetings. Second by Commissioner Harris. Vote 5-0

Mayor Styron opened the first public hearing pertaining to the adoption of a sign ordinance and asked for comments. After comments, Commissioner Moat made a motion to close the public hearing. Second by Commissioner Bohmert. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to adopt the sign ordinance to amend Chapter J, Article 10 of the GMO. Second by Commissioner Moat. Vote 5-0.

Mayor Styron opened the second public hearing pertaining to a request to close a portion of Second Avenue and solicited comments from the floor. After discussion, Commissioner Midyette made a motion to continue the public hearing on the portion between Freemason and Neuse Street until the next Town Meeting on February 1, 2005 at 7 p.m. at the Oriental Town Hall. Second by Commissioner Moat. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Midyette made a motion to close the right-of-way between Neuse Street and Factory Street. Second by Commissioner Wagoner. Vote 5-0

Planning Board Report: Alice DeBaun reported that the Board had met with Mr. Padgett to discuss options for future development. She also stated that the Planning Board recommended changes to Section 67 of the GMO by defining more specifically the difference between “major” and “minor” modifications.

Financial Report: Town Manager Cutler reported that \$43,000 had been collected in property taxes and the bulk of tax collection was expected in January 2005. Cash had increased by \$31,000 in the General Fund. He reported that \$108,000 had been spent on the water plant upgrade and grant funds in the amount of \$78,000 would soon be received.

Bay River Report: Commissioner Harris reported that no meeting had been held in December 2004.

Town Manager Cutler asked the Board to approve the sale of four Town vehicles. It was reported that these vehicles were all around 20 years old and no longer dependable or cost effective. He suggested that the proceeds from the sale be used to purchase a new vehicle. Commissioner Wagoner made a motion to approve the sale of the vehicles. Second by Commissioner Moat. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Moat made a motion to appoint Bill Arndt to the Water Board. Second by Commissioner Bohmert. Vote 5-0

Commissioner Moat made a motion to appoint Larry Gwaltney, Don Mau, Kirk Nelson, Nancy Inger, Yvonne Jones and Al Herlands to the Citizen's Panel on Infrastructure. Second by Commissioner Bohmert. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to reimburse Planning Board members the cost of attending a planning meeting in New Bern up to \$270.00. Second by Commissioner Moat. Vote 5-0

Manager Report: Manager Cutler reported:

1. \$8500 has been received from the Harold Bate Foundation for the dock at the end of Midyette Street. Total cost of dock is expected to be approximately \$13,000. There is currently an outstanding grant of \$8,500 from DENR that a portion can be used for the dock. The use of the remaining portion will have to be approved by DENR. The Town of Oriental had applied for and an extension of the grant period was approved until June 30, 2005.
2. Permit for the new well has been received from the State
3. First payment from the Rural Center for the water plant upgrade in the amount of \$78,000 has been applied for.

The Town Board granted permission for the Dragon to "live" at The Town Hall until a more suitable home can be located.

Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to permit the Rotary Club to install three stainless steel ladders at the town dock. Second by Commission Moat. Vote 5-0.

Mayor Styron solicited comments and advice from those present to aid in the future selection of a new Police Chief. Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to start the hiring process over again. Second by Commissioner Wagoner. Commissioner Bohmert amended her motion to open applications for Police Chief and a second officer for a 30-day period. Commissioner Bohmert further amended the motion to solicit applications for the Police Chief only. Second by Commissioner Wagoner. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to enter into closed session as allowed by G.S. 143.18.11 subsection 6. Second by Commissioner Moat. Vote 5-0.

With a motion from Commissioner Wagoner and a second from Commissioner Bohmert the Board returned to open session. Vote 5-0.

The Board discussed forming a committee whose function would be to assist in the hiring of the new Police Chief. The consensus was to have two members from the public sit in on a portion of the interview process. The Board decided to invite the nine finalists in the previous application process to re-apply.

Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to adjourn. Second by Commissioner Midyette. Vote 5-0.

Mayor

Town Manager

