



ORIENTAL TOWN BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at 7pm

507 Church Street, Oriental, NC

Mayor Sally Belangia Officiating

6 The Town Board of Oriental Town Board Meeting on Tuesday, January 2, 2018 was called to order at 7pm. The
7 Mayor Sally Belangia determined a quorum to be present. She said we have a Public Comment period, if you wish
8 to speak please make sure you are signed up on the correct sheet. We will call the meeting to order with the Pledge
9 of Allegiance.

10

11 Present: Mayor Sally Belangia, Mayor Pro Tempore White, Commissioner Overcash, Commissioner Price,
12 Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Dammeyer, Town Manager Diane Miller, Deputy Finance Director Tammy
13 Cox, Administrative Assistant Jeannine Russo, Officer Nic Blayney and Members of the Public.

14

15 1. Approval of Agenda

16 (a) **Commissioner Overcash** made a **MOTION** to approve the Agenda. Seconded by **Commissioner**
17 **Simmons**. Motion passed 5-0.

18

19 2. Consent Agenda: (Tab 1)

20 (a) Consider Approval of Minutes from Town Board Regular Meeting December 5, 2017

21

22 **Commissioner White** made a **MOTION** to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by **Commissioner Overcash**.
23 Motion passed 5-0.

24

25 **3. Public Comment Period:** Mayor Belangia asked if anyone would like to speak. Limit comments to 3 minutes
26 and comments to full board not individual.

27

28 4. Public Hearings

29 Two Public Hearings are scheduled for January 25th prior to the Quarterly Workshop – one on the short term rental
30 for Mr. Sharpe at 309 High Street and one to adjust the previous changes to the Manufactured Home Section of the
31 GMO Permissible Use Table.

32

33 **Commissioner White** made a **MOTION** to set the Public Hearing for the Sharpe SUP at 309 High Street as well as
34 the GMO proposed changes for January 25th at 4pm (or as soon as can be reached). Seconded by **Commissioner**
35 **Overcash**. Motion passed 5-0.

36

37 Manager Miller asked to Board to review what had been passed in November in their packets and what is now being
38 proposed. She stated Mr. Barton did raise a valid question that Manufactured Homes cannot be outlawed by class
39 but we can require minimums. References to class will be removed. In the past, modular homes did not have a
40 definition as once they are on site; it is the same as a stick-built house. Manufacture Home definition will be
41 changed, remove Class A and Class B but keep the parameters for Class A Manufactured Homes. Planning Board
42 will hear this at their January 17th meeting and make final recommendations. The Board will have a draft prior to
43 advertisement for the Public Hearing.

44

45 5. January Quarterly Workshop Meeting Agenda

46 Manager requests that the Board choose which topics it is interested in. Commissioner White feels it should be kept
47 to three or four topics.

48

49 • Dog park rules and regulations, draft will be forwarded to the County. Manager Miller obtained a local
50 example, vetted by the Town's attorney.

50

51 • Hodges Street flooding will be handled on March 1. Residents will be able to complete a similar
52 survey to the one taken by Commissioners and Town employees.

52

53 • As far as the FY 2016-17 statements, we are \$5,000 off at the end of 2016. The auditor is aware. The
software company is aware. We are waiting for adjusting entries from the auditor to see if that brings

- 54 us closer. We can then write off the difference. We are matching the bank and the book is off. We can
55 move forward once we receive those entries.
- 56 • Committee vacancies: Manager Miller said she can put a list together for the Board or she can
57 advertise what is open.
 - 58 • Welcome to Oriental sign, will get update from Andrew.
- 59

60 Commissioner Overcash stated we should advertise the vacancies. Commissioner White feels that one of the biggest
61 things facing the Town is Whittaker Point. He has been to two meetings that were held at M & Ms. Jim Blackerby
62 has a presentation and Commissioner White feels that we should allow that presentation to be seen by the people
63 attending our workshop so they understand what is happening at Whittaker Point. Commissioner White feels we also
64 need to define our position based upon ownership of the land now and what we think are the plans going forward.
65 He views these planning sessions for longer term items and if we can identify a few long term items then we can use
66 these planning sessions and budget process to see about funding these things. Another item Commissioner White
67 feels is important is the paving of the streets. Manager Miller said this needs to be delayed until we get past the DOT
68 issue. Manager Miller stated we may need to invest in relocating some of our water lines if DOT chooses to pave
69 Highway 55. The County has requested funding for this but if DOT chooses not to, we would have to shoulder the
70 expense. Commissioner White continued discussion about Whittaker Point. They do have a grant for \$360,000 but
71 they have to come up with another \$110,000-\$120,000 but this should all be put out to the public. Four year
72 staggered terms has also been raised. The state may take it to even-numbered years so the next elections' winners
73 would have to serve a three-year term, if this were to happen.

