



ORIENTAL REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, June 7, 2022, 8AM

507 Church Street, Oriental, NC

Mayor Sally Belangia Officiating

1 The Town Board of Oriental Meeting held on Tuesday, June 7, 2022 was called to order at 8 AM. Mayor Belangia  
2 determined a quorum to be present. Manager Miller, Dep Finance Officer Cox, Town Staff, and many 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](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, Deputy Finance Director Tammy Cox, the Town  
8 Attorney M. Scott Davis, Town Staff, and members of the public. Mayor Belangia began with the Pledge of  
9 Allegiance. Mayor Belangia notes the full room and encourages everyone to sign up for commenting.

10  
11 Approval of Agenda: Commissioner Overcash makes a MOTION to approve the agenda. Commissioner Roe  
12 requests to add the Consent Agenda to that Motion. Commissioner Overcash agrees to amend the Motion.  
13 Commissioner Roe seconds. 5-0.

14  
15 Public Comment: Mayor notes state name and address prior to speaking

16 8:02AM Carla Fischer- lengthy statement (attached)- need more participation in the process- how the process  
17 works. Complimented the Board and Manager for professional deliberation on budget. Referenced flier distributed  
18 in Town.

19 8:06 Jean White- Support for Manager-working together without divisiveness. Noted flier distribution with  
20 distributors claiming Manager needs to go. People need to attend meetings to know what's going on.

21 8:10 Janice Cox- background in Public Service. Referenced unsigned flier. Made her come to meeting. Public  
22 servants choose to work in Public sector to help the community. Agrees with pay and merit and insurance benefits.

23 8:13 Don McGuire- part of HWAC. Wonderful little Town. Invites all those involved in the flier to come to  
24 meetings and would get a different point of view. Manager always available for consultation. No other small towns  
25 he has lived in have this range of services.

26 8:16 Pat Nocera-complimented the Manager's professionalism.

27 8:17 Vicki Rasmussen- her 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. Flier made her realize she needed to come to meetings. Transparency is the  
28 key. She handed out the fliers- believed that the flier indicated lack of transparency.

29 8:18 Lynn O'Neill- resident since 1998. Trusts Board's judgment on issues that have to keep us current as we grow.  
30 For the budget.

31 8:19 Debra Dammeyer- Thanks Board, residents for coming, and staff. Handed flier. Realized didn't know if the  
32 flier was true because had not come. Come here to have a voice. No name to call, motivation? Flier did make her  
33 come. Pull up the best and stand it forward.

34 8:22 Sue (inaudible)Brugett- Important that we publish the agenda.

35 8:22 Jim Blackerby-HWAC Board. Agrees with all said previously. Manager has proven herself time and time  
36 again. Focus on Hurricane reparation- hazard mitigation- we are preparing instead of reacting. After Florence, Town  
37 staff worked long hours to get us back together.

38 8:24 Danny Forman- trying to get up to speed. Recommends that excel sheets are posted for review.

39 8:26 Allison DeWeese- other than Board and staff, she observed very few others attending budget meetings-  
40 meeting minutes and all documents are posted. Information is out there. A lot of people have stopped her about the  
41 flier. Public meetings- you can record it, I record it, the Town has it. The Town does talk about everything in the  
42 budget in those meetings.

43 8:28 Breena Lietzenberger- new to Town. Manager has helped with property management and business concerns,  
44 and has been nothing but professional.

45  
46 Public Hearing for the Budget 22-23. Manager notes the budget they have is the most recent draft with corrections  
47 made following spreadsheet error in calculations. The only way to correct was to eliminate the open position in  
48 Public Works. In making that correction, Police and Public Works reserve added back in. Notes we have the  
49 spreadsheets up. If we make changes, we have to get to the zero prior to approval. Notes totals in each fund. \$.01 on  
50 the tax rate is a little over \$24,000. Budgeting at 98% collection. No transfer of funds. Mayor Pro Tempore White  
51 makes a MOTION to open the Public Hearing. Commissioner Overcash seconds. 5-0.

52  
53 SB: Anybody else need to sign up for this one?

