

Tab 1



ORIENTAL TOWN BOARD MONTHLY MEETING
Tuesday, August 1, 2023, 8AM
507 Church Street, Oriental, NC
Mayor Sally Belangia officiating

1 The Town Board of Oriental Regular monthly meeting was held on Tuesday, August 1, 2023 was called to order at
2 8:00 AM. Mayor Belangia determined a quorum to be present. The meeting was open to the public. All documents
3 for the meeting were available through the Town's website at www.TownofOriental.com.

4
5 Present: Mayor Belangia, Mayor Pro Tempore White, Commissioner Overcash, Commissioner Winfrey,
6 Commissioner Roe, and Commissioner Price. Town Manager Diane Miller, Administrative Assistant Mary Kent,
7 Officer Wichrowski. Commissioner Winfrey was absent. Mayor begins with the Pledge of Allegiance.

8
9 Approval of Agenda: Commissioner Overcash made a MOTION to accept the agenda. Mayor Pro Tempore White
10 seconds. 4-0.

11
12 Consent Agenda: Commissioner Roe made a MOTION to approve the consent. Commissioner Overcash seconds. 4-
13 0.

14
15 Public Comment: 8:04 Butch Rasmussen: 306 Mildred St- chicken ordinance- has more issue that restricts R-1
16 chicken ownership. Manager notes multiple restrictions in R-1, including short term rentals, Also notes the State
17 may be taking a lot of that zoning ability away and prevent us from allowing all housing in all zones.

18 8:06AM Bonnie Crosser- 1102 Neuse Drive acknowledges contribution from pickleball group to defray cost of court
19 re-stripping.

20 8:09AM Gwinn Hedrick-414 Whittaker Point Rd- concerns about disease and predator vectoring with the allowance
21 of chickens.

22
23 Presentation by Bobby Brewer concerning Recreational and Guided Fishing growth in Oriental: Mr. Brewer went
24 through the explosion of growth and economic impact of recreational fishing on Oriental's bottom line- from
25 occupancy tax to supplies, restaurant usage, etc. Tarpon coming back- tournament this weekend. 3 record fish
26 caught here. Discussed fishery rulings and limitations and lawsuit against same. Suggested several potential
27 improvements of facilities- Mr. Balckerby (HWAC Chair) was present and noted recommendations to be carried to
28 HWAC Committee including additional bumper boards, cleaning stations, limitations on time at dock during rec
29 fishing season.

30
31 OI Front Porch Music Festival update: Marjorie Dufek gives update, noting no change from previous requested
32 closures, times have moved slightly, and there is a rain plan this year.

33
34 Hurricane Season Information: the 2023 Hurricane Prep package is now online at our website- all lists and
35 documents in this presentation available there or on paper at Town Hall. Manager encouraged the inventorying of
36 house/grounds/property prior to any event. Do an insurance checkup. Make sure you have a plan for evacuation
37 AND for staying through a storm. Reminded residents that the "first 72 is on you"- meaning that you must be self
38 sufficient for at least 72 hours following departure of storm. Emergency Mgmt will be clearing roads and checking
39 infrastructure. Emphasized that if evacuation is ordered, you SHOULD evacuate- we can't make you. Shelter is last
40 resort- no longer supported by American Red Cross- few amenities will be available. Do NOT drop off adults in
41 need of close care/ medical assistance. Prepare for pets. Vehicle sheets if you leave your vehicle on higher ground so
42 we can contact you with problems. Housing sheet to be posted on inside of front door with evacuation and contact
43 info to keep emergency responders safer in event of collapsed structures. Tell us, tell your church, tell SOMEONE if
44 you are evacuating, so they and we are not looking for you. This building has a generator- you are welcome to come
45 here and get out of the heat, charge your devices, etc in the event of power outages. Please allow Electrical workers

46 to work without interruption. Any questions, please call or email Town Hall. Anything you need help with
47 preparing- moving lawn furniture, etc- we can help if you start early. As storm approaches, we are working through
48 a preparation checklist. Use trusted sources- remember that news channels have a vested interest in keeping you
49 tuned in- use National Weather Service, NOAA, and Town Dock, who track actual, factual information only during
50 storm situations. Commissioner Overcash notes the Pamlico Amateur Radio Association, of which he is a member,
51 has access to the outside world even when other communication is cut off. The Town has several phones on a first
52 responder network that prioritizes emergency management phones when call volume is high. Mayor Pro Tempore
53 White notes to check your insurance documents and their expiration dates as he has just received notice that his
54 company is no longer insuring in our area. Also reiterates using trusted sources. And asks folks to be patient
55 afterward while we are getting the process in place for pickup and disposal of debris. FEMA rule changes require us
56 to sign a contract separate from the County- but we have signed with the SAME company as the County. Also have
57 an approved staging site.

58
59 Ordinance 2023-294 Pierce Creek Dredging: We have agreed to be the Administrative party in the state granted
60 dredging fund. We have been awarded the grant at \$276,975. This is a Capital Project Ordinance to get it into our
61 books- you'll see a budget amendment to get it in there officially in the near future. We have not received the
62 Whittaker Creek Dredge documents, likely because the permit is attached to Whittaker Pointe. This Ordinance
63 allows us to create the Project and the Manager needs authorization to execute the document. Commissioner Roe
64 asks about administrative time pay for the Town to process. \$1375 is included in both grants. Commissioner Roe
65 makes a MOTION to approve and authorize the actions requested. Commissioner Overcash seconds. 4-0.

66
67 Appointments: Manager incorrectly gave you the wrong member to reappoint to the Board of Adjustment. Instead
68 of reappointing Mr. Carmichael, we need to reappoint Mr. Marlowe. Commissioner Roe makes a MOTION to
69 reappoint Mr. Marlowe and un-appoint Mr. Carmichael. Commissioner Overcash seconds. 4-0.

