



## ORIENTAL TOWN BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, September 5, 2018 at 7pm

507 Church Street, Oriental, NC

Mayor Sally Belangia Officiating

6 The Town Board of Oriental Town Board Meeting on September 5, 2018 was called to order at 7pm. The Mayor  
7 Sally 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 Town Manager Diane Miller, Deputy Finance Director Tammy Cox, Administrative Assistant Jeannine Russo,  
12 Officer Nic Blayney, Officer Bill Wichrowski and Members of the Public. Commissioners Dammeyer and Price  
13 were absent.

### 14 15 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

16 **Commissioner Overcash** made a **MOTION** to approve the Agenda. Seconded by **Commissioner Simmons**.  
17 Motion passed 3-0.

### 18 19 1. Consent Agenda (Tab 1)

20 a. Approve Minutes from Regular Town Board Meeting August 7, 2018

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22 **Commissioner Overcash** made a **MOTION** to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by **Mayor Pro Tempore**  
23 **White**. Motion passed 3-0.

### 24 25 REGULAR BUSINESS

### 26 27 2. Public Comment Period

28 Sherrill Styron – came tonight to speak about the Rotary, hopes the community knows how strong our Rotary is and  
29 how hard working they are. They raise a lot of money for good purposes. It may be inconvenient for some people to  
30 close Hodges Street, most of all them (Garland Fulcher Seafood), but Rotary needs to make money for their causes.  
31 Mr. Styron believes the businesses would benefit from that amount of people walking around. The Farmer’s Market  
32 may be displaced but believes they may be able to sacrifice one week. He is in favor of the request from the Rotary  
33 to use Hodges Street for the Boat Show.

34  
35 Marsha Papham - Marsha’s Cottage – She agrees with Mr. Styron, is thrilled that it will be on the harbor. There  
36 are inconveniences as far as parking goes but if there is signage, it can be worked out. The benefits will far outweigh  
37 the inconveniences, will be to their benefit and is very much in favor.

38  
39 Will Conkwright – He has reached out to Manager Miller regarding having a police escort on December 2 for the 6<sup>th</sup>  
40 Annual Chuck Fondeaux 103-mile bike ride through the county, approximately 30-35 riders. He is requesting a  
41 police escort starting at The Bean, through South Avenue, down Ragan, back through Highway 55 and then peel off  
42 at the end of the bridge. Would like two police cars with lights to provide safety and awareness to cycling. Mayor  
43 Pro Tempore White asked if this is for the entire 103 miles or just Oriental. Mr. Conkwright said this is only a  
44 ceremonial start. This will raise money for Girls on the Run in memory of Charles Fetzter. They would be needed  
45 from approximately 8:30-9:00am. Commissioner Overcash said since we are in Public Comment, they could vote  
46 during Commissioner’s Comments. Mayor Belangia stated they would let him know at the end of the meeting.

### 47 48 3. Rotary update on moving the Boat Show (Tab 2)

49 Rotary member Sam Myers spoke about the money, predominantly from the Boat Show. They are fortunate this has  
50 grown into their largest single annual fundraiser and the best way to bring business to the County. Approximately  
51 nine years ago when they first took on this show, it was at Pecan Grove but did not see a lot of people going over  
52 there. The following year, they implemented a water taxi and transported approximately 200 people. It has been very  
53 successful since. Rotary is proposing they close Hodges at South Water to Wall Street at Marsha’s Cottage from  
54 8am Thursday through Sunday evening. Bear Towne Tent Rental can, with notice, bring enough staff about 5pm

