



## ORIENTAL TOWN BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, August 7, 2018 at 7pm

507 Church Street, Oriental, NC

Mayor Sally Belangia Officiating

6 The Town Board of Oriental Town Board Meeting on August 7, 2018 was called to order at 7pm. The Mayor Sally  
7 Belangia determined a quorum to be present. She said we have a Public Comment period, if you wish to speak  
8 please make sure you are signed up on the correct sheet.  
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10 Present: Mayor Sally Belangia, Mayor Pro Tempore White, Commissioner Overcash, Commissioner Simmons,  
11 Commissioner Price, Town Manager Diane Miller, Deputy Finance Director Tammy Cox, Administrative Assistant  
12 Jeannine Russo, Officer Nic Blayne, Officer Bill Wichrowski and Members of the Public. Commissioner  
13 Dammeyer was absent.  
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### 15 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

16 **Commissioner Overcash** made a **MOTION** to approve the Agenda. Seconded by **Commissioner Simmons**.  
17 Motion passed 4-0.  
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#### 19 1. Consent Agenda (Tab 1)

- 20 a. Approve Minutes from Regular Town Board Meeting July 28, 2018
- 21 b. Approve Special Meeting Minutes from July 9, 2018  
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23 **Mayor Pro Tempore White** made a **MOTION** to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by **Commissioner**  
24 **Simmons**. Motion passed 4-0.  
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### 26 REGULAR BUSINESS

#### 27 2. Public Comment Period

28 **Madeline Sutter – 300 Whittaker Point Road** – Mrs. Sutter stated she has been living here nearly 30 years. Mrs.  
29 Sutter read from a written document that was presented to Manager Miller, Mayor Belangia and the Board of  
30 Commissioners, document attached. She spoke about the Whittaker Creek Dredging Project Grant and the donations  
31 that have been collected for the grant match and stated that the list of donors on Towndock are private citizens,  
32 noting that no businesses are listed as contributors. In her opinion, Whittaker Creek Yacht Harbor has the most to  
33 gain from this project. Whittaker Creek Yacht Owner’s Association and Whittaker Creek Yacht Charters both own  
34 and operate businesses on this peninsula, neither of which have donated. She further states that Whittaker Creek  
35 Yacht Owners Association has a dredging fund and believes now would be the time to employ this and that it is time  
36 to “get cash” from the business owners.  
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#### 39 3. Town Board Regular Meeting Schedule (Tab 2)

40 Manager Miller presented the meeting schedule to be set, at the Mayor’s discretion, for the new fiscal year. There  
41 was some discussion about taking the workshop meetings to the morning. The September 4 meeting is the day after  
42 Labor Day; meeting was moved to September 5 at 7pm. Workshops scheduled for September 27 and January 31 are  
43 both scheduled for 8am. The November 6 meeting (Election Day), traditionally, is moved from 7pm to 8pm. Last  
44 election day, it was moved to the next day as there was a Public Hearing and would run late. Manager Miller stated,  
45 for those who may not know, Mayor Belangia is running for County Commissioner so the outcome will be  
46 important to some of our folks in town and suggests a different day. Commissioner Simmons stated she prefers  
47 November 7; Commissioners agreed, set for 7pm. Manager Miller stated concerning the January 1 meeting, she and  
48 staff would not be here. This meeting was moved to January 8 at 7pm. Retreat is scheduled for March 8, 2019, a  
49 Friday, and we will state that there is no regularly scheduled meeting. Addressing a previous question from resident  
50 Larry Summers, Manager Miller stated that when a regularly scheduled meeting is moved, that is considered to have  
51 been met. A Special Meeting does not fill the obligation to meet once monthly.  
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53 **Mayor Pro Tempore White** made a **MOTION** to approve the dates and times as discussed. Seconded by  
54 **Commissioner Overcash**. Motion passed 4-0.

