



ORIENTAL REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
Thursday, June 23, 2022, 8AM
507 Church Street, Oriental, NC
Mayor Sally Belangia Officiating

1 The Town Board of Oriental Meeting held on Thursday, June 23, 2022 was called to order at 8 AM. Mayor
2 Belangia determined a quorum to be present. Manager Miller, Dep Finance Officer Cox, Town Staff, and residents.
3 The meeting was open to the public. All documents for the meeting were available through the Town's website at
4 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, Deputy Finance Director Tammy Cox, and members of
8 the public. Mayor Belangia began with the Pledge of Allegiance.
9
10 Approval of Agenda: Commissioner Overcash makes a MOTION to approve the agenda. Mayor Pro Tempore White
11 seconds. 5-0.
12 Approval of Consent Agenda: Commissioner Overcash makes a MOTION to approve the Consent Agenda.
13 Commissioner Roe seconds. 5-0.
14
15 Public Comment:
16 Letter from Mr. David Szerlag (attached) is read, concerning the purchase of equipment included in the 22-23
17 budget. Manager notes diligence done on prospective price in order to include in the budget. No other signed up.
18 Commissioner Overcash notes that if the equipment in mind was not desirable, we still had the budgeted funds to
19 pursue another.
20 Richard Lambert: 8:10. Town should outsource the work.
21
22 Budget Amendment: This is the amendment that gets our books in order prior to closing the 21-22 FY. Manager
23 explains overrun lines and unrealized income, as well as prospective projects not accomplished- solar lights, water
24 purchase, etc.. Commissioner Roe asks if increases are included in 22-23. Manager notes where we KNEW there
25 were fee changes, they are, but some may still overrun. Commissioner Roe makes a MOTION to approve the budget
26 amendments presented. Commissioner Overcash seconds. 5-0.
27
28 Public Hearing –GMO adjustment for tent campgrounds/camping: Planning Board forwards for approval an
29 adjustment to Section 60 (Permissible Use Table) and Section 135 (RV campgrounds) to include and adjust for tent
30 camping. Draft has changes marked. Manager notes changes on ppt slides. Commissioner Roe makes a MOTION
31 to open the Public Hearing. Commissioner Winfrey seconds. 5-0.
32 Ms. Bonnie Crosser is sworn in to ask a question about the governance of public and private property and personal
33 use of tents.
34 Manager notes that this addresses private property only in making tent camping a business, not addressing
35 grandchildren camping in the yard. Also, any camping on public property is event-based and approved by the Board
36 for events such as CycleNC, Boy Scouts, etc.
37 Commissioner Overcash notes that the events on private property are with the approval of the property owners in
38 events.
39 Mayor Belangia asks if there is anybody else?
40 Mayor Pro Tempore White makes a MOTION to close. Commissioner Winfrey seconds. 5-0.
41 Commissioner Roe notes the careful consideration the Board gave to include, but not make cumbersome.

42 Mayor Pro Tempore White makes a MOTION to approve the changes presented. Commissioner Overcash seconds.
43 5-0.
44

45 Capital Reserve Ordinance: Part of the 22-23 budget included two reserve amounts- one in Police and one in Public
46 Works. We will need to, in the first meeting of the new FY, enact Capital Reserve Ordinances and designate
47 equipment and time period for purchase of new equipment. Amounts can be changed prior to the Ordinance being
48 enacted. Once in Capital Reserve, it stays there. Can be moved to purchase a DIFFERENT piece of equipment, or
49 in a different year, but once reserved, it stays reserved. Manager asks for direction of the Capital Reserve enactment.
50 Manager notes ages of current equipment, amount of time/deposit to reserve to make it happen in X number of
51 years. The \$27,500 in reserve for the excavator was taken into account for the purchase of the new, larger dump
52 truck. Commissioner Overcash asks if we need to schedule another meeting. Commissioners decide they do not
53 need to schedule a special meeting- they will discuss one on one and call a meeting if necessary.
54

55 Audit Contract: Contract for the previous fiscal year activities for financials. Also the letter required by the LGC
56 explaining issues identified. Commissioner Roe questions numbers in contract not matching (less than) approved.
57 Manager explains we also will have an extra page (not included) due to federal funds received and we will also
58 require a separate audit of Police Retirement liability (another \$350). Commissioner Roe makes a MOTION to
59 accept the letter and authorize the appropriate official to sign the audit contract. Mayor Pro Tempore White seconds.
60 5-0.
61

62 Planning Board Appointment: Planning Board forwards a candidate for replacement of Mr. Dan Allen following his
63 resignation. The Board offers Ms. Allison DeWeese as the newest Planning Board member. Commissioner Roe
64 makes a MOTION to appoint Ms. DeWeese to the Planning Board. Commissioner Overcash seconds. Discussion:
65 Commissioner Roe notes we need a younger point of view, and Ms. DeWeese's "unflagging support and presence
66 and accurate reporting is an asset. Ms. DeWeese thanks the Board and is looking forward to her service. 5-0.
67

