

Town of Oriental  
Town Board Meeting  
August 4, 2015

The Town Board of Oriental held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Tuesday, August 4, 2015 at 7:10pm. The Mayor Pro Tem determined a quorum to be present, and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Present:** Mayor Pro Tem Venturi, Commissioners Overcash, Winfrey, White, and Summers, Town Manager Miller, Administrative Assistant Dimond and public.

The Agenda and Consent Agenda were presented for Board approval.

Mayor Pro Tem Venturi suggested that the Board move Committee/ Board appoints to right after the public comment period.

**Motion:** Commissioner White motioned to move the Committee/ Board reappointments moved to after the public comment period. Commissioner Overcash seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

**Motion:** Commissioner Overcash motioned to approve the agenda, Commissioner Winfrey seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

In considering the consent agenda, Commissioner Summers requested a grammatical change to the July 7, 2015 minutes. Additionally, he asked that the last paragraph of page 3 be changed to ‘Commissioner Summers commented that the County Compass has a good letter about the need for better recycling in the county. Additionally, he commented that the East Carolina Council of Governments heard a presentation supporting the “Connect NC” Bond initiative. There are two parts to this program, transportation and other. In the other category, NC Community Colleges, including Pamlico Community College, would receive 1.83 million dollars. On the transportation side, no money would directly go to Pamlico County transportation projects.’

**Motion:** Commissioner Venturi motioned to approve the consent agenda with the suggested changes to the July 7, 2015 minutes, Commissioner Winfrey seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

In the public comment period, Flora Moorman spoke to the Board about the upcoming Oriental Dragon Boat Festival. 18 teams will be taking part this year. Grace Evans asked the Board about ongoing construction at the Town’s South Avenue property, questioning if the Town would be able to salvage an old fence on the property. Town Manager Miller and the Board responded that the fence would not be removed.

Mayor Pro Tem Venturi closed the public comment period and presented the next item of business the appointment of Missy Tenhet to the Tree Board and Bonnie Knapp to the Planning Board.

**Motion:** Mayor Pro Tem Venturi motioned to appoint Missy Tenhet to the Tree Board and Bonnie Knapp to the Planning Board, Commissioner Summers seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

The next item of business was a budget amendment. Town Manager Miller explained that the amendment is to legally stretch over two years the receivable account into which reimbursement from the CAMA restroom and pump-out grants will go.

**Motion:** Commissioner Summers motioned to approve the budget amendment, Commissioner Overcash seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

The Oriental Rotary Club gave a presentation on their 1<sup>st</sup> annual Classic Car Show, scheduled for October 17, 2015, and requested that the Board authorize them to close off part of South Avenue for the event. Rotary is hoping for 300-500 people to attend and feels it would be a safety risk to have them on the street, viewing classic cars, with traffic moving past. A discussion ensued as to the exact street closures. The discussion concluded with the decision to ask for South Avenue to be closed from the corner of Neuse Street to just before the corner of Mildred Street, leaving the parking lot to River Neuse Suites unblocked, and for Freemason Street to be closed from the corner of South Avenue to the corner of First Street. This event will on the same day as the Ol' Front Porch Festival, but the two events are working to collaborate their efforts. Commissioner Overcash voiced his dissent to the idea of blocking South Avenue, stating that it would prevent tourists from being able to drive the most scenic portion of the Town.

**Motion:** Commissioner White motioned to close off South Avenue from the corner of Neuse Street to just before the corner of Mildred Street, leaving the parking lot to River Neuse Suites unblocked, and for Freemason Street to be closed from the corner of South Avenue to the corner of First Street on October 17, 2015 for the Oriental Rotary Classic Car Show. Commissioner Summers seconded. Motion passed 4-1, Commissioner Overcash voting nay.

The next item on the agenda was holiday schedules for Town employees. The proposal is to have 8 'set' holidays and 4 optional holiday days to be taken at the discretion of each employee. Commissioner Summers questioned if this would be an ordinance change, Town Manager Miller stated that it would not, that it would be a change to personnel policy. The Board decided to wait until the policy change was presented to them in final form to approve and sign.

The next item was the unsealing of closed session minutes. Town Manager Miller informed the Board that there was one additional set of closed minutes from February 2, 2015, to consider.

Commissioner White stated that he felt pieces were missing from the minutes and wanted to wait until he felt there was a full set to vote on.

**Motion:** Commissioner Summers motioned to table the topic until the next meeting.

**Motion:** Commissioner White motioned to table the topic until all minutes are presented, not the next meeting.

**Motion:** Commissioner Summers motioned to table the topic indefinitely, Commissioner White seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Town Dock reporter Melinda Penkava asked the Board if the completed minutes could be released now instead of waiting. In response, Mayor Pro Tem Venturi stated to the Board that the topic should be put on next month's agenda to demonstrate that this action is not related to upcoming elections.

Town Manager Miller gave her monthly report, touching on the progress of construction at the South Avenue property, Town staff receiving training, pothole repairs being complete, the GMO being updated by the Planning Board, the Pamlico County Relief Team 'stuff my bag' event, a new Public Works employee – Jake Arnfast, advertising for a new office assistant, Public Works being fitting for boots in August, a notice of deficiency, the Board of Adjustment meeting on Friday, August 7, 2015, and a thank you to citizens who have been cutting the right-a-way grass in front of their properties. Additionally, Town Manager Miller reported on the Town's two water tanks being repainted and the discovery and removal of hemlock in Town.

Police Chief Moore reported that he had nothing new to report for July, that it was a good month. Speeding was up a bit, but that goes with the summer holidays. The viper radios for the police force are being programmed now and he'll be them to the next meeting.

It was noted the Mayor Warren Johnson is temporarily out of Town.

In comment on the Town Board/Committee minutes, Mayor Pro Tem Venturi noted that the Parks and Recreation Committee were working to establish why the Town's bike path grant application was denied in order to fix the application for submitting again. Additionally, the Parks and Recreation Committee met with the Harbor Water/Front Committee and decided that the Harbor Water/Fronts Committee would take change of the Town's docks and that the Parks and Recreation Committee will take responsibility for the land around the docks. Commissioner Overcash commented that Crepe Myrtles are covering a stop sign on First Street and asked that it be brought to the Tree Board's attention.

A new item was added to the meeting, discussing the Camp Creek land offer. Camp Creek is offering to gift the Town a five acre piece of land with a historic house on it. The Town has 45 days to decide if it wants to accept. The property is at the end of North Street and runs behind Midyette Street. Commissioners Overcash and Winfrey offered to walk/ survey the property in the near future.

Town Manager Miller had two items to note to the Board; that a legal invoice for \$81.80 would be added to the South Avenue budget line and the Chris Fulcher has generously offered to let the Town use his electric pole for building the South Avenue restrooms and to cover the electrical cost in full.

In the Commissioner comment period, Commissioner Overcash asked Town Manager Miller about the progress of mowing notices.

**Motion:** Commissioner Overcash motioned to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Winfrey seconded. Motion passed 5-0

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

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Warren Johnson, Mayor

Diane H. Miller, Town Manager