

Town of Oriental
Town Board Meeting
May 6, 2014

The Town of Oriental Town Board held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 6, 2014 at 7:00 PM. Mayor Pro Tem Barb Venturi determined a quorum to be present, and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Mayor Pro Tem Venturi, Commissioners Overcash, White, Summers, Town Manager Miller, Police Captain Moore, Deputy Town Clerk Beyer, Tree Board members and public

ABSENT: Mayor Sage, Commissioner Winfrey

Mayor Pro Tem Venturi presented the Agenda for Board approval.

MOTION: Commissioner Summers made a Motion to approve the Agenda as presented. Commissioner Overcash seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

The Consent Agenda was next presented for Board approval.

MOTION: Commissioner Summers made a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Overcash seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Mayor Pro Tem Venturi then opened the floor to Public Comment, with Ms. Madeline Sutter reading a letter in support of the Tree Board's efforts. The letter is referenced herein and incorporated hereto these minutes.

Mr. Bob Miller of the Oriental Tree Board spoke next concerning the Tree Board's role in the Town, and that perhaps if the Board moved its meeting to the third Tuesday of the month, the Town Board would be better informed of the Tree Board's plans for planting and removal of trees.

The floor was then closed to Public Comment and Mayor Pro Tem Venturi continued with the Agenda.

The Military Order of the Purple Heart has approached the Town Board concerning the purchase of a street sign designating the Town as a Purple Heart Community. It was agreed upon unanimously that the Town issued a proclamation stating same, and that a sign purchase would be unnecessary.

A proclamation was read by Mayor Pro Tem Venturi proclaiming the week of May 11 through May 17, 2014 as Police Week. Mayor Pro Tem Venturi amended the last sentence of the proclamation, changing Pamlico County to read Oriental.

MOTION: Commissioner White made a Motion to proclaim May 11 through May 17, 2014 as Police Week in the Town of Oriental. Commissioner Summers seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

The next Agenda item concerned an Action Plan for the Tree Board. Based on Mr. Miller's comments during the Public Comment segment, the Town Board agreed to the Tree Board's meeting schedule being changed to the third Tuesday of the month. With this change, the Town Board would be better informed as to the Tree Board's plans for plantings and removal of trees.

Town Manager Miller presented her Manager's Report beginning with the Financial Statements. She noted that the Budget for the new fiscal year was on target and near completion.

The fundraiser for the Tennis Court raised \$1289, which will be put towards several small projects benefitting the court.

Governor McCrory's office has sent the Town a letter confirming the award of the CAMA grant for the South Avenue restrooms. Once the contract is received and becomes fully executed, work can begin on the restrooms.

Concerning the Water Plant, there was a failed effluent test due to the water being too clean. This was due to the annual disinfection or burnout process. This problem has been corrected, and another water test has been taken and submitted. No further issues have been reported.

The Croaker Fest committee has asked for additional power poles be installed in Lou Mac Park. Cheryl Thompson, Chair for this year's Croaker Fest, is meeting with a representative from Duke Energy. The verbal estimate for these poles would be merely the meter fee, which is approximately \$17 per meter to power up the meters.

The Oriental West Condominium Association representatives have received their letters from the Town concerning removal of the out of compliance deck. There is a 30 day time frame from the date of receipt of these letters for the removal to commence.

Captain Moore presented his police report, and reminded everyone to ensure their homes were secure during the evening and also if residents are planning on being away. There is a form available from Town Hall that can be filled out by citizens in Town to have the Police check on residences while the occupants are away.

The next Agenda item was Committee and Board Reports, with Mayor Pro Tem Venturi recommending reappointment of Sue Magnuson and Jim Edwards on the Parks and Rec Committee.

MOTION: Mayor Pro Tem Venturi made a Motion to reappoint Sue Magnuson and Jim Edwards to the Parks and Rec Advisory Committee for a term of 2 years each. Commissioner White seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

The Parks and Rec Committee headed up a Beach Cleanup Day, which was well attended.

A donation of a basketball goal was received and there was discussion concerning placement of this. The donor requested it be installed in Lupton Park, however, the Board feels it may be better suited if it were located at the Rec Park.

Public Works Director Jason Collett is still getting quotes for dock lighting and will report back as soon as possible.

The Planning Board is working on implementation of a Dark Skies Ordinance which would limit skyward lighting, and light pollution.

Mayor Pro Tem Venturi, on behalf of the Tourism Board, presented an amendment to Chapter L, Tourism Board to read as follows:

- a) The Tourism Board shall consist of five (5) regular members with an emphasis on seeking members that are affiliated with businesses or organizations that collect the Town's Occupancy Tax plus one (1) ex officio member appointed by the Mayor from the Town Board.

MOTION: Commissioner Summers made a Motion to approve the Amendment to the General Ordinance, Chapter L, Members. Commissioner White seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Ms. Venturi also recommended appointing Carol Mabe to a term of 1 year, and Bill Wheeler to a term of 3 years.

MOTION: Commissioner Summers made a Motion to approve the appointments of Carol Mabe for 1 year and Bill Wheeler for 3 years to the Tourism Board. Commissioner White seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

The floor was then opened to Commissioner Comments; with Commissioner Overcash praising the Public Works employees on their good work at the Water Plant and shop area around the water plant.

Commissioner Summers would like to have the fire siren calibrated to tone differently for storms, fires and civil defense situations. He also reminded everyone about the upcoming Paddling in Pamlico event May 23 through May 26, 2014.

Mayor Pro Tem Venturi read an excerpt from a book about the history of Oriental. The excerpt described the trees planted in Lou Mac Park a number of years ago.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned. Commissioner Overcash made a Motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Summers seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 PM.

Barb Venturi, Mayor Pro Tem

Diane H. Miller, Town Manager