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**4. Whittaker Pointe Restoration Project**

Manager Miller stated, as most are aware, we were awarded the Grant Award from Golden Leaf at \$916,406. There is also a Grant pending from NCDEQ for \$400,000 and there will be a Grant submitted shortly by the North Carolina Coastal Federation on our behalf for another \$400,000 which would cover any cost overruns and construction, permitting (inaudible). Dredging funds collected to date are \$25,802. The Golden Leaf Foundation is meeting on August 15; we are one of two recipients this year. Manager Miller and Lisa Thompson of Harbor Waterfronts are going to Goldsboro for processing instruction. Manager Miller was prepared to ask for authorization for transference of the land but it was stated in our minutes that we will not accept the land unless we find the money to fix it was sufficient so our attorney has it on your release to take possession of that land and he is waiting for signatures from the other party to transfer it over. A new appraisal of the parcel was done. If an appraisal is not done, the tax value of the property is the value of the property. The new appraisal benefits both the current owners and us and is for \$59,000; the old appraisal was at \$24,600 or \$26,400. This gives us more money toward the required NCDEQ match and gives them more of a tax write off when they transfer the land. All of this paperwork is with the attorney and will be transferring the land shortly. Mayor Pro Tempore White asked if the \$916,000 we are receiving is with no matching portion? Manager Miller stated the only condition of that grant is that we take possession of the land. Mayor Pro Tempore White asked if the other two grants, DEQ and NC Coastal Federation, if those are matching grants and can we use the \$916,000 as our portion (inaudible) for the matching grant; Manager Miller replied we can. Mayor Pro Tempore White continued – if we pay 50% or a third, depending on the grant. Manager Miller stated the DEQ grant is 50% and is unaware what the Fish and Wildlife grant is but we will pay nothing. The Golden Leaf Grant is private money. The DEQ grant is a state grant and the Fish and Wildlife is a federal grant; you can match state money to federal money but you cannot match state to state or federal to federal and you can match private money to anything else so all of those match against each other and we do not have to put anything in. Mayor Pro Tempore White asked if we could put time and labor. Manager Miller stated all of that counts and will be counting of the value of the land, the costs to have it appraised, if we have to use the spoils out of Pierce Creek and will be using that as a donation. All of that counts plus our time and administrative costs. Mayor Pro Tempore White stated we need to thanks Manager Miller for her leadership and the Harbor Water Committee and Lisa Thompson for all they have done as this puts us in a very good position as there were concerns from citizens that we may have to come up with a matching portion but that is covered with the \$916,000, also with labor and the property value so there will be no increase to the Town residents to go after the point. If we get it, we could end up with \$1,200,000 or \$1,400,000 if this all comes through, this is very good. Manager Miller stated it should be enough to stabilize the point. Commissioner Overcash asked about a previous comment regarding our attorney, does that mean Manager Miller does not need any authorization? Manager Miller stated she asked him today what was needed from the Board to transfer the land; he said nothing. Mayor Pro Tempore White stated that we are acting as the distributor of the money for the dredging project. We are not asking for private donations for the land, it will be used exclusively for the dredging project. Manager Miller stated this is a reserved/restricted account, separate and apart from our budget. Mayor Pro Tempore White added that grants have to be administered through a public sector organization, cannot be administered privately. This situation is similar to the Pierce Creek dredging project.

**5. Tree Board Vacancy – change to Ordinance to allow one nonresident member (Tab 3)**

Manager Miller stated that Ken King, long time member of our Tree Board, has semi-retired from the Board. The Tree Board has been operating, illegally, with seven members, and would like to make a legal thing and change it from six, as Ordinance states, to seven members with one of those potentially outside of Town limits as they do work inside and outside of Town and feel it is fair to have one member reside out of Town.

**Commissioner Overcash** made a **MOTION** to accept the change to the Ordinance as proposed. Seconded by **Commissioner Simmons**. Motion passed 4-0.

**6. Budget Amendment/quote revised in Water Fund (Tab 4)**

Police Capital Reserve Appropriated – this is reserve money that we have put away and needs to be moved into the account from which we will pay for the new vehicle. Contract cleaning services and Harbor Master is the same thing, moving from reserved/restricted account to expense accounts that we pay those expenses from. As it is more than \$1,000, the Board needs to approve the Budget Amendment. Depreciation in the Water Fund will be decreased by \$4,100 as a valve necessary to the operation of the plant, that was planned for replacement this year, the quote

109 ran out that was used in budget preparation and the new quote is that much higher. Public Works Director Andrew  
110 Cox assured Manager Miller this is not a want; this is a need, quote attached.

