

Town of Oriental – Board of Commissioners Meeting
And Public Hearing
June 6, 2006

The Oriental Town Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, June 6 at 7 pm at the Oriental Town Hall. Present were Mayor Styron, Commissioners Bohmert, Herlands, Inger, Johnson and Venturi. Twenty four members of the public were in attendance.

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

Commissioner Herlands made a motion to approve the minutes after changing paragraph 4, line 2 to read; “Several members of the public spoke in favor of the new pier while others raised concerns and requested a public hearing on the issue.” Second by Commissioner Bohmert. Vote 5-0.

Mayor Styron opened the first public hearing pertaining to the proposed amendment to Section 168 of the GMO concerning signage for multiple businesses in a single office. There being no public comments, Commissioner Johnson made a motion to close the public hearing. Second by Commissioner Herlands. Vote 5-0. Commissioner Inger made a motion to approve the changes. Second by Commissioner Johnson. Vote 5-0.

Mayor Styron opened the second public hearing pertaining to the proposed amendment to Section 196 of the GMO specifying the parking requirements for shopping centers. There being no public comment, Commissioner Johnson made a motion to close the public hearing. Second by Commissioner Bohmert. Vote 5-0. Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the amendment to the GMO. Second by Commissioner Inger. After further discussion Commissioner Johnson modified his motion to approve the amendment after changing the terms “the Planning Board” to “the Town Board”. Vote 4-1 with Commissioner Bohmert voting no.

Mayor Styron opened the third public hearing pertaining to the proposed amendment to Section 184 of the GMO to wave building set back requirements for extension of steps when an existing building is elevated above the minimum flood elevation. After lengthy discussion, Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to close the public hearing. Second by Commissioner Herlands. Vote 5-0. Commissioner Herlands made a motion to approve the amendment after adding the words, “...do not encroach into any Town right-of-way and the Board of Commissioners approves any encroachment into the required_setback”. Second by Commissioner Bohmert. Vote 5-0.

Mayor Styron opened the final public hearing to adopt the new 2006-2007 fiscal year budget. One member of the audience voiced concern regarding the low salaries for the Public Works Department employees. Commissioner Bohmert made the motion to close the public hearing. Second by Commissioner Johnson. Vote 5-0. The commissioners explained that in preparing the budget, future projects were considered. Salaries and infrastructure will be reviewed periodically. Taxes will probably be raised next year.

Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to adopt the budget. Second by Commissioner Johnson. Vote 5-0.

The Planning Board report was given by Planning Board Chairman Don Mau (copy of report in minutes book). Chairman Mau stated that Mr. Paul Creech is seeking a letter of support from the Town for Oriental Harbor Marina's plan to extend the boardwalk along the waterfront under the bridge at Highway 55 to the new condominium project on Green Creek. Before giving approval to this project, the Board requested that the Town Manager contact Mr. Creech to determine if the boardwalk will extend all the way to the Wild Life Ramp area. Discussion on this will resume at the next Town meeting in July. The Planning Board has requested that the Town Board meet with them to discuss the overlay district and PUD.

The Board discussed the Aldridge family's request to have a street named after them. The Friends of Oriental History Assoc. is currently researching early family ties to Oriental and will present a list of deserving names to the Commissioners from which developers can choose new street names.

Departing Planning Board member Grace Evans was recognized and thanked for all her hard work on the Planning Board.

Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to appoint Paul Olsen to the Planning Board to replace Grace Evans. Second by Commissioner Venturi. Vote 4-1 with Commissioner Inger voting no.

Commissioner Venturi made a motion to appoint Katy Pugh to the Planning Board to replace George Duffie whose term has expired. Second by Commissioner Inger. Vote 4-1 with Commissioner Johnson voting no. It was requested that a letter be written to Mr. Duffy thanking him for serving on the Planning Board.

The Tourism Board report was given by Chairperson Mim Miller (copy of report in minutes book). Two new members will need to be found to replace Katy Pugh and Clark Dimond. Art Tierney sought approval to trademark the slogan, "Sailing Capital of North Carolina". Commissioner Johnson made a motion to have Attorney Bill Sage look into the legalities of this. Second by Commissioner Inger. Vote 5-0. Mr. Tierney also requested permission to put up nautical banners which will say "Oriental, Sailing Capital of NC". He stated that he has approached many businesses which are willing to sponsor this project. Commissioner Venturi made a motion to adopt "Sailing Capital of North Carolina" as the Town slogan. Second by Commissioner Johnson. Vote 5-0. Commissioner Bohmert made a motion that this project be handled by the Tourism Board. Second by Commissioner Johnson. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Venturi made a motion to nominate Kathi Ellers and Tim Rogers to the Parks and Recreation Board. Second by Commissioner Bohmert. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Inger gave the Bay River report (copy of report in minutes book). Manager Cutler commented that the report listed Oriental's water/sewer consumption at 155,000 gpd when in actuality the usage is around 110,000 gpd.