55 Sunday evening to remove all of the tents that night. They feels they would be across from the Provision Company  
56 and Garland Fulcher Seafood in the street. They are 30' wide and will probably have 160' of tents, will block street,  
57 and can have them gone Sunday evening rather than Monday morning. The boat dealers will most likely not have  
58 the trailerable boats gone before Monday morning, by contract must be gone by noon on Monday. The show has  
59 grown at its location in the harbor and have turned away exhibitors due to space constraints. They retain at least 90%  
60 of exhibitors. Rotary believes shows needs to be "changed up" to draw people back. They will know more if the site  
61 works after the show and if it is successful, may request a second year there. There is nowhere else in the county that  
62 has both open slips and hard surface, but wants to keep it in Oriental. Marsha brought up the Fulcher lot beside  
63 Marsha's Cottage. Sam spoke to Mr. Fulcher and there are currently no plans for that lot. This past year, it was  
64 offered for satellite parking. Rotary is exploring uses for that lot and is in contact with Mr. Fulcher for next boat  
65 show. Larry Summers asked if any of the space along the waterfront will be used. Mr. Myers said they will be  
66 asking for permission to use the Town Dock and part of the bulkhead toward Garland Fulcher Seafood for the in-  
67 water boats. Tom McIlhenny is allowing, for a small fee, use of some of their open slips, which they would need less  
68 of if they could use the Town Dock and bulkhead. Mayor Pro Tempore White mentioned the Town has emergency  
69 space, this would remain open and accessible and that there are floating docks called EZ Docks and we may be able  
70 to extend our Town Dock for kayak launches. Mayor Pro Tempore White would be willing to contact them. He also  
71 asked if Rotary had a plan for people who may not be going to the Boat Show but want to walk around Town. This  
72 has been discussed. If someone comes to the gate and asks for entry to one of the business, it will be granted. Will  
73 visit the idea of passes. Mayor Pro Tempore White believes the issue is the four day closure, although it is a prime  
74 location and had been there in the past. Croakerfest brings in as many people and parking is fine. When the  
75 trailerable boats come in, roads need to be blocked. Sam stated on Towndock, they, perhaps, could announce the  
76 street closures but the businesses are open and welcome by foot. Commissioner Overcash wanted to be sure there  
77 were no glitches as have happened in the past. Another issue is that The Bean gets shipments by tractor trailer on  
78 Thursday and Friday each week with frozen food items. Sam Myers stated the Rotary would pitch in and help. He  
79 also stated there is an emergency access maintained. As it comes closer, these issues will be revisited. Commissioner  
80 Overcash asked if there has been any polling to the public. Sam Myers asked if there would be a vote tonight as they  
81 need to get a contract out to their exhibitors. Commissioner Overcash did not feel they should vote tonight. Mayor  
82 Pro Tempore White stated there are two Commissioners as well. There is an Agenda Workshop on September 28.  
83 Manager Miller asked for Mr. Myers to forward any additional information prior to the meeting. Mayor Pro  
84 Tempore White stated he would like to keep this an Oriental boat show as the businesses would suffer if moved out  
85 of Town. Marsha Papham stated that the boat show weekend is huge for her business (Marsha's Cottage).

#### 86 87 **4. Whittaker Pointe Restoration Project update (Tab 3)**

88 Manager Miller is asking the Board to authorize her to execute the acceptance document from the Golden Leaf  
89 Foundation for the \$916,000 grant and execute documents moving forward with that organization. The land transfer,  
90 the only contingent point for this grant to be awarded, was sitting with the attorneys and Manager Miller stopped it  
91 as she was not confident that our easement would still be our easement and have access to the point; there had been  
92 a revised description added to the deed that gave specific iron pipe points. Our easement comes up the left side of  
93 the property and the old description said, "Allow for erosion and accretion 20 feet from the waters' edge." At some  
94 point our easement could be wet and we would not have access. Manager Miller stopped it until we could confirm  
95 that we would always have physical land access to the point. This is due in by September 27. Manager Miller and  
96 Lisa Thompson went to meet with the Golden Leaf Foundation in Kinston and going to Ocracoke and Hatteras,  
97 barring a hurricane, to see projects that are similar in design. Mayor Pro Tempore White wanted to confirm that once  
98 it is signed, we have one year to start. Manager Miller stated we get to pick our start date, we have until the 27<sup>th</sup>, and  
99 they are fully aware that this will not happen within 12 months. Mayor Pro Tempore White also asked if our  
100 attorney has taken a look at this; he has.

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102 **Mayor Pro Tempore White** made a **MOTION** that the Board allows Manager Miller to execute the Whittaker  
103 Pointe Restoration Project with Golden Leaf. Seconded by **Commissioner Simmons**. Motion passed 3-0.

