



ORIENTAL TOWN BOARD SPECIAL MEETING

Tuesday, May 5, 2020 at 7PM
507 Church Street, Oriental, NC
Mayor Sally Belangia Officiating

6 The Town Board of Oriental Town Board Meeting on May 5, 2020 was called to order at 7:08PM. Mayor Belangia
7 determined a quorum to be present and called the meeting to order.

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9 It should also be noted that the Board (Mayor Pro Tempore David White and Commissioner Charlie Overcash) and
10 staff (Diane Miller, Nic Blayney, and Tammy Cox) were physically present, as was Allison DeWeese from
11 TownDock.net, and Larry Summers. The meeting was livestreamed through ZOOM in order to allow the Public to
12 see the entire proceeding. While a few technical difficulties remained, The Board was able to take comment through
13 both the Manager's email (manager@townoforiental.com) prior to the meeting and phone (text) through 252-671-
14 2821 during the meeting. Mayor Belangia, Commissioners Price, Simmons, and Barrow all participated remotely.
15 All documents for the meeting were available through the Town's website at www.TownofOriental.com

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17 The meeting started a few minutes late owing to technical difficulties on the hosting computer.

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19 Noting that several new procedures were imposed by SB 704, signed by the Governor Monday, May 4, 3PM
20 governing remote meetings, adjustments have been made. The Mayor and Board are asked to state their names prior
21 to deliberations and also the Mayor was asked to take all votes by roll call.

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23 1. The Agenda was approved by a MOTION from Commissioner Overcash and a second by Commissioner
24 Simmons. 5-0 by roll call.
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26 2. The Consent Agenda has changes. Mayor Pro Tempore White asks for item f. to be eliminated as those
27 minutes were not able to be distributed in a timely fashion, and that item f. be removed and made into item
28 #4, sliding other items down one place. Commissioner Overcash seconds, 5-0 by roll call.
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30 3. Public Comment: Mr. Larry Summers read a prepared statement questioning the validity of the budget
31 amendment. (attached to Minutes)
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33 4. Budget Amendment: Manager Miller went through the budget amendment and explained that the expenses
34 incurred in the 18-19 FY were covered by GF appropriated funds (savings). The reimbursements were
35 received in the 19-20 FY and when you increase revenue, there must be an accompanying expense. The
36 expenses were distributed amongst the lines that were compensated by the June 29, 2019 budget
37 amendment. Additional funds above actual cash expenses were part of the reimbursements accounting for
38 the salaries and equipment hours allocated in the cleanup post-Florence, so that's where the
39 reimbursements went. The Board chose, in the 18-19FY to increase the merit pay allocated originally as
40 compensation for the superlative work done by staff to get us back up and running following the hurricane.
41 Once the FY ends, all unexpended funds revert back to the unrestricted unreserved GF- savings.
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44 5. Public Hearing: A Public Hearing was properly noticed for adoption of Ordinance 2020-268- The Oriental
45 Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. This is the same Ordinance passed by the County last night and has
46 been passed/is scheduled for all other municipalities in Pamlico County who subscribe to the National
47 Flood Insurance Program. As we have our own Code of Zoning Ordinances (the GMO), we must
48 incorporate this into the GMO. It has been renumbered, but is the exact Ordinance passed by the County.
49 Part of this is the adoption of the new (Preliminary) FEMA flood maps. While we acknowledge that the
50 new maps are taken from data previous to both Irene and Florence, if we do not approve these maps,
51 nobody in Oriental will have access to Flood Insurance. The maps indicate that over 300 structures have
52 been removed from the floodplain. THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT RESIDENTS SHOULD NO
53 LONGER PURCHASE FLOOD INSURANCE. It means that flood insurance for those properties will cost
54 less because the properties in question are no longer considered in the floodplain. We strongly encourage

55 residents to do homework and secure flood insurance on the previous flood evidence and not the maps. We
56 asked if Pamlico County could possibly preserve the previous set of maps once the preliminary maps
57 become the effective maps and they are going to try and catalogue those so that new property owners will
58 be able to see the previous designations before making those decisions. Manager Miller also notes that the
59 Planning Board noted that the Ordinance is consistent with existing plans, incorporates some of the things
60 Oriental currently enforces that other parts of the County will now also, and also incorporates some things
61 under discussion in the Planning Board- like securing propane tanks). The Planning Board sees no
62 alternative to passing the Ordinance in order to secure Flood Insurance, and passing it as written so that the
63 Building Inspector is enforcing the Ordinance uniformly across the County.

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65 Mayor Belangia asks for a MOTION to open the Public Hearing. Mayor Pro Tempore White makes a
66 MOTION to open the Public Hearing. Commissioner Overcash seconds. Roll call vote- 5-0 to open.