74

75 **6. Appointments to the Planning Board**

76 There are two vacancies and we have one candidate who has agreed to serve, Mr. Sandy Winfrey. Manager Miller
77 feels that it is good to have a general contractor as they will look at the rules from a different perspective. Mr.
78 Winfrey was instrumental in building the public restrooms at the harbor and is very familiar with the building
79 restrictions in our GMO. There is another candidate, Mr. Larry Langson, who has to check with his previous
80 employment, the School of Government, to see if he is able to serve while he holds this position. Manager Miller has
81 asked the Board to appoint Mr. Winfrey.

82

83 **Commissioner Overcash** made a **MOTION** to appoint Sandy Winfrey to the Planning Board. Seconded by
84 **Commissioner Simmons**. Motion passed 5-0.

85

86 **7. Adjustment to the holiday resolution**

87 Manager Miller referred to a paper copy provided to the Board with one adjustment to the one on the screen. The
88 Board's copy has the adjustment "Whereas the Town Manager has the ability to adjust these closings for specified
89 events at his or her discretion as..." This is so if there is construction or a street needs to be changed or some other
90 issue, the Town Manager can make these changes without having to take them back to the Board. Manager Miller
91 still encourages anyone holding a large event to bring a presentation to the Board ahead of time. Commissioner
92 Overcash agrees as this would be the time to bring up any concerns. Commissioner White feels this is a good thing
93 as there are only eight events and they are standard events. Manager Miller stated as far as the fireworks go, that is a
94 year by year request to DOT so this adjustment gives us some flexibility there.

95

96 **Commissioner White** made a **MOTION** to approve the Resolution as presented for the holidays to allow the Town
97 Manager discretion on these eight events. Seconded by **Commissioner Overcash**. Motion passed 5-0.

98

99 **8. Adjustment to the banking resolution (in light of elections)**

100 Manager Miller stated this is a technical document that needs to be passed in light of the assignments that were
101 made last meeting. Currently, on our signature cards we have Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi so we need to remove her
102 and the Board has elected to add Ms. Simmons as a signer on our documents.

103

104 **Commissioner Overcash** made a **MOTION** to accept the Resolution. Seconded by **Commissioner Dammeyer**.
105 Motion passed 5-0.

106

107 **9. Resolution to DOT for road widening**

108 Manager Miller stated that the Town was notified on Friday (December 29) that DOT has contacted the County
109 about widening Highway 55 from Bayboro to the foot of the bridge in Oriental. Manager Miller had one concern so
110 she had Public Works go out and measure from the water line to the edge of the asphalt as we will need this
111 information if they choose to move forward with this project. This Resolution is similar to the one in the Board
112 packet that the County will be sending – they are also approving this evening. It requests that they skip the parts
113 where we have curb and gutter. This is a two-foot widening on either side to accommodate pedestrians and golf carts
114 and bicycles, etc. This is good in that respect. However, Mr. Buck spoke about his experience with them widening
115 304 and 306 and that they had paved over utility lines and have had a water break and had a terrible time getting to
116 it. Cutting a street cuts its lifespan by 50% so we would like to avoid this and keep our utilities away from the road.
117 Our Resolution is similar but specific to us. Manager Miller asks for consideration to approve this Resolution to help
118 move this process along to get our street widened where we can. Commissioner White asked if we could add in
119 about lowering the speed limit. Manager Miller stated this is a separate request and this is still on track. Traffic
120 counters had been placed a few months back and this is moving forward. Manager Miller sent the annexation
121 paperwork for Piggly Wiggly so they are aware that our town limits now extend to the Piggly Wiggly.
122 Commissioner White feels with the wider road, this will encourage pedestrian traffic and justify lowering the speed
123 limit.

