

Town of Oriental
Town Board Meeting
August 6, 2013

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Town of Oriental Town Board was held at Oriental Town Hall on Tuesday, August 6, 2013, beginning at 7:00 PM.

PRESENT: Mayor Sage, Commissioners Bessette, Johnson, Styron, Venturi and Summers; Town Manager Cutler, Administrative Assistant Beyer, Police Captain Moore, and public

Mayor Sage determined that a quorum was present. He opened the meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION: Commissioner Venturi recommended making the following modifications to the Agenda: Reorder the Agenda by placing Items 6, 7 and 8 before Item 4. Commissioner Summers made a Motion to approve the Agenda as modified. Commissioner Styron seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

The **CONSENT AGENDA** listing approval of the Special Meeting Minutes from July 18, 2013, the Minutes from the Town Board Meeting, July 2, 2013, the Minutes from the Town Board Agenda Workshop, June 27, 2013, the Closed Session Minutes, June 27, 2013 and the Special Meeting Minutes, Public Hearing for Proposed Budget, June 17, 2013.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Sage will change the Public Comment Item at the next Agenda Workshop meeting. The Public Comment will be a less formal approach.

Mr. Al Herlands expressed support to the Planning Board's proposed change to the GMO and also inquired as to the Tourist Board's funding requests and from where that money originated.

Mr. Bill Hines requested that on the Tree Board's Spraying Policy, spraying not be done close to the water, maintaining a 30 foot buffer.

Ms. Grace Evans inquired as to the paving of the Wildlife Ramp, an item on the Town Manager's Report, and also expressed concern over the issue of lawn care services blowing grass into ditches.

The Tourism Board has requested additional funds from their reserves. The Dragon Boat Festival Committee has requested \$2377.50 and the Jim Salmon Fishing Show, \$2000. Both requests came in to the Tourism Board after the Budget was adopted.

MOTION: Commissioner Summers made a motion to approve the funding requests for the Dragon Boat Festival and the Jim Salmon Fishing Show. Discussion followed the motion.

Commissioner Summers stated that the Dragon Boat Race portion of the Festival on Saturday was being held at River Dunes due to safety issues, but that the festivities on Friday night were being held in the Town.

The Fishing Show highlighted kayak fishing in Oriental, and Tourism Board Chairman Jackie Wall felt that this would be good publicity for the Town. Motion passed 5-0.

The Tree Board Chairman Bob Miller then presented the Pesticide/Herbicide Spraying Policy. He stated that the document was written with the assistance of Public Works Director Jason Collett. Mayor Sage recommended using the Email Alert List to notify Town residents of spraying dates. There should also be a list of residents who do not wish to have any area near their property sprayed. Town Manager Cutler explained that Duke Energy Progress will be conducting herbicidal spraying on right of ways only, and will be targeting larger vegetative growth endangering power lines.

MOTION: Commissioner Summers made a motion to accept the Pesticide/Herbicide Spraying Policy with the modifications made. Commissioner Venturi seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

David White, Planning Board Member presented the Planning Board's recommendation to change the GMO concerning Travel Trailers and RVs used as permanent residences within the Town limits. The Planning Board was tasked with making this portion of the GMO more concise. A brief summary was then given concerning the recommended changes to be set forth at a Public Hearing at the next Town Board Meeting, Tuesday, September 3, 2013 at 7:00 PM.

In this change, the following items were either changed or made more concise: water and sewer services were addressed, special land use permits and their time limits, and definitions. A copy of this will be sent to the Town Attorney, Scott Davis.

MOTION: Commissioner Venturi made a motion to schedule a Public Hearing to make a change to the GMO concerning RVs and Travel Trailers at the next Town Board Meeting, September 3, 2013. Motion seconded by Commissioner Johnson. Motion passed 5-0.

The next Agenda Item addresses the Resolution to Amend the Commercial Water Rates.

MOTION: Commissioner Johnson made a motion to accept the Resolution as written. Commissioner Bessette seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

An Amendment to the General Ordinance, Chapter K, Water Service, Article XIII, Subs. A(3) was then presented to the Board for approval. In this Amendment, the Subsection was amended to read that the Town shall disallow requests for adjustments for water services billed for watering of lawn or garden, swimming pool, hot tub, guests, etc.

MOTION: Commissioner Johnson made a motion to adopt the Amendment to the General Ordinance Chapter K. Water Service. Commissioner Styron seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Summers then requested that a Water Board Ordinance be adopted and added to Chapter K, Water Service, Article 18. He stated that since there was no Ordinance for creation of the original Water Board, then this board should be considered null and void. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Venturi stated that the Water Advisory Board was set up in 2002. She encouraged the Town Board members to work together with the existing members of the original Water Advisory Board and strengthen its procedures. Commissioner Venturi does not feel that an Ordinance is necessary.

Commissioner Johnson stated that the Water Board should remain true to original Board and meet with Town Board regularly to recommend and discuss rates, fees, grants, and financing. Commissioner Johnson does not feel it is necessary for an Ordinance, either.

The Motion to create a Water Board by Ordinance was put to vote by Mayor Sage, resulting in 2 Ayes by Commissioner Summers and Commissioner Styron, and 3 Nays by Commissioners Bessette, Johnson, and Venturi. The Motion did not carry.

