



ORIENTAL TOWN BOARD MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, November 1, 2022, 8AM

507 Church Street, Oriental, NC

Mayor Sally Belangia officiating

1 The Town Board of Oriental Regular monthly meeting was held on Tuesday, November 1, 2022 was called to order  
2 at 8:00 AM. Mayor Belangia determined a quorum to be present, opened the meeting and turned it over to the  
3 Manager. The meeting was open to the public. All documents for the meeting were available through the Town's  
4 website at [www.TownofOriental.com](http://www.TownofOriental.com).

5  
6 Present: Mayor Belangia, Mayor Pro Tempore White, Commissioner Overcash, Commissioner Price, Commissioner  
7 Winfrey, Commissioner Roe, Town Manager Diane Miller, Administrative Director Tammy Cox, Officer Blayney,  
8 and several members of the public. Mayor begins with the Pledge of Allegiance.

9  
10 Approval of Agenda: Commissioner Roe made a MOTION to accept the agenda. Commissioner Winfrey seconds.  
11 5-0.

12 Consent Agenda: Commissioner Roe White made a MOTION to approve the consent. Commissioner Winfrey  
13 seconds. 5-0.

14  
15 Public Comment: 8:06AM Mr. Neil Whitford, 710 Arendell St Morehead City, comments on letter sent to Manager  
16 concerning use at R-1(1216 Lupton) lot at Sailcraft/M&J Marine. Notes issues started in 2019 with NOV. 1) normal  
17 boatyard operations were in place before GMO. 2) have never been discontinued since for 180 days. 3) those  
18 operations should be grandfathered. 10 letters were forwarded noting that the operations have continued  
19 uninterrupted. Letter to Manager asking for grandfathering letter. Were not notified that PB was taking on the issue.  
20 If no amicable resolution, will end up in a quasi-judicial meeting before the BOA. Requests that, in the future, his  
21 clients be given notice if their request is brought up before any Board. Did not leave a copy of his comments.

22  
23 Pamlico Special Olympics- Jess Aldridge: Ms. Aldridge asks for use of Town Beach for Polar Plunge. January 28.  
24 Mayor and Board nominate each other to participate. Not asking for Police. Manager notes we will use Police and  
25 block the road if intending a crowd in/near the road. Beach can be easily isolated from Vandemere and Ragan.  
26 Commissioner Overcash asks if there will be media coverage. She will reach out. Commissioner Overcash makes a  
27 MOTION to approve. Second by Commissioner Winfrey. 5-0.

28  
29 Coastal Cycle Share- Steven Clayton: Currently in New Bern, looking to expand electric bicycles into existing  
30 private property. Asks for additional zoning requirements. If you are on private property, between you and the  
31 businesses already operating those uses. Not available in residential zones. Must make setbacks for all upright  
32 structures. Once card swiped, charges you until you put them back in. Commissioner Overcash asks if there are  
33 repercussions if left elsewhere. Yes, charged until re-docked. Agreed to send additional information through email.

34  
35 Request for Public Hearing: Planning Board has been wrestling with Driveway Ordinance from the perspective that  
36 it may currently be too restrictive. In an attempt to limit the drainage issues, and the amount of concrete over  
37 waterlines and the cost to fix, the changes made in 2021 may unnecessarily restrict construction. Draft provided  
38 here. PB will meet another time before final draft is ready for Public Hearing, but they ask you to set a Public  
39 Hearing for December 6. Commissioner Overcash makes a MOTION to set a Public Hearing for December 6 to  
40 look at changes to the driveway Ordinance. Mayor Pro Tempore White seconds. 5-0.

41

42 Neuse Beach Project: You were notified when we initially signed the contract that the materials cost had increased  
43 \$6,000. That was a change order, which you authorized me to accept. In addition, the headwalls on the new culverts  
44 are significantly further from the street than previous, and also, several trees and their root systems had to be  
45 removed during the construction. As such, we have a lot of unstable new dirt in the area. In order for us to keep  
46 that, I authorized an additional \$1600 to purchase sod and have it laid to attempt to hold that dirt in place. This  
47 budget amendment covers all of that. Commissioner Roe notes that “stuff happens” should authorize the Manager a  
48 contingency percentage (+10%) on large projects like this in the future. Manager notes MOST of our large projects  
49 have contingencies written in. This one did not. We can certainly change the financial policy to allow for such at  
50 your direction. The other is an adjustment for tree board and a donation to their cause- after a very expensive  
51 removal nearly wiped out their budgeted amount. Commissioner Roe would like the extra amount to be taken from  
52 GF Appropriated and WFE at the same rate as the original project was funded. MPT White notes the WFE budget  
53 will be expended heavily this year. Commissioner Overcash notes that this should be a consideration in the future,  
54 but let this one go. Mayor Pro Tempore White makes a MOTION to accept the budget amendment as presented.  
55 Commissioner Overcash seconds. 4-1 Roe dissenting.