54 SB: We have Jennifer Roe at 502 South Ave.

55 JR: Full disclosure, Frank Roe is my husband and I do not speak for him, I speak for myself. I am not 100% in  
56 support of the budget. I did the fliers, information on the fliers. They were not detailed- just bullet points to get  
57 people's attention and make them aware of what's going on. I've been (inaudible) over twenty years, I've been on  
58 various boards, and various committees. When government starts out, government- something I want to say- it was  
59 never about an employee, it was about what the budget says. Government jobs and the private sector should be here  
60 (hand gestures). People in the government sector should not be equal to the private sector. And you have to consider  
61 the private sector- these things sound good, sound great financially. But you also have to consider the private sector  
62 that pays the bills. And that's all I have.

63  
64 SB: Thank you. Danny Forman (inaudible- declines to speak again)

65 SB: Anybody else?

66 -Manager reminds Mayor once Public Hearing is closed, comments are over-

67 SB: That's right, comments are over once we close it.

68 CO: Moves that the Public Hearing close.

69 DW: Seconds.

70 5-0.

71  
72 Discussion: Mayor Pro Tempore White makes a MOTION that the budget as presented is approved. Commissioner  
73 Overcash seconds.

74 Commissioner Roe notes a lot of work went into the budget. It is not reflective of increases in cost we are likely to  
75 experience. Not in favor of the large piece of equipment or maintenance of extra Police vehicle. We cannot foresee  
76 economic conditions upcoming. Manager did her best to capture the rising costs. Suggests we postpone purchasing  
77 the excavator. Dispose of third Police car, and use those funds for other issues. These are the only issues.  
78 Emphasizes that our employees need to be properly compensated, and support increase in pay.

79 Commissioner Price also questions excavator purchase, believes we should contract it out. (Starts into discussing the  
80 fee schedule- Manager notes that is the next Public Hearing and the agenda order was approved, so need to discuss  
81 one then the other). Commissioner Roe asks if we approve the budget is the fee schedule approved. Manager notes  
82 the numbers in the budget are calculated from the fee schedule, but that she had no indication changes were to be  
83 proposed or there would have been a different order. As the agenda is approved, we must go through it in that order.  
84 Commissioner Price would like to change the recycling fee and make it incremental. This is a bill we all have to  
85 pay. Asks if amendments to the motion can be made. Manager notes the person making the motion must make the  
86 amendment or agree to an amendment from another. Commissioner Price asks Mayor Pro Tem White to amend the  
87 Motion to remove the excavator and amend the recycling fees. Mayor Pro Tem White declines. Vote: 3-2, with  
88 Commissioners Roe and Price dissenting.

89  
90 Public Hearing #2: Fee Schedule. Manager goes through proposed affected items to be increased. All increases  
91 were discussed relative to their impact on the ability of fees to cover the cost to the Town to make those things