124
125 **Commissioner Dammeyer** made a **MOTION** to approve the Resolution. Seconded by **Commissioner Simmons**.
126 Motion passed 5-0.

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128 **10. Police Report**

129 Officer Blayney reported one residential alarm call just over the bridge, within our ETJ (extraterritorial jurisdiction).
130 Animal Control had two missing dogs and one call about foxes. There were less theft, breaking and entering and
131 trespassing than he would have expected being so close to Christmas. There was one traffic citation, one warning,
132 two collisions – one on Silverbrook and one in a parking lot of New Year’s Eve, no injuries. Welfare and business
133 checks went well. There were many information stops on New Year’s Eve. Working relationship is good with State
134 Highway Patrol and the Sheriff’s Office. Overall, it was a very good month. Manager Miller did add that Officer
135 Blayney is a Reserve Officer with the Sheriff’s Office so he is able to work jointly with them outside of our Town
136 limits and likewise, they assist Officer Blayney. Commissioner Dammeyer asked what the Ordinance violations
137 were and they were boaters overstaying their time limit at the dock blocking the pump out.

138
139 **11. Manager’s Report**

- 140 • Financials are attached.
- 141 • Sidewalk repair contract – work will start after we defrost.
- 142 • The dog park installation is almost complete. It is currently too cold to lay lines for the water fountain.
- 143 • Manager Miller will be at school from January 9-12.
- 144 • Andrew Cox is back on limited duty. The staff has been covering all testing requirements admirably.
- 145 • The annual Christmas party went well.
- 146 • There were no unanswered questions from last meeting.
- 147 • We have partnered with the County and ordered stickers for our recycling cans stating what can and cannot
148 be recycled.
- 149 • A letter was sent to the Department of Insurance. They have decided that Pamlico County will receive an
150 increase of 25%, which is the statutory maximum, on wind and hail insurance. After further research, found
151 evidence that said “After a lengthy filing hearing in 2014, (inaudible) insurance found that rates in eastern
152 Carolina were excessive and ordered a decrease of 18%.” Manager Miller is questioning how, within three
153 years, the rate bureau’s filing indicates the need for a rate increase of 25%, which is 80% over that 18%.
154 The reasons came to us from the County. Manager Miller pulled off the ones she felt were most relevant to
155 us. Statistically, 68% of wind damage is done from the middle of the state to the western side of the state
156 and most of those counties are not seeing a 25% increase. Manager Miller composed a letter signed by
157 Mayor Belangia and we received confirmation that they received it. She is reasonably sure the County
158 wrote a response. Several citizens have also written letters as well.
- 159 • The National Weather Service in Newport updated at 3:30pm and will update at 7am. We are expecting a
160 winter storm to come in tomorrow (January 3) at noon to start as rain/freezing rain. There is expected to be
161 a tenth to a quarter of an inch of ice and then snow on top of that so we are expecting some difficulty
162 driving. Mayor Belangia believes she should declare a snow day and have everyone stay home on

163 Thursday. Staff may be sent home early on Wednesday and preparations have been made, rock salt, etc.
164 Manager Miller urges residents to do what they need to do this evening and try to stay off the roads for the
165 safety of our police and first responders.
166

167 **12. Committee Reports**

- 168 1. HWAC – November 9, 2017
 - 169 2. Tree Board – November 28, 2017
- 170

171 **13. Commissioners Comments**

172 Commissioner White stated that Manager Miller’s annual review is coming up in March and he will get together
173 with the new Commissioners (Dammeyer and Simmons) to go over the process. They will need to schedule a
174 meeting and go into closed session. Commissioner Overcash asked if we should set a date at the Agenda Meeting on
175 January 25 for our Annual Retreat. Manager Miller stated we have already picked a date for the first Friday in
176 March. Commissioner Price spoke about the first responder vehicle and how after visiting several people in the
177 hospital, they are “singing the praises” of the first responders and the new vehicle and that lives have actually been
178 saved because of this.
179

180 **14. Adjourn.**

181 **Commissioner Simmons** made a **MOTION** to adjourn. Seconded by **Commissioner Dammeyer**. Motion passed 5-
182 0.

183 Meeting adjourned at 7:36pm.
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188 _____
189 Sally Belangia, Mayor

_____ Diane H. Miller, Town Manager/Clerk

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193 Approved _____, 2018_____