



## ORIENTAL TOWN BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, January 7, 2020 at 7pm

507 Church Street, Oriental, NC

Mayor Sally Belangia Officiating

6 The Town Board of Oriental Town Board Meeting on January 7, 2020 was called to order at 7pm. Mayor Belangia  
7 determined a quorum to be present and called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

8  
9 PRESENT: Mayor Belangia, Mayor Pro Tempore White, Commissioner Overcash, Commissioner Simmons,  
10 Commissioner Price, Commissioner Barrow, Town Manager Diane Miller, Director of Administrative Service  
11 Tammy Cox, Officer Nic Blayney, Administrative Assistant Mary Barnes, Administrative Assistant Heather Hall,  
12 and Members of the Public.

### 13 14 **1. Approval of Agenda:**

15 Commissioner Overcash made a **MOTION** to accept the Agenda. Mayor Pro Tempore White made a **MOTION** to  
16 amend the agenda to include a Closed Session at number 17 and move everything past 17 down. Commissioner  
17 Overcash moved to accept the amended agenda. .Seconded by Commissioner Simmons. Motion passed 5-0.

### 18 19 **2. Consent Agenda (Tab 1)**

20 a. Consider Approval of Minutes from Town Board Meeting December 3, 2019

21  
22 Commissioner Overcash made a **MOTION** to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore  
23 White. Motion passed 5-0.

24  
25 **3. Public Comment Period :** Mr. Lew Smith (104 Skipper Circle) raised issues concerning the pilings being  
26 installed at Whittaker Creek Yacht Harbor. Manager Miller notes that our jurisdiction ends at the water, and that  
27 CAMA rules take over. Any permits issued are done by the Building Inspector. Mr. Smith notes that the pilings do  
28 not appear to be being driven to a depth that will support the equipment intended. Manager Miller will contact the  
29 Building Inspector and question these regulations.

30  
31 **4. Pamlico County Flood Prevention Ordinance-** There is a large draft document provided from the County  
32 through the State proposing changes to the accepted Flood Prevention Ordinance. Several of the optional (green)  
33 insertions will garner us additional points on the Community Rating System (CRS) review and may take something  
34 off the plate of the Planning Board- in particular, the securing of propane tanks in the flood zone would benefit us  
35 all. Additionally, the DFIRMs- preliminary flood maps can only be disputed by a large and expensive undertaking to  
36 survey every property in the County to see what the Irene and Florence effects would do to amend those. We are not  
37 and the County is not in a position to do those things. In addition, if we DO NOT accept the preliminary maps, we  
38 are no longer eligible for flood insurance- none of us. The County Planning Board will meet January 28<sup>th</sup> to discuss  
39 proposed changes. By default, in order to get flood insurance, we have to accept. In addition to accepting, we need  
40 to be ready to comment on, and approve at some point in the not-too-distant future, the County's revision to the  
41 flood prevention ordinance. There is some discussion, as the flood elevation is lowered, on the whole, for the  
42 County, that the freeboard be changed from +2, to +4, which would mitigate the difference. Also, decking  
43 requirements, and restrictions on the "under the house" requirements for those raised up very high. However, those  
44 structures (some 300+) in Oriental being removed from the floodplain on the new maps would no longer be required  
45 to carry flood insurance. We URGE all our residents to continue to carry, at what should be reduced cost, flood  
46 insurance on their properties, especially if they are aware that flood waters from Irene/Florence affected their  
47 properties. Mother Nature does not read flood maps and stop because your property has been removed from the  
48 official floodplain. We also filed the items that Oriental does that are over and above the County's regulations to  
49 mitigate flooding in our Town and insist that those be included on our rating- those include terraforming Ordinance,  
50 drainage requirements, educational sessions, etc. Manager went through several items of the proposed changes for  
51 the Board to note.

