



ORIENTAL TOWN BOARD REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, August 4, 2020 at 7PM

507 Church Street, Oriental, NC

Mayor Sally Belangia Officiating

6 The Town Board of Oriental Town Board Meeting on August 4, 2020 was called to order at 7PM. Mayor Belangia
7 determined a quorum to be present and called the meeting to order.

8
9 It should also be noted that the entire Board and following staff: Manager Diane Miller, Officer William
10 Wichrowski, Admin Director /Deputy Finance Officer Tammy Cox, as were several members of the Public were
11 present. The Mayor started the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

- 12
13 1. The Agenda was approved by a MOTION from Commissioner Overcash and a second by Commissioner
14 Barrow. 5-0.
- 15
16 2. The Consent Agenda. Commissioner Overcash makes a MOTION to accept the Consent Agenda- meeting
17 minutes 6-25-20 and Special Meeting 7-13-20. Mayor Pro Tempore White seconds. 5-0.
- 18
19 3. Public Comment: No Public Comment.
- 20
21 4. Budget Amendment: Manager Miller went through the budget amendment and explained that the expenses
22 approved at June 25, 2020 meeting for street assessment (one of the priorities from the budget retreat).
23 Mayor Pro Tempore White made a MOTION to accept the budget amendment. Commissioner Overcash
24 seconds. 5-0.
- 25
26 5. Reappointment: Bay River Metropolitan Sewer District asked for reappointment of Mrs. Debra Khouri to
27 the Board. Commissioner Price made a MOTION to reappoint Mrs. Khouri to the Board. Commissioner
28 Simmons Seconded. 5-0.
- 29
30 6. Chapter K Adjustments: Chapter K must be adjusted to take into account the expiration of the Governor's
31 executive orders 147/124 that suspended late and cutoff fees from March until July 29. Manager Miller
32 showed the Board statewide numbers on past due, lost revenue, and delinquent accounts. She also
33 displayed the Town's past due and unrecovered late/cutoff fees. Our order extended that suspension to
34 August 5th to run concurrent with our billing cycle. Also added is a provision for repayment plans that will
35 be removed once all past due amounts are paid following the expirations. Mayor Pro Tempore White
36 makes a MOTION to approve the adjustments to Chapter K (Ordinance 2020-271). Commissioner
37 Overcash seconds. 5-0.
- 38
39 7. Capital Improvement Plan: The Manager neglected to have the Board approve the Capital Improvement
40 Plan presented 6/25/20 and discussed at that time. Commissioner Overcash makes a MOTION to adopt the
41 CIP. Mayor Pro Tempore White seconds. No discussion. 5-0.
- 42
43 8. Water Billing format change: Manager describes the change from postcard bills to full statements as well
44 as the option to sign up for e-billing (saving us postage). Admin Director says we will have procedure
45 shortly for customers to sign up for e-bills.
- 46
47 9. COVID testing site offer: Mr. Heath offered to set one up in Oriental like is being set up for Minnesott and
48 Arapahoe. Supposed to be paid for by CARES Act funding. Our allocation from the County is in the
49 thirty-some thousand range and we have already mounted \$5 thousand plus in COVID costs for extra
50 cleaning, technical assistance (ZOOM)- that allows us to ban "ZOOM-bombers", and all of law
51 enforcement salaries for the period are covered, caution tape, signs, cleaning supplies, etc. So, without the
52 testing site, which we would pay for and then be reimbursed, we have spent our allotment. In addition,
53 having testing in our facility would necessitate additional cleaning. Staff will do as directed, but the costs
54 are mounting without the testing. We might also need to have additional conversation on how much longer

55 we can pay for additional cleaning. Commissioner Overcash notes that our residents have so many other
56 options, not necessary here. Commissioner Simmons disagrees that there are enough options available to
57 residents for testing. In Bayboro, you are required to meet certain criteria to get a test, where all comers are
58 allowed. Commissioner Barrow notes that if Mr. Heath is looking to spearhead this thing, he might reach
59 out to Chief Guzzo to see if a drive through on their property. We're already mitigating issues in this
60 building with additional cleaning. Fire Station might be a better option. Commissioner Simmons agrees that
61 the drive through option alleviates the extra cleaning options. Commissioner Overcash noted that our first
62 responsibility is to continue cleaning our facilities due to the number of outside people that come in and use
63 those. Commissioner Simmons also noted that we need to understand which test we would be getting also-
64 there are so many. She noted we need to ask "Is Oriental interested in this?" Mayor Belangia asks if there
65 is time to find out the answers to all of these. Commissioner Overcash states we need to find out the cost
66 and if we can do drive-through testing. Commissioner Barrow noted he spoke with our cleaning contractor,
67 and that cleaning is a lot easier when doing it more often- we might want to reassess our cleaning schedule
68 when we choose to return to it.
69

