



ORIENTAL TOWN BOARD REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, February 6, 2024, 8AM
507 Church Street, Oriental, NC
Mayor Sally Belangia officiating

1 The Town Board of Oriental regular meeting was held on Tuesday, February 6, 2024 and was called to order at 8:00
2 AM. Mayor Belangia determined a quorum to be present. The meeting was open to the public. All documents for
3 the meeting were available through the Town’s website at www.TownofOriental.com.

4
5 Present: Mayor Belangia, Mayor Pro Tempore Price, Commissioner Overcash, Commissioner Litzenberger,
6 Commissioner Roe, and Commissioner Crosser. Town Manager Diane Miller, Administrative Director Tammy Cox,
7 Public Works Director Cox, Officer Wichrowski, and several members of the Public.

8
9 Approval of Agenda: Mayor Pro Tempore (MPT) Price makes a MOTION to approve the agenda. Commissioner
10 Overcash seconds. 5-0.

11
12 Public Comment: 8:01 Ginger Barnett- listed at #6 Board’s choice- Ms. Barnett requests closing South Ave from
13 Mildred to Neuse, and 1st to South for parking. Only on Saturday, March 2. For the 125th magazine, asks the Town
14 to sponsor the pamphlet at \$250/\$500. Commissioner Litzenberger makes a MOTION to sponsor a half page ad and
15 close the requested streets. Commissioner Overcash seconds. 5-0.

16 Mary Ellen Ham 8:05: Criticism around town about what’s going on. These people (staff) work for us. We have a
17 lawyer and auditor- stop criticizing and let them do their job. If you don’t like the way things are done, resign. She
18 will personally address the person causing this. Call the auditor and lawyer in here.

19
20 Consent Agenda: In order to attempt to streamline the agenda, the consent has items not likely to cause discussion.
21 You may remove any item and make it a discussion item. Commissioner Roe makes a MOTION to accept the
22 Consent Agenda. Commissioner Overcash seconds. Commissioner Roe notes he asked the Manager to do this.
23 Manager notes all of the items are attached.5-0.

24
25 Public Hearing: Special Use Permit (SUP) on a Short Term Rental (STR): 304 Main Street- no police reports,
26 nobody presented any evidence at the Planning Board meeting. Planning Board recommends granting on those
27 grounds. Commissioner Roe asks how we notify residents. Certified letters are sent to everybody within 150 ft.
28 MPT Price makes a MOTION to open the Public Hearing. Commissioner Roe seconds.5-0

29 Sally Belangia: The Public Hearing is now open. The Town Commissioners shall issue the requested permit
30 UNLESS:

31 1) The permit is not within its jurisdiction (property is within jurisdiction of TOO) The permit IS in our jurisdiction.
32 Does the Public have any comment on jurisdiction of the application?
33 Commissioner questions?

34
35 2) The application is incomplete (the application has been deemed complete by the Land Use Administrator and the
36 Planning Board.)
37 Does the Public have any comment on the completeness of the application?
38 Commissioner questions?

39
40 3) If completed as proposed:
41 a) will not comply with one or more requirements of this chapter (GMO)
42 Does any of the Public have any evidence to offer concerning compliance with the GMO?
43 Commissioner questions?
44 b) will materially endanger public health or safety
45 Does any member of the public have any comment on endangerment of public health and safety?