52  
53

54 **5. Driver’s License Mobile Unit:** The DMV has decided that the mobile unit (currently in Bayboro once per month)  
55 will only be in Bayboro twice a year from 2020 on. To change that, DMV asks that Mr. Buck guarantee them that  
56 85+ people use the service monthly to justify changing it back. What needs to be taken into account is that the  
57 RealID service was not available at the mobile unit, so those wishing to change over to the RealID were required to  
58 go to other facilities in the past year. So, last year’s numbers of those renewing licenses were not typical. The  
59 contact information for DMV is on our website with the tab for this item, and Mr. Buck asked me to pass this along  
60 and encourage those interested to contact through that portal to have the schedule changed back to once monthly.  
61 Mayor Pro Tempore White asks that we also note the other agencies within 35 miles of Pamlico County.  
62

63 **6. Corrections to Planning Minutes:** Last month you saw Planning Board Minutes that were DRAFT Minutes.  
64 This is an FYI- those minutes were amended to correct the change from “nonprofit” to “for-profit” in a discussion  
65 where we were noting the reasons this current Ordinance is noncompliant in that it allows the Administration to  
66 charge only for-profits for sign permits. One of the things to be addressed in a rewrite of the Sign Ordinance that  
67 would incorporate your new desires.  
68

69 **7. Meeting date change:** Manager is required to be at a meeting February 4 in Winston Salem and we have a  
70 scheduled Public Hearing. We can either move the date, or the Board can choose to go through the process without  
71 the Manager. Mayor Pro Tempore White makes a **MOTION** to move the Feb 4 scheduled meeting to Feb 11, 2020,  
72 7PM. Commissioner Simmons seconds. 5-0.  
73

74 **8. Ethics Training:** We are required to accept, by resolution, the instructors at the Eastern Carolina Council of  
75 Government January 29, 2020. Commissioner Overcash makes a **MOTION** to accept Resolution 2020-01.  
76 Commissioner Simmons seconds. 5-0.  
77

78 **9. Appointments:** Manager requests that the Board appoint Ms. Bonnie Crosser to the Parks and Rec Board.  
79 Commissioner Overcash makes a **MOTION** that Ms. Crosser be appointed to the Parks and Recreation Board.  
80 Mayor Pro Tempore White seconds. Commissioner Barrow notes that the Board was almost nonexistent, and the  
81 Board needs to be reinstated and start back onto the pursuit of a Greenway/Bike/Ped, etc path. One of the things  
82 needed is to rebuild and have more people involved in this rather large project. 5-0. Commissioner Overcash notes  
83 that previous members will join Ms. Crosser tomorrow morning 8AM to start the passing of information.  
84

85 **10. SUP request:** New Village Brewery requests an SUP following Growth Management Ordinance section 194.2  
86 that provides for replacement on a nonconforming footprint. The Manager requests the scheduling of a Public  
87 Hearing for that SUP for February 11, 2020. Planning Board will see it February 11. Notifications will be sent in a  
88 timely manner and public notice will be sent.  
89

90 **11. New laws:** Manager Miller goes through some highlights of new session laws that come into effect Jan 1 -  
91 additional funding for Powell, disaster recovery, registration of boats- which may assist us in recovering proper  
92 information and current registration for boats.  
93

94 **12. Law Enforcement Appreciation Day:** January 9, 2020. Mayor Belangia reads the Resolution. Commissioner  
95 Overcash makes a **MOTION** to accept Resolution 2020-02. Commissioner Barrow seconds. 5-0.  
96

97 **13. Police Report** Officer Wichrowski

- 98 • Officer Wichrowski notes the events recently in Town- Spirit of Christmas events went off well.
- 99 • Crime and incidents numbers are down. Quiet except for two incidents- one right before  
100 Christmas, where the incident did not put Townspeople in danger- the person pursued was being  
101 pursued for misdemeanor crimes. Another incident was a domestic situation that also did not put  
102 Townspeople in danger.  
103

104 **14. Manager’s Report :**

- 105 • Financials attached.
- 106 • January 29<sup>th</sup> Manager will be at a workshop in Beaufort for restoration of shorelines and then in February  
107 for NCCCA conference. Your Ethics training is scheduled for January 29<sup>th</sup> 6-9PM at ECCOG. Jan 30<sup>th</sup> is  
108 your next scheduled workshop-please forward any topics as soon as possible.