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57  
58 Police Report- Officer Blayney leads with the number of questions about the incident at Dollar General, but notes  
59 that since the investigation is still active, he is restricted in his ability to respond. Business checks yielded two  
60 businesses with unsecured doors, notified owners, resolved. Noting that we have a very low crime rate, we cannot  
61 become complacent. Heading into Holiday Season we will be putting out information for businesses and residents  
62 shortly. Both officers did much training this month. Both Officers have earned an Advanced Law Enforcement  
63 Certificate from NCDOJ Training and Standards, which is the level Chiefs of Police are required. We will be  
64 presenting them when both certificates are received. More traffic enforcement, Halloween went well. Coming off  
65 the bridge is still the biggest issue. Commissioner Overcash asks for tickets being given out. Commissioner Price  
66 noted several folks approached him on speeding on Broad St. Has been the same vehicle repeatedly. Commissioner  
67 Overcash noted photo was forwarded of folks dumping trash at our beach.

68  
69 Manager’s Report: Financials attached. Sample ballot attached in Mgr report package, next Tuesday is Election Day.  
70 Also attached is a letter I sent to and received from the Postal Service concerning cleanliness issues raised by the  
71 beautification committee. There is action on taking care of the facility. Also a letter from Rotary thanking you all  
72 for support of the Car Show. Continuing education hours for water operators, Deputy Finance Director, Police.  
73 Parks and Rec will post an Open House. OWC has Christmas Fair Nov 12, and Rotary Poker Run Nov 5. USDA  
74 came to see in person the failure at Hodges St and evaluate the extent of the problem- timed perfectly- water came  
75 up onto both of their vehicles while here. Road, sidewalk separation, tiebacks, seawall- all compromised. Problems  
76 likely following Florence but did not appear until much later. Neuse Beach project is finished. Fixes at WPR  
77 complete. Met paving contractor week, RFP almost ready to go out. ECCOG meeting very helpful Board will meet  
78 with ECCOG rep tomorrow- open to the public- and discuss how to get our project on NCDOT STIP and SPOT.  
79 Town Hall will be closed Friday, Nov 11 and closing early Thursday the 10<sup>th</sup> at 3PM. Also closed Thursday and  
80 Friday for Thanksgiving. Closing early Wed, Nov 23. Demo on Net House following removal of salvageable parts  
81 was delayed because the landfill was closed for new scale installation. Audit moving forward Nov 18. Manager  
82 noted that with the last iPhone update, all messages had been wiped from her phone prior to August 2022, as well as  
83 many contacts.

84  
85 Committee Reports: Ms. Crosser did not meet in October. Open House November 12, K-9 demonstration,  
86 Blackbeard will exchange coins for candy. Bill’s Hot Dogs will provide hot dogs, P&R will provide soda and chips.  
87 To thank all who helped get the park cleaned up and useable. Also working on Spirit of Christmas. Marsha notes  
88 that advertising is set through the first of the year. Working on re-doing the brochure to get a QR code to take you to  
89 other information through the Town website. Spirit of Christmas coming together. Jim Blackerby notes HWAC had

90 another workday, now working on floating dock. Will be attending USCG emergency Mgmt meeting. Julie came  
91 from Planning Board noting continued work on CAMA LUP and Comprehensive Plan.

92  
93 Commissioner Comments: Commissioner Price asks if we are still spraying for mosquitoes- we ARE, we all got  
94 eaten alive on Halloween, but we are spraying. PEV questions: we do have a ticket in-problem is that SOME folks  
95 are able to charge, so it doesn't always show up as unavailable to Chargepoint. For us it says the station is  
96 unreachable, but some are using it regularly. There are also people parking in front of the charges. Is it possible to  
97 get more? Or get a rapid charger? We specifically requested long charge to keep people in town longer- there is  
98 also a disadvantage in that the fast chargers tend to deteriorate the battery faster. 1<sup>st</sup> two were funded by Coal Ash  
99 settlement. Mayor Pro Tempore White notes Manager's performance bonus is up in December- will send  
100 information to Commissioners.

101 Mayor Belangia asks to move the January meeting. Jan 10. Manager notes the 10<sup>th</sup> was supposed to be both the  
102 meeting and the quarterly meeting. Meeting will not move.

103 March 10 Mayor will not be here. (Retreat) Change to March 3 unless objection.

104 Commissioner Roe asks that we publish all openings on auxiliary Boards for at least a cycle, emphasize we had  
105 tradition that the Board recommends. Citizens should know that there is an opportunity if they want to participate.  
106 Notes that the Planning Board meeting agenda was published well in advance, so it was not like we were meeting in  
107 secret. Troubling activity in town- filtering down. Would like a comprehensive discussion on what are we doing in  
108 Police- just discussion in light of increased bad activity. What can the citizens do? Compliments Police for their  
109 response and resolution.

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112 Next meeting scheduled: Town Board Quarterly Meeting – December 6, 2022, 8AM.

113 Meeting **ADJOURNED** at 8:50 AM by MOTION of Commissioner Winfrey, second by Commissioner Overcash.  
114 5-0.

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118 Sally Belangia, Mayor

119 \_\_\_\_\_  
120 Diane H. Miller, Town Manager/Clerk

121 Approved \_\_\_\_\_, 2022