68 Compensation Discussion: Commissioners requested this discussion Staff offers no opinion. Commissioner Roe
69 begins with the three priorities noted from the Budget Retreat: People, Paving and drainage. People that work for
70 our Town are hardworking good people who do the best with what they got. These are unprecedented times, since
71 the Carter Administration. I drafted with the Town Manager's help, a one time cost of living adjustment using merit
72 pay line- 3% cost of living adjustment and that in the future the Board would consider traditional year end merit if
73 economic conditions allow. We need to offer our employees help NOW. Commissioner Roe makes a MOTION to
74 grant a one time 3% COLA. Commissioner Overcash clarifies. 3% gross, including the Manager. Mayor Pro
75 Tempore White clarifies that this would come from budgeted Merit line. Commissioner Overcash asks about giving
76 a flat \$500/employee. Mayor Pro Tempore White disagrees with 3% now. This all went through during the budget
77 cycle. Commissioner Price clarifies 5% salary raise, and 3% now. Commissioner Roe agrees. Commissioner Price
78 seconds. Commissioner Roe offers to amend to Commissioner Overcash. Vote: 2-3 White, Overcash, Winfrey
79 dissenting. Commissioner Overcash makes a MOTION for a one time \$500 gross payment to all employees except
80 the Manager to come out of Police/Public Works reserves, prior to enacting capital reserves. We can do a budget
81 amendment later. Mayor Pro Tempore White seconds. 4-1, Roe opposing.
82

83 Hurricane Prep. Manager notes where and what can be found both on paper and online to assist residents in
84 preparing for hurricane season and potential events, noting several key points: (1) "the first 72 is on you"- the first
85 72 hours following an event, Town Staff is inspecting and fixing infrastructure, clearing roads, doing damage
86 assessment. Residents need to be able to provide for themselves during this period. (2) Sign up for Pamlico Code
87 Red on the County's website. (3) We are in evacuation zone A. We cannot make you leave, even under a mandatory
88 evacuation. But if you do not, and we have advised to do so, you may be stuck with little to no service until we get
89 the infrastructure moving again. We have strong police and public works observing of Town assets- including
90 private property- we had ONE missing cooler in the aftermath, that may have been taken, or may have floated off.

91 (4) Remember that categories are based PURELY on WIND, and WATER is what takes most lives in an event.(5) If
92 you leave your vehicle on higher ground, use the card in the package and leave it on the dash with contact info. (6)
93 If you evacuate, tape the other form to the inside of your front door in case the structure is compromised- emergency
94 services need go no further into that structure looking for residents that are not there. There are lists for prep, lists
95 for evacuation- take photos and videos of your home, finish prep- especially outside prep before the winds start.
96 Emergency Services stops running once the wind is over 55MPH and does not resume until after they go below
97 55MPH. QUESTION: who makes evacuation decision? County. We partner with churches to keep tabs on who has
98 left- it helps us doing damage assessment. Let SOMEONE know you are leaving- us- your church- neighbor, etc.
99 Commissioner Price notes this is a great package- others use it as an example. Get extra meds, extra glasses, etc.
100 Once FEMA declares a FEMA event, haulers must be certified. We piggyback on County when large event. When
101 we get overwhelmed, we sign on.

102
103 Recycling discussion: Mrs. Small asked for this at the last meeting. Manager goes through recycling dos and don'ts.
104 No plastic bags, no aerosol, aluminum foil, batteries, ceramic, Styrofoam, shredded paper, etc. Form on website.
105 Commissioner Roe asks about shredded paper- likely about sorting- shreds from other. QUESTION from Mr.
106 Lambert- can we eliminate recycling cans from parks? Ms. Crosser notes almost all are contaminated. Maybe just
107 leave trash cans there.

108
109 Police and Manager's reports in August will be for June and July. Town Hall will be closed June 30 for changeover.
110 Closed July 5 for holiday. New fee schedule goes into effect July 1.

111
112 Net House contractor possibility- expecting some documentation and bid for August 2 meeting. Contractor to
113 contact Building Inspector for additional questions, then we should have a bid.

114
115 Commissioners Comments: Commissioner Overcash notes conversation with Pete Newman, who has a shredder at a
116 discount to the Town if interested. Noted that chipped green waste can be a fire hazard. He can also take chips if
117 necessary. Manager notes we could chip into the dumpsters also.

118 Commissioner Roe notes Tourism Board funding – Board is not clear- asks about reserve. Yes- all designated funds
119 carry into the savings for future use.

120 Ms. Crosser asks about expense for electric. Why does that come from Recreation? It always has. Also water is not
121 charged from the Town to the Town.

122 Commissioner Roe asks that we review the auxiliary Boards duties and plans- specifically like beach moving from
123 Parks to HWAC. We all need to know WHICH things each Board is responsible for. Also- Planning Board is
124 looking at Long Range Plan- we need a recommendation from Planning Board in October to look at revision.
125 Chairman Rahm is present and states she will take that to the PB. Mayor Pro Tempore White suggests that this item
126 be moved to the December [January 10 is next scheduled qtrly meeting]

127
128 Commissioner Winfrey makes a MOTION to adjourn. Several Commissioners second. 5-0.

129
130
131 Next meeting scheduled: August 2, 2022, 8AM
132 Meeting **ADJOURNED** at M.

133
134 _____
135 Sally Belangia, Mayor

Diane H. Miller, Town Manager/Clerk

136
137
138
139 Approved _____, 2022