



ORIENTAL TOWN BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, October 31, 2019 at 8pm

507 Church Street, Oriental, NC

Mayor Sally Belangia Officiating

6 The Town Board of Oriental Town Board Meeting on October 31, 2019 was called to order at 8am. 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, Town Manager Diane Miller, Director of Administrative Service Tammy Cox, and Members
11 of the Public.

12 ABSENT: Commissioner Dammeyer

13

14

15 **1. Approval of the Agenda:** Mayor Pro Tempore White made a **MOTION** to accept the Agenda as presented.
16 Commissioner Overcash seconds. 4-0.

17

18 **2. Public Comment Period :** No comment

19

20 **3. Dorian Updates:** Manager requests that the Board authorize her to execute paperwork to seek Public Assistance
21 for reimbursement for expenses incurred during Hurricane Dorian. The Town is in about \$12,000 for debris from
22 Waste Industries (not including our labor. In addition, we'll be claiming our costs for preparation. Manager
23 estimates final costs will come in between \$22,000 and \$25,000. The solicitation came out this Tuesday and is due
24 back to FEMA this Friday. Mayor Pro Tempore White made a **MOTION** that the Manager be authorized to execute
25 paperwork to Public Assistance for Hurricane Dorian, approval for resolution stating same. Commissioner Overcash
26 seconds. 4-0.

27

28 **4. Hurricane Florence Updates:** (See attached powerpoint slides for detailed information.) Mayor Pro Tempore
29 White notes that one storm of this magnitude can wipe us out, so this is why we hold so much in reserve. This has
30 been a priority for years. We were at 91% before this storm. Very important we keep that reserve where it is-
31 FEMA is a reimbursement grant- we have to put it out up front.

32

33 **5. Whittaker Pointe Restoration:** Separate drawings- the drawing here today (attached) is significantly different
34 from the original drawing. Granite sill wraps around, there is a small jetty, there is sill on the back side. The sill
35 also looks to have reefmaker in front- making it a living shoreline. Washover will be trapped on the back side. The
36 oyster restoration will include both bagged and cultch. Still collecting shells. Showed diagram that requires signoff
37 with some of our neighbors. In order to build a substantial structure at the right angle to refract the waves, other
38 owners must sign off. Manager notes full and partial breaches and the plan to hold that line and restore it. Jetty was
39 included when the permits come back. Stormwater permit and water quality permit have been received. CAMA
40 notice was posted- no objections this far. We expect to be able to drop rock early in the year. Will it be a park
41 environment? Not likely- dangerous to get to, dangerous to navigate. No stopping fishing boats from approaching?
42 No. Designate it as a park? You can have it as a Public Trust area- but not a park. Size of the sill? 10-18 ft wide at
43 the bottom, X feet above mean sea- that was being negotiated. Mr. Blackerby asked questions concerning the size
44 and height of the proposed sill. Cultch would be 2feet? 10 ft wide, 2 feet tall. Northern breach- is that rock? Yes. Is
45 that all rock along the front? Yes. Is there spat included? Not sure- will ask. How tall will the jetty be? Relative to
46 the one at Raccoon Creek- not quite as tall. News- USDA application for gap funding. USDA granted the entire
47 cost- an additional \$1.8mil. Allows for additional engineering, reinforced shoreline. Dredging- we are on several
48 schedules, depending on which dredger wins the bid. Spoils site: usually, you fill and then empty. We have
49 forwarded a request to empty and then fill, allow Pierce Creek to remove the final spoils following conclusion. Total
50 \$3.34Mil. Again, this project has been run through our budget- so our percentage of reserve will be a percentage
51 including that extra \$4mil- expect the reserve percentage will decrease SUBSTANTIALLY- officially.

52

53 **6. Sign Ordinance Revision:** Remove all signs from ROW- Currently it takes a certified letter to remove. While I
54 can remove anything that is a safety issue without notice. One thing to consider if you remove ALL signs off ALL

55 Public Property, may have consequences that we did not expect. Sight obstructions are already taken care of. The
56 other question was signs at Town Hall. Planning Board took your direction and reworked those sections- TB sent
57 back to Planning Board for additional work. There are unintended consequences with granting what you want.
58 According to recent case law- content cannot be regulated. Can either allow all or ban all- but you can ban all signs
59 on Town property- including Moore’s Corner, and Lou Mac Park, and all signs on ROW- directional signs included.
60 Planning Board struggled to incorporate what you wanted with legally defensible. Fixing one creates more issues.
61 Current Ordinance is NOT consistent with the Reed provisions- nonprofits don’t pay for the same sign a for-profit
62 does pay for- not defensible. While we would not enforce it- we would change it in any revision. Lawyer
63 recommends we start over- use a current (new) Ordinance as an example. Manager offers to draft new language,
64 have it legally reviewed, reviewed by Planning, then set a new Public Hearing (likely after the holidays). Not
65 necessary to cancel now, can cancel when we get to it on the agenda Tuesday. Mayor Pro Tempore White notes that
66 the ROW was not the impetus for the revision request. For now, continue to remove obstructive signs, and then
67 consider which Town Properties should NOT have signs. So we need to regulate which properties, and then make
68 sure you have the ability to remove those we want removed. Compromise seems to work. Perhaps if the Manager
69 writes a draft and then it is reviewed, we might be OK. We gave the Planning Board direction, and then changed that
70 direction. Commissioner Overcash also notes that we could place limitations on how long they can be in the ROW
71 or on Town Property. He also asked about a time frame. Manager Miller noted we usually do not have great
72 participation over the holidays and we certainly do want to make any changes with public participation, so it would
73 likely be a request to set the Public Hearing shortly after the holidays. Manager Miller asks for direction of which
74 properties should be restricted- concurrence on Town Hall and waterfront properties. Mr. Barrow and Ms. Lohmar,
75 from the Planning Board were in attendance and offered their views which helped to get all contributors onto one
76 page.

77
78 **14. Adjourn.** Next meeting scheduled as October 31, 2019.
79 **Commissioner Simmons** made a **MOTION** to adjourn. Seconded by **Commissioner Overcash**. Motion passed 5-
80 0. Manager Miller reminded the Board that their Tuesday, Nov 5 meeting was moved to 8PM due to elections.

81
82 Meeting adjourned at 8:46am

83
84
85
86 _____
87 Sally Belangia, Mayor

_____ Diane H. Miller, Town Manager/Clerk

88
89
90
91 Approved _____, 2019 _____