- Whittaker Pointe Restoration- received permit and are preparing the bid. The oyster shell placement and plantings are being removed and bid separately in order to get those with specialties onboard. We are slowed down just a bit, awaiting the signed paperwork from the USDA, in order to make all new expenses eligible for their reimbursement. The Manager respectfully requests authorization to execute USDA and State matching agreements for the additional requested funding. Mayor Pro Tempore White makes a **MOTION** to authorize the Manager to execute the documents for additional funding. Commissioner Overcash asks the amount we're talking about and seconds. Manager notes it will be approximately another \$1.8M. Mayor Pro Tempore White asks when we should expect the project to start. Manager Miller notes we go to bid this week. Some depends on the availability of the rock- a significant amount. We expect some time late spring- dependent on if the rock all comes from one quarry, transport issues, etc. 5-0.
- FEMA reimbursements are still moving- we are having some differences of opinion on the cost estimate vs actual cost and the acceptance of a cost estimate for the project. The equipment use associated and staff time should still get us a significant amount over the cash cost.
- Town Hall will be closed Feb 3- we encourage staff to take vacation in our slower season- this is a day everyone chooses to take vacation- this is NOT a holiday.
- Dredge spoils site cleanout is almost complete- this has to be right, so it is ready to accept spoils. Spoke with our CAMA rep this week- he is pushing on our permit and we expect to be dredging shortly. Awaiting the permit for the spoils site renewal, which is almost through its last hoops. Commissioner Barrow asks where the spoils site is- Manager Miller notes the location.
- The Proposed Solar Ordinance to be added to the GMO is attached for your reference. You'll be doing that Public Hearing as well on Feb 11- the Planning Board may make final adjustments at their Jan 15 meeting as the parts- the ordinance, the TPU addition, and the additional definitions- all go into separate parts of the existing GMO- but the text that is available is very close, if not exactly what you will see. Once worked into the proper format, it will be posted for review.
- You should expect to see a request from the Planning Board to set a Public Hearing for the SUP to place a Hardware Store on the vacant lot next to the current location of the hardware store. Mayor Pro Tempore White asks about availability during transition if allowed. Manager Miller notes that the plan is to keep the old store open while the new is being constructed.
- Finally, the funds raised by Miss Grace Evans have been sent to Ocracoke for use during their reconstruction.

**15. Committee Reports/ Picture of the month:** Photo of our Christmas Tree at Lou Mac Park decorated with the lights donated to the Ocracoke Fund.

**16. Commissioner Comments:** Commissioner Barrow notes Broad and Hodges Flooding- he has been speaking with the District Engineer to locate existing lines and try to fix the flooding issue at that intersection. The project was moving and NCDOT has spent all funds available- but would be willing to partner with the Town to get some of that mitigated. Manager Miller notes when ECCOG tried to map those lines, they were so impacted that we could not read the voids below ground expected to be there. Also spoke with Manager about putting a feedback button on the website to populate to the Manager and the Board. At the very least, we'll see what comes across. Additionally, Commissioner Barrow suggests that we enhance the use of the ALERT list to keep people more informed about upcoming events- things like the floodplain ordinance revision, the law enforcement resolution, Whittaker creek project, etc. He thinks we need to have more communication with the citizens. Mayor Pro Tempore White notes that the Manager's evaluation is coming due- set that for the March meeting. He explained the process for the evaluation. He complimented the Harbor Waterfront Committee for their efforts on getting some control over our harbor- boats in the harbor a long time- where are they pumping their heads? Are they? The NC legislation required to have jurisdiction is the next step. Mayor Pro Tempore White asks that the Manager take point on getting that local bill moving while the Assembly is in session. Many others will likely go forward and we need to be in line early to make this happen. Commissioners Overcash and Simmons met in Beaufort with their Manager to discuss their process, so as not to reinvent the wheel. Mayor Belangia: asks the Manager to look into Duke Energy for our Christmas lights. We have started down the road – there was some discussion about who is able to install new receptacles for Christmas lighting. Duke installed those lights on Hodges St a few years back. Private electrician could not secure permission to work on those poles. We will go back to Duke to find the correct path forward. We will start working on this NOW, and not any closer to Christmas 2020.

