

Town of Oriental – Board of Commissioners Meeting  
April 4, 2006

The Oriental Town Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, April 4 at 7:00 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 Bohmert made a motion to approve the March 7, 2006 minutes with corrections. Second by Commissioner Venturi. Vote 5-0.

Mayor Styron opened the first public hearing pertaining to Village Projects Partners' request for a Special Use Permit to build a duplex at 301 Vandemere Street. It was noted that proper notification to surrounding neighbors was made. After being sworn in, Ms. Dee Sage, Vice Chairman/Secretary of the Planning Board, testified that this project meets all the GMO requirements. There being no further comments, Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to close the public hearing. Second by Commissioner Johnson. Vote 5-0. Commissioner Venturi made a motion to approve the Special Use Permit. Second by Commissioner Herlands. Vote 5-0.

Mayor Styron opened the second public hearing pertaining to Village Projects Partners' request for a Special Use Permit to build a duplex at 303 Vandemere Street. Ms. Dee Sage again testified that this project meets all the requirements of the GMO. After being sworn in, Ms. Toni Leavett raised questions about the proposed signage and lighting of the trees. She stated that this area is residential with no signage and no lights. Mr. Steve Williams, representing the project, informed her that the sign would be temporary while the project is being built and the lighting, which is for decorative purposes only, would be kept to a minimum. Ms. Grace Evans and Mr. Gwinn Hedrick both raised concerns about drainage and it was agreed that this matter would be further addressed at a later date. There being no further comments, Commissioner Johnson made a motion to close the public hearing. Second by Commissioner Bohmert. Vote 5-0. Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to approve the Special Use Permit. Second Commissioner Inger. Vote 5-0.

Mayor Styron opened the third public hearing pertaining to the proposed amendment to the GMO to reduce the parking requirement for motels, hotels, and B&B's. After some discussion, Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to close the public hearing. Second by Commissioner Johnson. Vote 5-0. Commissioner Venturi made a motion to not approve the change to the parking requirement at this time but to include it in overall long range planning. Second by Commissioner Bohmert. Vote 5-0.

Next, Mayor Styron continued the public hearing from the March 7, 2006 meeting regarding the proposed amendment to move portions of Chapter M – Public Trees, from the General Ordinance to the GMO. After some discussion Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to close the public hearing. Second by Commissioner Venturi. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to approve the amendment after changing the first paragraph in Section 202, Landscaping of Parking Lots to read, “The purpose of this section is to require buffers and landscaping of commercial and multifamily parking lots in the Town of Oriental to insure the preservation of land values in commercial and residential districts by creating and insuring an environmental quality that is most compatible with the development of this land.” Second by Commissioner Johnson. Vote 5-0.

Mayor Styron opened the public meeting required as part of the final application process for the fishing pier. After hearing comments from several members of the public and after discussion between the Commissioners, Commissioner Inger made a motion to proceed with the final grant application (the Tourism Board will fund the grant match). Second by Commissioner Johnson. Vote 5-0 with Commissioner Herlands abstaining.

Attorney Scott Davis informed the Board the litigation pertaining to South Avenue, delayed by a bankruptcy hearing, was now scheduled to be resolved by a judge this summer.

Planning Board Report was given by Dee Sage (copy of report in book).

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

A copy of the Tourism Report is in the book.

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

Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to instruct the Pamlico County Tax Office to refund money overpaid by citizens due to an error by the County on the tax rate on vehicles. Second by Commissioner Venturi. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Venturi made a motion to allow the Old Theater to close a short portion of Church St. (between Broad St. and Midyette St.) on June 3<sup>rd</sup> for a block party fund raiser. Second by Commissioner Johnson. Vote 5-0.

As Ms. Grace Evans does not want to remain on the Planning Board when her term expires in June, the Planning Board will need at least one new member in June; two if the Commissioners choose not to have George Duffy remain on the Board when his term also expires in June.

Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to continue the meeting until April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at 8:00 am at the Oriental Town Hall. Second by Commissioner Johnson. Vote 5-0. Meeting ended at 9:55 pm.

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Mayor

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Town Manager