70
71 Contract to revise GMO from 160A to 160D as required by NCGS. The ECCOG has forwarded a contract to review
72 and revise the GMO to become compliant with the repealed/replaced Land Use Ordinances associated with 160A
73 moving to 160D. With the resignation of more than one long-term members on the Planning Board and required
74 legal review- we would be paying likely the same to do the work ourselves and then pay for that legal review.
75 Planning Board has recommended that the contract be executed. As not funded, the required funds would have to be
76 appropriated from unrestricted unreserved GF. Commissioner Roe asks that we request 2 meetings at the cost listed,
77 otherwise, we should move forward. Commissioner Roe makes a MOTION to authorize the Manager to negotiate
78 for the second meeting as detailed in the contract and execute the best deal available. Commissioner Overcash
79 seconds. 4-0.

80
81 Revision proposed for Chapter H- Animals- to loosen restrictions on backyard chickens. Significant restrictions are
82 offered in Ordinance Amendment 2023-295 includes: no chickens in R-1, no roosters, minimum size for
83 coops/enclosures, predator proof enclosures, cleaning standards, new setbacks, no outside slaughter, requires permit.
84 Manager shows other communities' examples of chicken ordinances. After extended discussion, acknowledging
85 many objections, including those from County Animal Control, Commissioner Roe makes a MOTION to table the
86 Ordinance proposal. Commissioner Price seconds. No further discussion. 4-0.

87
88 Review of Green Waste Proposal: During budget discussion, the abuse of green waste dumpsters by contractors and
89 unlimited pickups by Public Works revealed that there are people taking advantage of the opportunity.
90 Commissioner Price forwarded a suggestion for procedure to keep a listing of those who truly need help, and those
91 would be pre-qualified to be able to call for pickup. Discussion centered on keeping the service available, but
92 perhaps limiting the number of times or number of days Public Works would be picking up green waste. Manager
93 awaits direction. Commissioner Overcash wants to leave as is, but have more eyes on it. Discussion on movement of
94 dumpsters can prevent seeing license plates. Note time of day if you see someone dumping that should not be.
95 Commissioner Roe thinks we need to get Public Works out of the business- they must call. Perhaps designate days
96 for pickup and not every day.

97
98 Drainage: Skipper Circle- complaints on drainage work. Public Works, original contractor and second contractor
99 agree on elevations and flow. Residents do not. One culvert higher than others, diverting water into different from
100 original flow. On hold since June 15 awaiting decision. Plan was to reset the driveway culvert and get water flowing

101 as designed. Awaiting direction. Commissioners went out to listen to residents. He prefer it be put back- and he at
102 his own cost will make the corrections to his driveway. Disappointed because he did not receive an answer from his
103 letter. The answers to his questions were not answered until last week. Commissioner Overcash wants us to move
104 forward as planned. Contractor does not return until after August. Move on to next project. MPT White asks what
105 happens when others want to argue? Move on to more dire issues. Go with our plan. Stopping for every objection
106 will not get the work done. Manager asks for direction. Notes several pieces of equipment are currently down.

107
108 Planning Board forwards a request to set a Public Hearing to approve the revised Comprehensive Land Use Plan.
109 Draft is attached to your meeting notice. The PB will have one more pass at it in their August meeting. The copy
110 attached is marked up. Julie is staying until we get through this plan. She is submitting all suggested changes. They
111 have taken surveys, Board in put, etc. MPT White makes a MOTION that we schedule a Public Hearing for Sept 5
112 for the Comprehensive Land Use Plan update. Commissioner Overcash seconds. 4-0.

113
114 Police Report: Officer Wichrowski directs to Hurricane presentation- resources we have are now in the County-
115 swift water rescue and such instead of having to call out of state assistance. Lots of training has gone on- helicopter
116 lifting, water rescue, etc. As far as cars are concerned- remember where you are parked, use those cards if you
117 vehicle is off-site. First responsibility is getting roads clear and checking for damage. He is asked about animal
118 calls- some were attached to paper delivery from previous incident. Relocating a snapping turtle (without the
119 Manager's assistance), another dead animal in the road.

120
121 Manager's Report: Financials attached. Your financials are current year because we have not received everything
122 that needs to be backed in to the previous year- both invoices and payments (Sales tax, gas tax, etc). When we have
123 that, you will get a final accounting from the previous year. Letter from Ms. Leavitt on Officer Wichrowski's
124 professionalism in a contentious discussion. ECCOG meeting- new members, education opportunities. Jacksonville,
125 Onslow County and New Bern left and then came back. County Leadership meeting- where Mr. Murray gave us the
126 hurricane update- all County communities, Mayor Heath's active hand in delivering our objections to the budget-
127 the ferry tolls have been removed, but budget is still not passed. Exceeded the discharge levels by .002 ppm on
128 disinfection discharge. Didn't settle out enough of the residual- making water too fast and not enough settling time.
129 Increases testing requirements.

130
131
132 Committee Reports: NONE

133
134 Commissioner Comments: Mayor Sally wants to add to the Sept 5 meeting a proclamation for Fay Bond Day.

135
136 Next meeting scheduled: Town Board Regular Meeting September 5, 2023, 8AM. (Manager notes this is the day
137 following Labor Day Holiday)
138 Meeting **ADJOURNED** at 9:30 AM by MOTION of Commissioner Roe, second by Commissioner Overcash. 4-0.

139
140 _____
141 Sally Belangia, Mayor

Diane H. Miller, Town Manager/Clerk

142
143 Approved _____, 2023