67 Mayor Belangia asks if anyone has any comment on the proposed Ordinance.

68 Having no indication of Public Comment, neither through email prior to the meeting, through text during
69 the meeting, nor from anyone in the room, she asks for a MOTION to close the Public Hearing.

70 Mayor Pro Tempore White makes a MOTION to close the Public Hearing. Commissioner Simmons
71 seconds. By a roll call vote, the Public Hearing is closed 5-0.

72 Discussion: The Board agrees that the Planning Board's assessment that we really do not have any option
73 but to pass the Ordinance is correct.

74 Commissioner Barrow makes a MOTION to pass the Ordinance as submitted. Mayor Pro Tempore White
75 seconds. By roll call vote, the Board passes the Ordinance unanimously. 5-0. (THIS VOTE WAS CALLED
76 TWICE AS THE MAYOR INADVERTENTLY MUTED HER MICROPHONE)

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78 6. Audit Contract: Manager Miller notes this was a late add to the agenda. This contract with the auditor is
79 approximately half of the cost of the last two years as we are caught up and current on our annual audit.
80 This contract covers the audit of the fiscal year we are in and happens during the upcoming 20-21 FY- you
81 have already seen this cost (\$15,100) inserted to your unmovable costs in the proposed budget. Once
82 approved, it goes to the State Treasurer to approve this auditor to conduct our audit. All of that needs to be
83 in place prior to closing out the current fiscal year. Mayor Pro Tempore White makes a MOTION to
84 approve the audit contract for the 19-20 FY. Commissioner Simmons seconds. By roll call vote, it passes
85 unanimously, 5-0.

- 86 7. The Manager went through her monthly report:

87 a. Financials YTD are attached.

88 b. Our Consumer Confidence report is noted on this month's water bills and once delivery is
89 confirmed, we send all of that to the state for approval.

90 c. Census- the Manager stressed how important it is for everyone to fill out the Census forms-
91 our funding from all federal and State agencies is dependent upon an accurate accounting of
92 our residents. If you are uncomfortable answering one of the questions- DON'T- move to the
93 next, fill out as much as you can, and send it back. There is also an electronic option. If you
94 have no other access, please feel free to come to Town Hall and we will assist you in either
95 providing access or assist in filling out the forms. Please pass it on- we need this to be an
96 accurate count.

97 d. Change Order #1- I have signed the first change order for WPR project- a decrease of
98 \$237,534.10 to compensate for coming in by road instead of by barge.

99 e. We have applied to Golden Leaf to move some of the construction cost allocated to repair of
100 the road following completion. Today they asked for additional information- which means
101 they are at least considering it. If anyone has photos of debris on the road, or the trucks that
102 carried it away, those would be helpful.

103 f. SB 704 came out late yesterday afternoon, new law on Public Meetings- we are likely already
104 complying- we need to go through it with a comb to make sure.

105 g. The draft Pamlico County Hazard Mitigation plan came out today- a 600+ page document that
106 needs to be approved in June- this governs our CRS points and subsequently, our insurance
107 costs. Oriental has traditionally done more to mitigate the impact of flood than others in
108 Pamlico and our additions were finally added to the draft. Manager, Ms. Cox, Dan Allen from
109 Planning and Commissioner Barrow before he was Commissioner participated in year long

110 meetings to accumulate this information. One glaring potential error in a quick sweep of the
111 document is our population. They may have taken this number from the Oriental zip code and
112 not the Corporate limits- we have a call in to get that corrected. We await additional direction
113 for resolution- this changed twice during the day, so we were not comfortable bringing this to
114 a vote today.

115 h. Burnout continues to May 26- you will likely start to smell chlorine in your water if you have
116 not already as it gets through the lines. Those who are medically fragile, and especially those
117 on dialysis or those who maintain fish tanks should pay special attention to the change in
118 chemicals used to disinfect the water. Additional guidance is posted on our website.

119 i. Manager will be out of place May 8, 11.

120 j. On April 30, you all tentatively chose May 14/15 as your next budget meeting. You need to
121 make that call.

122 8. Police report is attached- nothing out of the ordinary- Officer Blayney is available for any questions you
123 might have.

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125 9. Commissioner Comments: Commissioner Price inquired about of Intern supposed to join us this summer-
126 Manager noted that the intern is currently stuck in place in Alabama in a Stay-at-Home order, further
127 complicated by the US Army not moving anyone on orders at this time. Once she acquires permission to
128 travel, she will join us. The Board discussed their next budget meeting, noting that tax information had not
129 yet been forwarded. If still not available, the Manager will work on other expenses- perhaps the water fund
130 for the next meeting set by the Board as May 14, 2020, 8AM.

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Commissioner Simmons made a **MOTION** to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Price. Motion passed 5-0 following a roll call vote..

Meeting adjourned at 7:54PM

Sally Belangia, Mayor

Diane H. Miller, Town Manager/Clerk

Approved _____, 2020_____