92 happen. Relative costs to the County. Town WITH increases to water is still less than rates from County prior to  
93 increases proposed. Water Fund is barely covering its own costs. Capital fixes should assist in lowering costs or  
94 covering increases, however, not eligible for grants due to low rates. Manager goes through all cost increases.  
95 Commissioner Overcash makes a MOTION to open the Public Hearing. Commissioner Roe seconds. 5-0.  
96 SB: Do we have the Public Hearing paper?  
97 SB: all right. The first one is Jennifer Roe.  
98 JR: I believe I spoke last year about kicking the can down the road. So, now we've got to stop kicking that can down  
99 the road. My question to Board would be, and thank you, Commissioner White for bringing it up, that Boards do  
100 change, although I think a few of you have been here through several changes, so My question is I understand that  
101 we have two green waste dumpsters, and I understand exactly what Miss Miller was saying about green waste. My  
102 question is could we go to one, and defer some of that cost of recycling bins for our citizens during these trying  
103 times of economic inflation? That would be a suggestion to the Board.  
104 SB: Thank you. Danny Forman  
105 DF: I would suggest, since the green waste, the dumpsters- for one they are not very slightly at the Water Plant. And  
106 everybody that hauled their green waste to the dumpsters- encourage them to haul it to the dump. Encourage them  
107 not to burn. That way the cost is their cost, it's not public cost and hopefully it will bring the increased rate down.  
108 Plus there's a tremendous amount of out-of-town people using the dumpsters. That's all I have. Thank you.  
109 SB: Thank you. Carol Small  
110 CS: Good Morning everybody. Like Danny said- Are contractors allowed to use those dumpsters?  
111 DM: No, Ma'am, we're stopping that about twice a month.  
112 CS: I'm not a town spy, but I walk two dogs twice a day, so I see contractors. But that's not my issue. My issue is  
113 would the Town be amenable to do some education for what you can and cannot put in the blue cans. And my  
114 question is because one time we took a load of stuff to the transfer station and saw the recycling truck dumping its  
115 contents into the landfill trash section. And I said why are you dumping the recycling into the trash? He said because  
116 people commingle trash and recyclables, which contaminates the whole load. Adult diapers and other trash into blue  
117 cans. And please- I do not go through your blue can's contents- I do not lit the lid to see what's in there, but  
118 sometimes the lid is open with things hanging out. A long time ago, Jayne Stasser and John Bloom spent a lot of  
119 time trying to educate people about what you can and can't recycle. Unfortunately, they're gone and the whole  
120 program of volunteers has gone away. So I walk past the blue cans and one of my neighbors had all these hangers  
121 hanging out of the can and I happened to be with her and said, "You know you're not supposed to do that." And she  
122 said "Well, they're plastic." So people don't know that anything that's plastic can't go in there, including bags. And  
123 Diane knows I came in and got the big stickers that say "Under no circumstances, under pain of death, do not put  
124 plastic bags in this can." So I do it in my house- my recyclables go into a plastic bag, but then dumped into the blue  
125 can and the plastic bag then goes to the trash bin. But most people don't know that's what they should do. And they  
126 also recycle stuff that has the high numbers, 8,9, 10...and we don't recycle those things. At least we didn't when  
127 Jayne Stasser and John Bloom were doing the recycling. We basically do water bottle type bottles, any kind of glass  
128 not broken, and cardboard. Thank you.  
129 SB: Thank you.  
130 DM: Offers to schedule review at next meeting.  
131 SB: Any more comments?  
132 DW MOTION to close the Public Hearing. Commissioner Overcash seconds.5-0.  
133  
134 Commissioner Roe makes a MOTION to accept the fee schedule except change the upcharge on recycling from  
135 \$6.75 to \$4.50 this year. Commissioner Price seconds. Commissioner Overcash understands what they're saying,  
136 but at some point we have to do this. Commissioner Overcash would support splitting the difference. Mayor Pro  
137 Tempore White says we have had this discussion over 5 budget sessions. It's a \$57/year increase that we need to do.  
138 Commissioner Overcash asks if this affects the budget we just passed. Manager notes YES, but you don't have to  
139 amend the budget until the fund goes over the allocated amount. You'll have to move it from General Fund  
140 appropriated. Vote 3-2 with Mayor Pro Tempore White and Commissioner Winfrey dissenting.

141 Commissioner Roe notes the Water Fund has been underfunded repeatedly. This fee schedule should go a long way  
142 to correcting it.

143  
144 Public Library Presentation: Ms. Bonnie Cap does a presentation for the Pamlico Public Library noting the plans for  
145 the new purchased building and requests information dissemination left for the Town for residents who would like  
146 to contribute to the building fund.

147 Mayor Belangia calls for a break.

148  
149 Following the break, Commissioner Roe asks that the Town draft a letter in support of the Library's efforts for their  
150 use in fundraising. Commissioner Overcash seconds. 5-0.

151  
152 Audit Presentation: Mr. Gregory T. Redman, CPA notes that this is an unmodified opinion. Mr. Redman goes  
153 through the two issues- late audit and water fund operating fund. Audit was late because our former contracted  
154 auditor was unable to complete and notified us very late. Water fund is operating on thin margin. We are holding  
155 82% of unrestricted unreserved. A letter is required by the NC Treasurer addressing those. Once approved, the  
156 report is posted to the Town's website.

157  
158 Planning Board request for Public Hearing: The Planning Board has completed revision to Section 60 and 135 to  
159 add tent camping to the RV Ordinance, which requires a Public Hearing. They request you set that for your June  
160 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Mayor Pro Tempore White makes a MOTION to schedule a Public Hearing. Commissioner Winfrey  
161 seconds. 5-0.

