

## SUMMARY of March 19, 2020 meeting

All documents used in the meeting are attached under the Meeting notice on our website:  
[www.townoforiental.com](http://www.townoforiental.com)

- 1) Manager went through highlights of Executive Orders (Governor of NC)- Eos and summary posted under TAB 1
- 2) State of Emergency: Manager explained the provisions of the declaration are basically to make us eligible for FEMA funding and resources, should we need them. Provisions for a curfew and restricted entry are there, NOT IMPOSED CURRENTLY. Our State of Emergency, Pamlico County's, State's all under TAB 2
- 3) Board voted to suspend several sections of Chapter K- Water Ordinance- regarding late fees/cutoff fees and water disconnections. All documents listed under TAB 3. Sections suspended until JUNE 10. Water bills WITHOUT added fees will accumulate and be due AFTER June 10.
- 4) Public Meetings: The Board voted to suspend the volunteer Board meetings for at least the next 30 days- this includes face-to-face meetings of the Tourism, Tree, HWAC, Parks and Recreation Boards. Board of Adjustment will meet as necessary. Planning Board will meet as necessary, following social distancing and meeting gathering rules currently in place. Town Board will follow School of Government and legal guidance for future Town Board meetings.
- 5) Public Facilities: The Board voted to leave all open air facilities (docks, fishing pier, boat ramp, parks, playgrounds, beach) OPEN- and encourage people to maintain social distancing while using those. Manager reminded those who use objects in those facilities to remember to wash up or use hand sanitizer when leaving those objects. WATER FOUNTAINS IN ALL FACILITIES ARE NOT ON AND WILL NOT BE TURNED ON FOR THE NEAR FUTURE. Indoor facilities owned by the Town that are OPEN: Public Restrooms at Town Hall and Town Dock 2. Public indoor facilities CLOSED: Town Hall. All meetings and classes are cancelled for at least the next 30 days, up to 60 at the Manager's discretion.
- 6) Events: The Board voted to cancel CycleNC as they had not cancelled at the time of the meeting. In conversations with their Director, the Manager indicated that, though CycleNC had committed to Washington NC for 2021, they could come back to Oriental in 2022 instead of 2023. Boat Show has been moved to September, Dog Parade was cancelled. Discussions concerning Town Wide Yard Sale- scheduled for May- decision not made yet. With respect to Governor's order that closed restaurants to walk-in traffic, we did have a request to pull the permit on Food Trucks, in order to force traffic to existing restaurants. The Board chose NOT to pull that permit, partially due to the fact that they were a great assistance to us following Florence, and we are not aware of the amount of traffic that is/will be handled by existing restaurants in this emergency.
- 7) Staff has instructions to maintain social distance- please do not approach our employees nearer than social distance. While they are mostly younger and likely to be able to fight off infection, we rely on our small staff to continue water production and keep things moving as normally as possible within the Town. We have received guidance on employee health and the process by which we would send an employee home, and the testing protocol. From our attorney: the process is that the prospectively sick employee (or anyone presenting as sick) is sent to medical professionals and tested for flu with immediate results. If the test is negative, they are immediately tested for COVID-19 and sent into self-quarantine. That test result takes 3 days. Upon a positive result, the local Health Department is notified and notifications of anyone in

contact with that individual is notified. If we are notified of positive results in Pamlico County, we will surely share that information.

- 8) Grant acceptance: Due to the overwhelming attention given to the current emergency, the Manager was unable to complete the Minutes from the previous regular meeting and asked the Board to authorize her to execute the grant agreement with the NC Office of Recovery and Resilience- a grant awarded for replacement of heavy equipment (\$86,593). The Board was sure they had granted that in the March 3 meeting, but authorized her again to allow the paperwork to move forward immediately.
- 9) QUESTIONS forwarded:
  - a. Ms. Carol Mabe asked about status of the dredging permit. We are awaiting the permit- expected today, dredging company is staged in the channel awaiting that permit.
  - b. Lisa Thompson said that the pumpout at TownDock 2 was operational and transient boaters COULD self contain on their vessels (during discussion about closing indoor facilities)
  - c. Ms. Crosser asked if we have signage out indicating social distancing requirements and recommendations (Those will be created following this meeting)
  - d. Ms. Crosser asked if we will be informed of any positive cases in the Town. (We'll let you know what the Health Dept forwards to us).
  - e. Thanks from several citizens on the livestream.

The Board thanked Keith Smith and Allison DeWeese for livestreaming the meeting through TownDock.net and Mr. Smith provided that 165 people attended online- our BIGGEST MEETING EVER!