70 10. Progress on abandoned/dilapidated structure Ordinance. The attorney forwarded a draft Ordinance for our
71 use. Manager asks the Board to look through it, forward comments to the Planning Board. Planning Board
72 will review the draft at their August 19 meeting. All questions concerning removing from/adding to need
73 to be addressed by the attorney before we go to Public Hearing for adoption. It is posted on today's
74 meeting notice for review by the public. Remember that none of it is viable until January 2021.
75 Commissioner Simmons notes that we would firmly not be trying to regulate appearance and it seems this
76 Ordinance does touch some appearance issues.
77

78 11. Whittaker Pointe Restoration update: Almost all spent has been reimbursed- awaiting the last check from
79 the last payment to Carolina Marine Structures. In addition, the original plan needed to submit a grant
80 application-which had previously been pulled from HWAC money- that will be able to be reimbursed. The
81 Manager and Mr. Blackerby's time on the project is being tracked and reimbursed by USDA, noting that
82 some costs have been denied- for example- the signs directing truck traffic were deemed ineligible costs.
83 This time tracking will reimburse those costs. We also had to install additional signage to deter citizens
84 from wandering out there. We cannot police or protect the peninsula- it will be a conservation easement,
85 not for public use. Manager noted extra progress in the past week- crew doubled to protect the land with the
86 storm incoming. Oyster shells have been delivered and the marsh grasses have been ordered. Engineer has
87 applied for additional items (extension of the jetty, increased height, etc)- as amendments to our permit.
88 USDA grant can go further timewise, so we may be able to bring back crew if outside of the normal work
89 scheduled start to finish. Showed several photos from the construction, explained the length, height and
90 depth of the current wall. Question-extension of wall. 25 foot jetty is permitted and existing, request is still
91 in to be reviewed- CAMA has determined that to be a major amendment to the existing permit.
92

93 12. Police report gives the Police report- reports the colorful incident from the last weekend. Post storm
94 damage assessment- could have been a lot worse. Almost all power has been restored. Citations are down
95 because the state issued a moratorium on anything with an expiration date- due to DMV being closed-
96 plates, licenses, etc.
97

98 13. Additional assistance from Police (Mayor asks if we are arresting someone) Calls the Manager to the floor.
99 Reads presentation for Pelican award coming from NC Coastal Federation. Manager was presented with
100 letter from the Board and a concrete Pelican for the leadership on the restoration project. (letter attached).
101

102 14. The Manager went through her monthly report:
103 a. Financials YTD are attached.
104 b. Behind in Sales and property tax, additional pressure because we are paying the construction
105 costs and then being reimbursed.
106 c. Water Operators still doing distance education, as well as Manager and Director Cox on audit
107 revisions and other financial changes.
108 d. Wild Animal Ordinance may be revised in the future.
109 e. Legal fees a little higher due to Housing Ordinance and Wild Animal Ordinance.
110

- 110 f. Permit fees for raising homes has been suspended since Florence. We'll go back to that.
111 g. Numbers at the docks are up, no swimming advisories yet this season.
112 h. Named top five harbor in the US for those who transit such.
113 i. NC Coastal Federation selected me, and I select the team to receive an award for our project
114 at the Creek this Thursday- all online this year- we are zooming in. Please consider
115 supporting the Foundation at their event- auctions, oyster roast at your home for 25 people.
116 Expertise from Dr. Weaver and her young team to help with the restoration.
117 j. Captain Deal finished her internship- did a lot of great work for the hurricane prep- all that we
118 distributed. All of that would have been on the Manager's plate to revise and organized. We
119 were very fortunate to have had her in our employ, however briefly. (Mayor reads thank you
120 note that Intern CPT Deal left for the Board).
121

122 15. Planning Minutes from June are the only Auxiliary minutes included.
123

124 16. Commissioner Comments: Commissioner Overcash asks Mrs. Crosser if Parks and Rec is going to meet.
125 Ms. Crosser responds that they plan to.
126

127
128 Commissioner Simmons made a **MOTION** to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Price. Motion passed 5-0.
129

130 Meeting adjourned at 7:54PM
131

132
133 _____
134 Sally Belangia, Mayor

Diane H. Miller, Town Manager/Clerk

135
136
137
138 Approved _____, 2020 _____