

Town of Oriental
Town Board Meeting
January 6, 2015

The Town Board of Oriental held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 6, 2015 at 7:00pm. The Mayor determined a quorum to be present, and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Mayor Sage, Commissioners Overcash, White, Venturi, Summers and Winfrey, Town Manager Miller, Deputy Town Clerk Beyer, Town Administrative Assistant, and public.

The Agenda and Consent Agenda were presented for Board approval.

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

Discussion on the consent agenda followed. Commissioner Venturi noted that in the November 20, 2014 Agenda Workshop Minutes, paragraph 9, to change the word *corrected* to *correcting*. Commissioner Venturi observed that some public comments might have been left off of the December 2, 2014 Minutes. Discussion of the agenda continued with the Town Manager's suggestion to correct the November 20, 2014 Motion on the passage of "Christmas bonuses" to the term "longevity bonuses" in the future. Commissioner White concluded the discussion with a suggestion to assert additional language into the employee compensation policy, suggesting that a supervisor should pre-approve the authorization of compensation time for an employee.

MOTION: Commissioner Venturi motioned to approve the consent agenda as corrected, Commissioner White seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

No public signed up to speak during the public comment period.

A public hearing was held on the Special Use Permit (SUP) application for the Cartwright House. The Town Manager reviewed that the applicant had met all GMO permit requirements, save for satisfactorily meeting the landscaping requirements. However, it was agreed that the requirement could be waived, due to extenuating circumstance of a tree killing fungus identified in the location's soil. The Cartwright House hopes to reopen April 1st.

MOTION: Commissioner Overcash motioned to close the public hearings, Commissioner Summers seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

The Board unanimously agreed that all of the SUP findings of fact, as set forth in the GMO, had been met. Incorporated herein and referenced hereto these minutes.

MOTION: Commissioner Overcash motioned to approve the SUP as presented, Commissioner Winfrey seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

With no objection from the Town Board, the public hearing on the amendment to the GMO, concerning RV parks, was removed from the agenda, pending further input from the Town Attorney, Scott Davis. The matter will be brought to the planning board on their January 21, 2015 meeting and rescheduled for the Town public hearing on February 3, 2015.

The Town Manager presented her report. Letters have been sent to all major US cellular services to offer cooperation in improving cellular service in Town. The Town has signed a contract to have an ebillingoption for water bills setup on the Town website; the service will hopefully be up before the end of January. Upgrades are continuing to be made to the Town's water plant; the plant now has a holding capability of 6,000 gallons. The new street lights in town have received a mixed response from the public. Energy costs for the new LED lights comes to only \$8.08 a month, compared to the \$20 a month paid for the old lights. Residences and businesses report feeling safer with the improved lighting. For \$400 dollars a light, options are available for unsatisfied residents interested in replacing street lamps.

Discussion on the proposed restrooms at the town docks followed. Planning sketches were presented with discussion on the most feasible property layout. Mayor Sage requested that the topic be further discussed at the upcoming board retreat.

Discussion was undertaken on when and where to hold the Town retreat. Consensus was met to hold the retreat at Pamlico Community College, on the dates of the 13-14 of March, 2015 – with the 20-21 as an option if the preferred dates conflicted with the college.

The Water Advisory Board will hold a meeting on January 20, 2015, concerning Cross connection and Backflow NC. DENR representativeDykLuben will provide information concerning the need for a Town program, a list of local businesses will be invited by mail.

Town Manager Diane H. Miller and Administrative Assistant Tammy Cox will be attending clerk school on January 21, 2015 to receive additional training.

It was brought to the attention of the board that the Town generator has blown its water pump and heater block. The town has been quoted \$1,300 to have these parts repaired, with the opinion that the generator would be back to full running capacity after said repairs. The quote to replace the generator was \$9,800-\$10,000 to buy used or \$17,000-\$22,000 to buy a new one.

Commissioner Summers made inquiries about several line items from both funds and pointed out that Cox vs. Oriental lawsuit costs have now exceeded \$75,000.

The Board addressed appointing a Commissioner to the East Carolina Council of Governments. Commissioner Summers, the current appointee, expressed his desire to be reappointed. Commissioners Overcash and White requested that reports from future council meetings be made available. The reappointment of Commissioners Summers was passed with no objection from the Board.

A written police report was presented; Police Chief Moore was on vacation.

During the committee board reports, the Parks and Recreation Board voted unanimously to ask the town to hire or have access to an architect experienced in coastal area construction for the town dock public restroom project. The Tourism Board noted the recognition of member Carol Mabe in several regional newspapers for her work with ECU students in creating the new Town brochure. The Tree Board will plant its one thousandth tree this year.

In the commissioner discussion period, Mayor Sage updated the board on the Cox vs. Town of Oriental court case. On Dec. 24, 2014, the dismissal was filed. However, discussion will be deferred until which time the Town Attorney can be in attendance.

Commissioner White requested that an item be added to the February Town Board agenda regarding the In-Water Boat Show.

Commissioner Overcash noted the upcoming dragon run for Chinese New Year, occurring on February 19, 2015.

There being no further businesses to discuss, the meeting was adjourned

MOTION: Commissioner Winfrey made a Motion to adjourn, Commissioner White seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

Bill Sage, Mayor

Diane H. Miller, Town Manager