46 Commissioner questions?
47
48 c) will substantially injure the value of adjoining or abutting property
49 Does any member of the Public have evidence to offer that indicates that the project will injure the value of
50 adjoining or abutting property?
51 Commissioner questions?
52
53 d) will not be in harmony with existing uses/development in the area.
54 Does any member of the public have any evidence that the project is not in harmony with existing uses in the area?
55 Commissioner questions?
56
57 e) will not be in conformity of the Land Use Plan or other plan, officially adopted by the Town.
58 Does any member of the public have evidence that the project is not in conformity with existing plans?
59 Commissioner questions?
60
61 MPT Price (AP) makes a MOTION to close the Public Hearing.
62 Commissioner Overcash (CO) seconds.
63 SB: Any discussion? All those in favor say aye. 5-0.
64 SB: The Public Hearing is now closed.
65 MPT Price makes a MOTION to grant the SUP the permit is within jurisdiction and is complete. No evidence was
66 presented here or at the Planning Board that it is detrimental in value or an issue of Public Safety to surrounding
67 properties. It is consistent with the GMO and uses in the area. It is in general conformity with the Land Use Plan or
68 other plans adopted by the Town. Commissioner Litzenberger seconds. No discussion. 5-0.
69 The SUP is granted.
70
71 Manager's Report: Financials attached. You will see them in a new format next month.- more of a summary. Pierce
72 Creek dredging is moving forward. Have filed agrant application to fund dock repair. RFP is out and due back Feb
73 13. If we do not have 3 responses, we will have to re-bid. Comp Land Use plan has been adjusted per TB direction.
74 Commissioner Roe makes a MOTION to set a Public Hearing for the Comprehensive Land Use Plan update for
75 March 5. Commissioner Litzenberger seconds. 5-0. County Leadership meeting at Courthouse- water, projects,
76 progress. Also discussed potential movement to terms coinciding with general elections. It would cost us less and
77 extend terms by one year. We were told of a community who was a lone participant in NOT moving and bore the
78 entire cost- similar to when we allowed early voting/one stop/all options- we bore the entire cost. So if all others
79 move and you do not, you'll bear the entire cost. Early voting/mail in options and all other options will be available
80 in general elections. Our letter of intent to fund arrived Feb 4. \$5.335M for water rehab. Our process begins with
81 "what do we need to do, and in what order?" We'll need to work up an RFQ through Water Advisory Board- next
82 meeting March 8. Board Ethics training scheduled for Feb 21 in New Bern. Town Hall closed Feb 12- Staff
83 vacation day. Planning Board rescheduled from Feb 21 to Feb 14. Personnel (Cox's)out of town from tomorrow
84 through the 12. We'll all be here the 13th, then Mgr will be out until the 21st.
85
86 Researching a new payroll module for replacing the one that is sunsetting. Have looked into ADP and Paychex.
87 Our liaison with NCLM who was a finance/HR person and she advised against- overly complicated and rarely spits
88 out desired reports. Cost offered is basic- each add on was very expensive- adding up to more than previous. Can
89 only be accessed electronically- not by paper or timeclock. Someone would still have to do that and we do not have
90 all staff on paid phones. We're looking for no less than what we already have. Current financial offers a replacement
91 module. Dep Finance Officer Cox notes emails sent to clarify costs and services associated with same. \$8K, back
92 up, move over, seamless. ADP will not backup and keep older records. New module \$8,200 now and then \$200
93 additional/month over what we pay currently. Dan Allen notes none of them will make an access portal to old data.
94 Town would have to pay to have that created. ADP requires one very long journal entry (Tammy estimates an hour).
95 Mgr notes we want similar service without additional tasks. Integration takes almost a year and old system sunsets
96 March 2025. Dan Allen was asked to check into Paychex- \$71/payroll- \$142/month- uses a third party for W-2s.
97 specializes in small groups. They do not handle unemployment. The integration would have to be discussed. We

98 will likely have an integration fee from paychex and an integration fee from Edmunds/GovTech. There are a few
99 others, but he has not heard of any of those prior. Adjusting entries have been forwarded by the auditor. CAMA
100 asking for comment on shoaling and another issue- this is not the one with adding their rules to our Ordinances.
101 Commissioner Roe and Mr. Szerlag as our rep to CRAC believes this is not the time.

102
103 Additional funds from Powell- \$5K- don't know if this is \$2500 per allocation or \$5K for each allotment. Still
104 going rounds with the State on our permit- paid for in July still not forwarded. Now hitting Drew on testing sites
105 that are not the same in their system. (Their error) Golden Leaf has solicited additional information on South Water
106 St. USDA communication forwarded. Town Dock- weakened from 2 unfunded events this summer and inspection
107 was scheduled. This is what your unrestricted unreserved/HWAC Occ Tax reserve is for- we can pay ahead and
108 recover from FEMA when funded. If not funded, it's on us, but I have applied for grant funding for this project
109 from flood mitigation opportunities with NC Dept of Public Safety. Discussed FEMA assistance to parts of Carteret
110 due to being harder hit.

111
112 New build at Neuse and 1st- trees suffering due to swale that stays full. Between PW Director and Dr. Miller,
113 removal of diseased trees, fill of the swale will direct runoff straight to the duck ponds and save replacement trees.

114
115 Appointment: Planning Board is asking that you appoint Mr. Pete Flood to its membership with the vacancy created
116 by the move from Mr. Quigley to being a part time resident. The Town is grateful to Mr. Quigley for his diligent
117 thoughtfulness on some very difficult issues that have come in his tenure on the Board. Commissioner Overcash
118 makes a MOTION to accept the recommendation and appoint Mr. Flood to the Planning Board. Commissioner Roe
119 seconds. 5-0.

