

Town of Oriental
Town Board Meeting
March 4, 2014

The Town Board of Commissioners held a regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, March 4, 2014 at 7:00 PM. Mayor Sage determined a quorum was present, and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Mayor Sage, Commissioners Overcash, White, Venturi, Summers and Winfrey, Town Manager Cutler, Police Captain Moore, Deputy Town Clerk Beyer, and public.

Mayor Sage asked for approval of the Agenda and the Consent Agenda.

MOTION: Commissioner Summers made a Motion to approve the Agenda. Commissioner Overcash seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Commissioner Summers made a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Overcash seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

The Mayor then opened the floor to the public for Public Comment. Ms. Grace Evans spoke against real estate signs in the rights of way. She also suggested the Town look into alternative locations for placement of the signs.

Mr. Doug Sligh was then given the floor to discuss Cycle NC 2014 and present street closure requests. He requested closure of South Avenue at Neuse and High Street, and presented a street map to the Board to illustrate the requested closures. A copy of this is incorporated by referenced and attached to the Minutes. Mr. Sligh also requested funding for the rental of tents, hydrant hookups for the shower truck on Freemason and South Avenue, and additional trash and recycle cans for the parks, and a single use liquor license for a beer garden at the Neuse River Suites. Captain Moore, Town Police will sign and seal the application.

MOTION: Commissioner Summers made a Motion to close the streets outlined in the map from 5:00 PM Thursday, April 3, 2014 through 5:00 PM Sunday, April 6, 2014, and authorize the Tourism Board to fund up to \$1,500 for the tent rental; to be taken from the reserve account line item 65800, Heads in Beds Allocation. Commissioner Venturi seconded. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Overcash amended the Motion concerning the tent rental to read: rent as many tents, tables and chairs as can be obtained from the Town of Oriental Rotary Club. Commissioner Venturi seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Paul Olson and Sam Myers presented their street closure requests for the In Water Boat Show. The Boat show will be held April 11 through April 13, 2014 in Oriental Harbor.

The street closures include South Water Street at New Street, to West Water Street beginning April 9, 2014, to allow for staging of trailers and boats. Businesses in the area of the street closures will remain open, and the Rotary staff will post signs and have personnel to direct patrons to those businesses.

MOTION: Commissioner White made a Motion to close the streets referenced from 8:00 AM April 9, 2014 to 6:00 PM April 13, 2014. Commissioner Venturi seconded. Discussion followed.

There was concern over the dinghy dock being blocked; there will be floating docks as exhibits where boats may tie up. Motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Commissioner Summers made a Motion to allow the Boat Show use of the dinghy dock for the duration of the Boat Show. Commissioner Venturi seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

The next item on the Agenda is the setting of the date for a Public Hearing to discuss a Special Use Permit for the Oriental West Condominium Association.

MOTION: Commissioner Overcash made a Motion to set the date for Public Hearing for the Oriental West Condominium Association as Tuesday, April 1, 2014 at 7:00 PM. Commissioner Summers seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

The annual Town Board Retreat is scheduled for Friday, March 21, 2014 and Saturday, March 22, 2014. More information will be available as the date nears.

An amendment to Chapter S of the General Ordinances was presented. The amendment consisted of adding the Cross Connect Control and Backflow Permit Fees to Article I. Water Rates, Miscellaneous Water Fees/Rates.

MOTION: Commissioner Summers made a Motion to amend Chapter S of the General Ordinance. Commissioner Winfrey seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Concerning the Agenda Item entitled, NCDENR Pumpout Grant; Town Manager Cutler indicated that water would be necessary and electricity as well. There is the possibility of solar lighting is being looked into and also using existing power pole.

The extension of the South Avenue Pier is still in process; an application for a CAMA permit will be submitted, and, while there is no guarantee from CAMA, there does not seem to be any issues that would prevent the permit from being issued. The Board, with no objection, instructed the Town Manager to pursue the CAMA grant and once the permit has been issued, finish the extension of the pier.

Town Manager Cutler presented the Manager's Report, beginning with the financial statements. It was noted there was a payroll shortfall, but this should be offset with budget amendments and Powell Bill funds.

In reference to the lawsuit filed by David Cox, a brief has been filed with the Court of Appeals for a final decision. A copy of this brief will be available at Town Hall.

The contract between the Town and GDS Sanitation has come up for renewal. The Town Manager and Waste Management Coordinator Joe Valinoti will look into the contract options.

Representatives for the new Oriental Walmart will be meeting this week with two of the members of the Tree Board to discuss landscaping the parking lot and storefront.

The owners of the Starling house wish to move the rope and pole barricade that is in front of the property. The Town Manager will consult with the Town Attorney considering this removal.

Captain Dwaine Moore presented his monthly report for the Police Department. He remarked that the past month was very quiet and uneventful.

In the matter of the search for a new Town Manager, it has been narrowed down to 3 finalists. The background checks have been received, and it with no objection from the Board, it was agreed upon to recess this meeting to Thursday, March 6, 2014 at 8:00 AM to select the candidate for Town Manager.

The next agenda item concerned the Croaker Fest. There is still no one to chair the event. Candy Bohmert, past chairman, has called a meeting at Brantley's restaurant on Saturday, March 8, 2014 at 9:00 AM. The purpose of the meeting is to garner participation and ultimately a new chair.

The Committee and Board Reports were next on the Agenda. Commissioner Venturi reported on behalf of the Parks & Rec Advisory Board. There is concern over an electrical wire that is hanging over the ramp. Boat masts must be lowered to avoid hitting the wire. Town Manager Cutler will look into having Duke Energy schedule a site visit to evaluate possibly relocating the line.

Commissioner Venturi then presented a Motion on behalf of the Tourism Board to appoint Suzanne Gwaltney to the Board.

MOTION: Commissioner Venturi made a Motion to appoint Suzanne Gwaltney to a 3 year term to the Tourism Board. Commissioner Summers seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

The Harbor Water Fronts Committee reported having the Harbor Water Fronts Plan available at the upcoming Town Board Retreat.

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Venturi made a Motion to Recess the meeting until Thursday, March 6, 2014 at 8:00 AM. Commissioner Summers seconded. Motion passed 5-0. Meeting recessed at 8:35 PM.

Bill Sage, Mayor

Wyatt Cutler, Town Manager