#### 104 105 **5. Speed Limit on Hwy 55 (Tab 4)**

106 With assistance from Mr. Martin Barrow and the Secretary of the Department of Transportation and our  
107 representative Board member, Mr. Taft, Manager Miller pleaded our case and made it clear that it would be used  
108 whether the speed limit was lowered or not and it is a safety issue. Within a month, hopefully, we will have new 35  
109 MPH signs from the edge of the Piggly Wiggly grocery store property to the edge of the bridge.

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**6. NCDOT Bridge replacement progress (Tab 5)**

Manager Miller made reference to the orange signs that appeared indicating upcoming road construction. Part of this is two bridge replacements, one at the south prong of Bay River off Highway 55 and one at Alligator Creek. There are details that are not finalized – for example, are they going to add an extra lane and then demolish leaving something open. Manager Miller brought this to the attention to the State that there were problems when the work was done on Highway 304 and did not want to duplicate these problems. These concerns were forwarded by Tim Buck and Beth Bucksot, as the County agrees with us on our preferences as to how they should move forward; this is time sensitive and needs to be sent off to NCDOT. Mayor Pro Tempore asked if the bid is let in 2020; Manager Miller responded they are, so why are the signs going up now? Manager Miller stated they are doing some curb replacement and bits and pieces ahead of the main construction. Mayor Pro Tempore White stated that the Alligator Creek Bridge has no start date. Manager Miller stated it only takes 60 days to get a bid up and running and they could actually do the road and not do the bridges at the same time. They are widening everything except where we have curb and gutter.

**7. Topics for discussion for workshop**

Mayor Belangia stated that the Rotary needs to be on the agenda. Manager Miller spoke about a group called Cleargov. They are a company who posts financials on a link to your website. Manager Miller provided some examples of the program. This program breaks down and shows how much of a resident’s taxes go to public works, administration, etc. Questions that the public may ask are all answered in a clear, graphic-oriented way. The cost is \$1,800, which is a discounted, introductory rate, for the first year and \$2,500 per year after that. Manager Miller believes it is worth looking at to see if the Board may be interested. Mayor Pro Tempore White stated that he believes that a workshop should only have three or four topics as there is not enough time to get through everything and would like to talk about the Pointe, what the action plan is for releasing the engineering study and proposed time frame. Also, Whittaker Creek Dredging, where we are, what else we can do to encourage donations. Manager Miller stated they have set the meeting with the permitting agency and going to see the people that have done the engineering for similar projects so when we do go to bid, we will know exactly who to send them to and they are aware of our project. The meeting will be held on September 28 rather than the 27<sup>th</sup>. Manager Miller will be at a Purchasing/Design/Construction class in Chapel Hill from September 25-27 at 4pm so would like to move the meeting to September 28 at 8am.

**Commissioner Simmons** made a **MOTION** to move the Town Board Agenda Workshop to Friday, September 28 at 8am. Seconded by **Commissioner Overcash**. Motion passed 3-0.

**8. Manager’s Report (Tab 6)**

- Financials are attached
- Andrew Cox attended Class III Maintenance Technologist school; he can now repair things in house rather than sending it out. Certificate is in your package.
- Continuing education for our police officers, that was completed, Strategies to Improve Law Enforcement Interactions and Relationships with Minority Youth and Leadership Through Community Partnership
- Barbecue for Better Business Quality Expo and Job Fair at the Chamber of Commerce on October 9
- We have notification from the State, our WSRP (Water Shortage Response Plan) was accepted by the State
- New service available from Charter Communications, it is an internet service available through Spectrum Internet Assist for older folks at \$14.99 a month for persons 65 or older who receive Supplemental Security Income.
- Greens Creek Challenge was held last weekend, went very well. Cardboard Boat Races are – several entries may include some really cool cardboard from Town Hall furniture delivery.
- Harborfest is at River Dunes September 21-23.
- Oriental Cup Regatta is September 14-16.
- We are hosting Bayboro Pharmacy for flu shots September 24 from 10am to noon, they will file your insurance or \$25 cash. Please pre-register.
- Lisa Thompson and Manager Miller will be going to Ocracoke and Hatteras.
- There is an SUP request that the Planning Board will see at the September 19 meeting. The request is to reopen the Steamer. The Steamer was grandfathered in as a restaurant/bar before the GMO required