120
121 Police Reports: There are two Police Reports- December and January- noting that we did not meet in January for a
122 regular meeting, so today you have both. Citations number is higher due to Officer Wichrowski's increased time on
123 radar. He noted that the point is to enforce compliance with speed limits, but one was cited for drug paraphernalia as
124 well. So it is an added benefit to speed patrols- getting the drugs out. Question (Commissioner Overcash) on
125 placement of speed sign. Have not been collecting data- problem areas have been identified. Biggest one is coming
126 off the bridge. Also, Police enforce dock overstaying, unacceptable behavior on our docks. Percentage of increase in
127 dock enforcement (Commissioner Crosser)? Usually at the end of the season, we might have more drifters- more
128 causing problems- coming back and overstaying again. We need to handle the enforcement with the thought of how
129 we treat visitors gets out.

130
131 Auxiliary Board reports: Marsha-Tourism: Brochures being printed- should take to end of budget. Looking for new
132 members. Jim Blackerby for HWAC: thanks for moving quickly on the dock repair issue. Appreciate David's work
133 on CRAC and Dan's work on active projects list. Whittaker Creek's dredge extended a year. Part of that is waiting
134 for the spoils to dewater and be removed. Commissioner Roe inquires about the lift operability. Contractor inbound
135 for fix. Schedule upended for high water, once for access and scheduling at the contractor. Allison: Planning:
136 working on the complete list of STRs, to increase enforcement. Some are LUPs and some are SUPs, depending on
137 zone. Parks and Rec will have some projects coming up.

138
139 Commissioner Comments: Commissioner Roe: Sign rusted near Public Restroom- doesn't say anything. Please
140 remove. MPT Price- ferry schedule: no after 7PM until Mar 25. Paint drop off and Hazmat drop-offs under Town
141 events. Commissioner Overcash in discussion with Commissioner Roe discussed moving meeting time. Asks where
142 we are- trial period starting March, but not finalized. Allison notes that Town Dock would run the poll after today's
143 meeting, so that you will have it for the March meeting. Schedule to be left in place until March for the group using
144 the room. Commissioner Litzenberger asks how the poll will look. MPT Price does not want us in the habit of
145 voting on things that come up under Commissioner Comments or Mgr Report- the public doesn't know about those
146 items. Commissioner Roe- can see that State Reps respond to us- can see the results in the Powell adjustment. The

147 ferry- as a work option- go to your representatives about no notice given for reduction in service, likely moving
148 toward fee for ferry service. Also- please consider Minutes- writing long Minutes vs what HAS to be done- we have
149 to report on actions. Trying to eliminate work- we can shorten minutes. Commissioner Overcash says we had that
150 and we can't find a good balance that allows us to understand what happened in the meeting. Commissioner Roe-
151 speeding: people walking in street, people will get hit if we don't get it under control. Support Police efforts to take
152 speeding into and around Town down. Mayor: Chinese New Year Saturday, March 1-3 Town's birthday!

153
154 Commissioner Crosser- financial liaison report- had been in place 2009-2013. Scope was approved by attorney.
155 Information is historical information. Doing this because we are under UAL. Told to put in new processes,- review
156 balance sheets reconciliations, credit card statements, mileage records gas receipts- no fraud indicated. Good
157 spreadsheet- miles on equipment. Intending to speak with Manager items that are not fraud, not improper, just
158 management issues. Commissioner Litzenberger- duties have not been sent to me- heard rumblings around town
159 about reducing staff- very concerning- feel like staff is different- feel like they are being micromanaged. Discussed
160 the flow chart from the Ethics flowchart- and would love you to assuage my fear. Commissioner Crosser says there
161 are other issues, that the auditor has called out. Not talking to anybody- just asking for statements and giving them
162 back. Bank interpretation was difficult, asked for a legend. Gas receipts were not in that place. Have asked for
163 documents and staff tells me when they can be available. Cannot be held for rumors and gossip. I do not talk to
164 staff. We were charged to do this because we are on the UAL. Further discussion on cutting/not cutting town staff.
165 Question from audience- discrepancies. Late audit- audit firm turnover, deficit in capital project fund \$490K, grant
166 proceeds coming to reimburse. Software issues on consecutive audit. Questions allowed. Grant cycles not aligned
167 with fiscal years. Noted in the report. Mayor Belangia cuts off discussion.

168
169
170 MPT Price makes the MOTION to adjourn. Commissioner Overcash seconds. 5-0.

171
172 Next meeting scheduled: Town Board March 5, 8AM- Town Regular Meeting

173
174 _____
175 Sally Belangia , Mayor

174 _____
175 Diane H. Miller, Town
176 Manager/Clerk

177
178 Approved _____, 2024

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