162  
163 Appointments/Ordinance Change: The HWAC Committee requests changes to their Board requirements to add to  
164 their numbers and allow additional full time County residents to serve. Appoint Mr. Kellenberger, Nocera, and  
165 Szerlag to HWAC. Revisions made to Ordinance change. Commissioner Roe makes a MOTION to appoint  
166 members and make adjustments to the Ordinance, as amended. Commissioner Winfrey seconds. 5-0.

167  
168 Meeting Movement: The Board is scheduled for year end closing meeting June 23, 2022. The Board can, and has in  
169 the past, add to that agenda, any items available for the July 5 meeting and cancel the July 5 meeting due to  
170 traditionally not having a quorum available near the holiday. Commissioner Overcash makes a MOTION to add July  
171 5 business to June 23 scheduled meeting. Commissioner Winfrey seconds. 5-0.

172  
173 Meeting Schedule and Holiday Schedule. Manager provides draft schedule to Board. Some discussion about  
174 Election Day- traditionally moved to accommodate. However, Election Day is NOT the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday, but rather the  
175 second Tuesday, so the meeting can proceed on November 1 as scheduled. January- move to 10<sup>th</sup> and make it  
176 Regular meeting AND workshop. Commissioner Overcash makes the MOTION to approve the adjusted schedule.  
177 Commissioner Winfrey seconds. 5-0. Holiday Schedule- the proposed holiday schedule was approved as presented  
178 on a MOTION by Mayor Pro Tempore White and Commissioner Overcash as a second. 5-0.

179  
180 Chapter K amendment. The Board approved proposed adjustment to Chapter K as pertaining to water leak  
181 adjustments. Adjustments will be made for the first 40,000 gallons ONLY. After 40,000 gallons, the customer will  
182 be charged at the highest rate. Several huge volume leaks have been from negligence. The Town offers- AT NO  
183 CHARGE- the service of shutting off water for residents who leave for periods of time. Mayor Pro Tempore White  
184 makes the MOTION to approve the adjustment as proposed. Commissioner Winfrey seconds. 5-0.

185  
186 Police Report was brief, including speeding data on Hodges Street, indicating people were mostly slowing once they  
187 saw the speed sign. Officer Blayney noted both Officers are now radar certified and equipment is being calibrated.  
188 Board suggested a media presence to indicate we would be watching speeding in Town. Suggestion made to install  
189 additional limit signs further up Hodges St.

190 Manager's Report: Manager went through attached items. Beach project and road closure. Signed Contract as  
191 directed by Board. No construction during July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday. Beach will be closed during construction. Protocol in  
192 conjunction with Bay River to ensure sewerage keep moving or is pumped into truck and removed during  
193 construction. Burnout continues. Public Works accomplishments. New taps, new housing starts way up. Mosquito  
194 spraying starting this week.

195  
196 Commissioners Comments: Mayor Pro Tempore White notes still moving forward with progress on Net House.  
197 Meeting this week to see if project can be broken into stages, noting that we cannot break it down to avoid bidding  
198 rules, but we can if remodelers have specific skills and different abilities, we can use several groups to make it  
199 happen and get the Net House secured and safe. Commissioner Roe notes we will need to have reports from the use  
200 of the new equipment by hours and jobs. Suggested one dumpster (green waste) inside the fence and one outside the  
201 fence. Would like a list of which committees are responsible for what. Finally, does not in any way support letting  
202 Manager Miller go. Whoever said that, it was inappropriate.

203  
204 Commissioner Winfrey makes a MOTION to adjourn. Commissioner Overcash seconds. 5-0.  
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207  
208  
209  
210  
211

212  
213 Next meeting scheduled: Town Board Budget Meeting – June 23, 2022, 8AM, MOVED from July 5 and including  
214 budget amendment to get back into balance prior to end of fiscal year.  
215 Meeting **ADJOURNED** at 3:12PM.  
216

217 \_\_\_\_\_  
218 Sally Belangia, Mayor

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

219  
220  
221  
222 Approved , 2022