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112 **Mayor Pro Tempore White** made a **MOTION** to approve the Budget Amendments as presented. Seconded by  
113 **Commissioner Overcash**. Motion passed 4-0.

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115 **7. Requested closings for events: Old Front Porch Music Festival, Oriental Rotary Car Show. (Tab 5)**  
116 Manager Miller showed the standard Closing Resolution – closing South Avenue and feeder streets at South Avenue  
117 according to the projections provided by the organizers no later than a month prior to the event. This allows for  
118 expansion and contraction. That is why the part in the Standing Resolution is not more specific. Mr. Sam Myers has  
119 provided a picture of the requested closures – Saturday, October 13, the Saturday after the Ol’ Front Porch Music  
120 Festival – for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Oriental Classic Show sponsored by the Rotary Club. The closures requested are the  
121 same as what has been requested, and approved, for the past two years. Sam Myers believes they can accommodate  
122 a, hopefully, 10-20% growth. Mayor Pro Tempore White asked if there would be anyone moving streets as what  
123 happened during the Boat Show. Sam Myers stated they will not have the same individual moving the gate entrance  
124 location. Mayor Pro Tempore White stated if they approve the street closings, everyone in the Rotary has to adhere  
125 to what is agreed to and we do not want to send police to tell someone to move something back where it should be.  
126 Sam Myers is in agreement and it was asked that he communicate this to the other members of the Rotary.

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128 **Mayor Pro Tempore White** made a **MOTION** to approve the requested street closures. Seconded by  
129 **Commissioner Price**. Motion passed 4-0.

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131 Sam Myers would like to present an idea to the Board at the September meeting together with some other Rotary  
132 members. After five years at the current Boat Show location, they are encountering some space issues and feels the  
133 show is getting somewhat “tired” on that site. They have retained 90% or more of their exhibitors each year but  
134 believe they are getting stagnant. They would like to explore using some of Tom McIlhenny’s slips at the harbor and  
135 the two adjacent lots at Hodges Street. They are about 90% through their due diligence requesting the closure of that  
136 span next month but wanted to give the Board a heads up. If the Board has questions about the show’s progress,  
137 growth and difficulties at the current site, he asked that the Board call at their convenience. They have already  
138 called, in person, seven of the eight businesses and property owners and all seven are on board. They have not been  
139 able to schedule with the eighth as of yet. Commissioner Overcash asked Sam for a copy of the ones they have  
140 contacted and he will provide these and thanked the Board for their support. Mr. Myers will return to discuss  
141 changing the venue in September.

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143 Dottie Osmun of the Ol’ Front Porch Music Festival said this is their 5<sup>th</sup> year stating they get a little bit bigger and a  
144 little bit better every year. She presented a map of the requested road closures. First all the way across will be open.  
145 From First to South they are requesting for closures of King, Neuse, Freemason, Mildred, High and Vandemere and  
146 also at Wall Street and South. This is a walking festival; biking and golf carts are welcome but cars are not. This  
147 year they will have ROTC students from the high school for traffic and parking control. There will be two ROTC  
148 students at the head of each of the closed streets. They will help with other things as well. She stated the barriers  
149 helped but were not enough. They are asking for those closures as there is music on every street. Commissioner  
150 Price asked if Mildred (inaudible) just up to River Neuse. Dottie Osmun stated that Mildred only has music at a  
151 certain time on each day and after that, the barrier can be removed so traffic can get into River Neuse. It starts at 10  
152 so they will be up early Saturday morning. They are not asking for Friday although the festival does start at 2:00 on  
153 Friday and they are going to try it without blocking anything and without golf carts. The food park and vendors are  
154 not open on Friday. Performers are listed on Towndock. On Sunday, there will be a community service at the  
155 Methodist lot at Freemason and South. All of the Ministers in the community have been invited with mostly gospel  
156 music and a little bit of prayer from 9-10:30am. No street closings are need. Street closings are from 8am to 6pm on  
157 Saturday. There will be a fundraiser at the Brewery on Saturday, August 11.

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159 **Mayor Pro Tempore White** made a **MOTION** to allow the street closures as delineated from 8am to 6pm on  
160 Saturday, October 6. Seconded by **Commissioner Simmons**. Motion passed 4-0.