164 restaurant/bars to have an SUP. As long as it continued operating as such, it was grandfathered. Once  
165 closed for 180 days, the grandfathering expired. During the time they were open, there was an SUP issued  
166 for a pool hall, which was required. That was filed, but they did not have an SUP filed for restaurant/bar.  
167 Someone is looking to open the Steamer as a restaurant/bar. Per normal procedure, the Planning Board will  
168 see it first, will make a recommendation to the Board for their October 2 meeting to schedule a Public  
169 Hearing, which will be scheduled for the November Town Board meeting. Everyone within 150' will be  
170 noticed. Manager Miller wanted to be sure the public is aware, simply saying "I don't want it" is not reason  
171 to deny the request. An SUP is required to be granted unless there is evidence, not opinion, that there is a  
172 public health and safety hazard, not compatible with the neighborhood, encroaching on something, not  
173 allowed by the GMO – any of those things. The seven reasons are Section 86 of our GMO and evidence  
174 must be presented at the Public Hearing or transfer it to the Planning Board and they can forward it on as  
175 part of their recommendation or basis for their recommendation providing two opportunities to voice their  
176 opinion. Commissioner Overcash asked about the parking issue. Manager Miller and Public Works  
177 Director Andrew Cox looked at it and they were only one off. According to the GMO, there are allowances  
178 as far as parking.

- Office furniture was removed and replaced; staff would like to thank the Board for budgeting this project to improve the efficiency and storage capacity.

### 181 182 **9. Police Report (Tab 7)**

183 The Police Department would like to thank the Board for furnishing the office staff because they got stuff too!  
184 Under Continuing Education, they took two classes and learned a lot, received certifications. Everything went well  
185 in the past month, higher number of different things. Mayor Pro Tempore White mentioned that theft and larceny  
186 went up, was this neighborhood break ins or stores? Officer Blayney responded it was from stores, shoplifting, not  
187 seeing any thefts from people.

### 188 189 **10. Commissioners' Comments**

190 Commissioner Overcash made reference to the December 2 bike ride brought up by Will Conkwright and his request  
191 for an escort.

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193 **Commissioner Overcash** made a **MOTION** to accommodate that bike ride with a police escort. Seconded by  
194 **Commissioner Simmons**. Motion passed 3-0. **Commissioner Overcash** stated it may be good to have the QRV out  
195 there too for safety for the riders.

196  
197 Mayor Pro Tempore White addressed Marsha Paplham of the Tourism Board, is pleased that they are looking at new  
198 Christmas decorations. Manager Miller stated she needs to Board to allow her to bring that money out of the reserve  
199 into the expense account followed by a budget amendment authorizing her to move forward with this project.  
200 Marsha stated the prices have gone up so they may reconfigure what they were going to do. Mayor Pro Tempore  
201 White stated if they could have something put together by September 28, the Board can take action. Tourism is  
202 looking to replace the snowflakes that had been hit by trucks due to the way they sat on the poles. Manager Miller  
203 stated when there is a definite number, she will present a budget amendment to the Board.

204  
205 **Mayor Pro Tempore White** made a **MOTION** to allow the Tourism Board to move forward on the Christmas  
206 decorations. Seconded by **Commissioner Simmons**. Motion passed 3-0.

### 207 208 **11. Auxiliary Boards (Tab 8)**

209 Tourism August 21, 2018  
210 HWAC May 24, 2018 and August 9, 2018  
211 BRMSD August 16, 2018  
212 Tree Board July 31, 2018  
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214 **12. Closed Session: The Board will go into Closed Session for personnel matters according to N.C.G.S. 143-**  
215 **318.11 (a) (6) for personnel matters.**

216  
217 **Mayor Pro Tempore White** made a **MOTION** to go into Closed Sessions according to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a)  
218 (6). Seconded by **Commissioner Simmons**. Motion passed 3-0.