Commissioner Inger stated that the Town's Water Board expired in 2004 and requested permission to solicit new members to rebuild the Board. She explained that the Water Board advises on water rates and looks at engineering and detailed reports on the water system. Commissioner Herlands made a motion to direct Commissioner Inger to reform the Water Board. Second by Commissioner Johnson. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Inger gave a brief report (copy of report in minutes book) on the Storm water Management for the Holden Beach Septic Tank Conversion demonstration project she and Commissioner Bohmert attended.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to reappoint Commissioner Inger to the Bay River Sewer District Board. Second Commissioner Bohmert. Vote 5-0.

Police Chief Casassa gave the Police Report (copy of report in minutes book)) stating that the Click It or Ticket program had just ended and was a success. During the first week of the program 22 warnings were given out; the second week only 5 and since that time more people appear to be wearing their seatbelts.

The Manager's Report was given by Mr. Cutler.

Drainage work is being done on Gilgo Dr. with broken culverts being replaced.

The sewer jet machine to flush out the drains and culverts should be here sometime within the next two weeks.

The 10" pipeline has been completed to the water tank.

The prep work on painting the tank has begun.

A new air conditioner and high efficiency gas furnace for the Town Hall has been ordered and should be here within the next two weeks.

The Public Water Supply section of the State that inspects water plants and distribution inspected our system at the end of May. They were very impressed with the operation of the plant, the attention we pay to monitoring chemical feed rates, our flushing program, the many different test we perform on the water, and our overall understanding of the complex operation of a water system (much of this credit goes to Josh Gibson). The State asked permission to bring water operators from other systems to see "how we do it".

The Financial Report was given and it shows that the Town is good shape. Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to approve a budget amendment. Second by Commissioner Herlands. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Venturi made a motion to hold the following public hearings at the next Town Board Meeting on July 11;

1. Special Use Permit for Allen Propst – North Street Condo Project.
2. Planned Unit Development amendment to the GMO.
3. Section 160 of the GMO concerning informational meeting on multi-unit Projects.
4. Section 52 (3) of the GMO concerning requirements on plan submittals.

Second by Commissioner Bohmert. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to approve the water rates in Schedule V. Second by Commissioner Johnson. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to adopt the resolution to amend Chapter B – Police, Article 1, by renumbering the present Section 5 to Section 6 and by adding a new Section 5 - Auxiliary Police. Second by Commissioner Johnson. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Herlands made a motion to approve the amendment to Chapter G, Section 3 – Garbage Cans. Second by Commissioner Bohmert. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to approve the amendment to Chapter L – Tourism Percentage. Second by Commissioner Johnson. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Herlands made a motion to reappoint John Griffin to the Board of Adjustment. Second by Commissioner Johnson. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Johnson gave a report on his meeting with Lee Padrick. They discussed possible annexation along the HWY 55 corridor and other feasible areas. Mr. Padrick encouraged enforcing ETJ (extra territorial jurisdiction), within a 1 ½ mile radius around Oriental. Commissioner Johnson sought permission to continue with this project which was given.

Commissioner Venturi commented that annexation is a definite part of the Long Range Planning. She plans to hold a joint meeting with the Town Board and the Planning Board.

The Board discussed the SPVFD's request to have their monthly water bill (approximately \$10) waived. As the Board does not want to set a precedent of waiving people's bill for any reason, Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to table this topic until next month. Second by Commissioner Venturi. Vote 5-0. In the future, the Town will offer to pay for the use of their facility whenever a bigger meeting hall is needed.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to adopt the proclamation for the Oriental Rotary Tarpon Tournament. Second by Commissioner Bohmert. Vote 5-0.

During the Public Comment Period, one citizen voiced approval of the pier.

Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to adjourn. Second by Commissioner Inger. Vote 5-0. Meeting ended at 9:50 pm.

Mayor

Town Manager