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162 **8. Manager’s Report (Tab 6)**

- Financials are attached

- Continuing Education – Manager Miller will be out on August 8 at the Eastern Carolina Council of Government for the Quarterly Manager’s Meeting and will be attending the Golden Leaf Meeting in Goldsboro August 15. Public Works Director Andrew Cox will be attending Maintenance School August 13-16. Josh Gibson and Jesse Burgess will be out August 9 for Continuing Education. Manager Miller will also, possibly, be out over the Labor Day weekend.
- Budgeted project: For the past three years, we have budgeted replacement of the office structures in the outer office. The current structures were built in place by public works and are in need of replacement and will be delivered on August 21. Demolition will be on August 21 and installation on August 22; offices will be closed. Please drop water payments in the drop box. We will try to answer phones but they will need to be disconnected at some point so residents may or may not be able to get through.
- There is a letter from Manager Miller written to our Board member at DOT concerning the requested reduction in speed limit from Village Health and Fitness to past Piggly Wiggly. The letter explains, again, that our only grocery store is in a place where residents once had access in the 35mpg zone on the back side and we no longer have that access. Many of Oriental’s residents are elderly and do not drive – have golf carts, bicycles or walk. We will continue to present our case to have the speed limit lowered to extend our golf cart use that far. Mayor and Board were pleased with the letter. Responses thus far have not been positive.

**9. Police Report (Tab 7)**

Officer Blayney spoke about Croakerfest, stated it went “great” right up until the fireworks were done, people scrambling to leave but no one was injured and went well. Traffic control went very well with the parade and the fireworks. This was Officer Blayney’s first Croakerfest working with the Town, as well as Officer Wichrowski. For most of June, Officers Blayney and Wichrowski did a lot of admin work, not too many things going on. There were several animal control calls, nothing rabies related. Manager Miller shared a personal story related to one of those calls involving the relocation of a very large snapping turtle where young children were playing. The turtle was removed without incident by Pamlico County Animal Control Officer Berkley Hill. Commissioner Price inquired about the other animal control calls, if they were serious. There was a call about a suspected rabid fox, which was not. There was a deer acting odd. Officer Blayney asked that the public please not feed the wildlife as this encourages the wildlife to remain close to homes. Commissioner Price asked about the four drug-related calls in July. Officer Blayney stated they have been working with the Sheriff’s office and other agencies. These calls, he believes, were traffic stop related. They received a few calls about suspicious activity and the people were under the influence of non-alcohol. Mayor Pro Tempore White asked about the three larcenies with two arrests, asked if we are seeing an increase. Officer Blayney said they are not seeing a pattern, could not elaborate on some of them. No house break ins. Moving forward with scheduling where there will be an officer on every day. Manager Miller added that if a resident calls Animal Control officer Berkley Hill and he does not pick up, leave a message and he will return your call. There were also several welfare checks.

**10. Commissioners’ Comments**

Commissioner Simmons feels the residents really do not understand how much work is done by volunteers and expressed her thanks to the volunteer boards in addition to Manager Miller for all of the work they do.

**11. Auxiliary Boards**

- Planning 6-20-18 Draft
- Tourism July 17, 2018
- HWAC: 4/30, 5/3, 5/7, 5/10, 5/16, 5/21, 5/30, 6/7, 6/11, 6/14, 6/21, 6/26, 7/12/18
- BRMSD: July – no meeting, June 17, 2018
- Board of Adjustment 7/26/18

Mayor Pro Tempore White commented on the number of minutes from Harbor Waterfronts. Lisa Thompson stated they have a hard working committee and really was a group effort. Commissioner Overcash asked about a boater that had left his boat in the harbor which had come loose and was tied up at the dinghy dock. He was told he needs to better secure his boat before leaving town.

**12. Adjourn:** Next meeting scheduled as September 4, 2018 7pm Town Hall

**Commissioner Simmons** made a **MOTION** to adjourn. Seconded by **Commissioner Price**. Motion passed 4-0.

219 **Meeting Adjourned at 7:45pm**

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Sally Belangia, Mayor

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Diane H. Miller, Town Manager/Clerk

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229 Approved \_\_\_\_\_, 2018 \_\_\_\_\_