MOTION: Commissioner Venturi made a Motion to schedule a meeting within 2 weeks between the Water Board and the Town Board, with Commissioner Johnson consulting with original Water Board members for the date of the meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Bessette. Motion passed 3-2.

Town Manager Wyatt Cutler presented his Report beginning with an update concerning the Water Plant. Work is progressing with marked improvements each day.

Financial Statements were then presented. Commissioner Venturi noted that in the General Fund Tennis Court Line Item, 64800, no money was brought forward, would like a budget amendment made.

Town Manager Cutler proposed a Budget Amendment to the Water Fund Line Item 56770, Capital Projects, for the Tank Stirrer, citing an offer from the manufacturer to accept yearly payments of \$3625 for 4 years. The same Amendment was made to Line Item 31500, Fund Balance.

MOTION: Commissioner Johnson made a Motion to approve the Amendment to Line Items 56770 and 31500 from \$14,500 to \$3625. Commissioner Venturi seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

A second Budget Amendment was presented concerning the arrival of FEMA money. Line Item 35320, FEMA Reimbursements, was increased by \$46,175.64, and Line Item 35700, Fund Balance Appropriation, was decreased to leave a balance of \$15,375.64.

MOTION: Commissioner Summers made a Motion to accept the Budget Amendment for the FEMA Reimbursement to Line Items 35320 and 35700. Commissioner Venturi seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Town Manager Cutler presented his Manager's report as follows:

Tennis court has been paved already and looking into special coating to seal the surface. The total cost of such a coating is approximately \$3,000 to \$4,000. Commissioner Venturi indicated that private donations and contributions will be coming in.

The floating dock work has been re-awarded to the second lowest bidder, Bobby Prescott. The winning bidder, IBX has not responded since being awarded the contract.

In regard to the Town Manager search, a total of 8-12 resumes have been received. Town Manager Cutler proposed advertising on NCLM or the various List Servers to broaden the search. Discussion followed with the Town Board agreeing that the current resumes should be reviewed first. Commissioner Summers suggested putting together a small committee consisting of two commissioners to review the resumes already received. Commissioner Bessette offered to work with Commissioner Summers on this committee. There were no objections from the Board concerning this committee. A Special Meeting will be held upon review of the resumes to present the committee's findings.

Town Manager Cutler also recommended increasing the tap fees for water service. A more concise report will be presented at the September Town Board meeting.

Town Manager Cutler also recommended that the Agenda Workshop meeting time be changed to 4:00 PM instead of the 5:30 PM meeting time. Commissioner Bessette inquired as to the rules of attending the meeting via electronic means such as Skype or Uvoo. Administrative Assistant Beyer was tasked with verifying the rules concerning this.

Town Manager Cutler then turned over the floor to Commissioner Johnson to speak about the Town's Vegetative Bag Program. Approximately \$4,000 worth of bags have been purchased. These bags are dropped off to Town citizens, who in turn fill them up with yard debris. Once the bags are full, Public Works employees then return to the residence to pick up the full bags. The bags are then dumped at a large compost pile near the water tower on White Farm Road. Commissioner Johnson feels the program is costly and labor intensive.

MOTION: Commissioner Johnson made a Motion to put the Vegetative Bag Program on hold pending further research. Discussion followed. Commissioner Summers inquired as to whether the Program should be put on hold or eliminated. Mayor Sage tasked Town Manager Cutler with looking into the feasibility of such a program. Commissioner Venturi seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Town Manager Cutler then presented an email from Mr. Preston Royster, from the NC Department of Wildlife. The email concerned paving the Wildlife Boat Ramp to include the Town's right of way. The plans are still in their Design Phase, but the Board would like further details on this project prior to commencement. Mr. Royster will be invited to the next Town Board Meeting to further discuss this matter.

Town of Oriental's Police Captain Dwain Moore then presented his monthly report. The pharmacy break in is still being investigated, with 2 persons being of interest. He also spoke of communications issues concerning the radios the police officers carry. The radio system the Town currently has is in need of an update. Captain Moore indicated that Lupton's will be meeting with him tomorrow to present his recommendations on updating the radio system currently in use.

The Harbor Water Fronts Committee will be holding a meeting tomorrow at 5:00 PM at Town Hall. The public is invited to attend.

MOTION: Commissioner Johnson then made a Motion to go into Closed Session per NCGS 143-318.11 (a) Sections (3) and (6). Commissioner Venturi seconded. The Board went into Closed Session at 8:55 PM.

The Board returned from Closed Session at 9:15 PM.

Mayor Sage then indicated it was the Comment and Discussion portion of the meeting.

Commissioner Summers stated that Joe Mattea, head of the Oriental Cup Regatta, needs volunteers to help make this annual event happen. The Regatta is slated for September.

Commissioner Bessette wished to have in the Official Minutes that Town of Oriental would be participating in 2014's National Night Out. She volunteered to be head of the Committee to spearhead this event.

Commissioner Styron stated that the Artificial Reef's handouts described game fish as being in the Neuse River. He recommended changing that verbiage, as no game fish can be found in the River.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

MOTION: Commissioner Summers made a Motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Bessette seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.

William R. Sage, Mayor

Wyatt Cutler, Town Manager