



ORIENTAL TOWN BOARD REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 7PM

507 Church Street, Oriental, NC

Mayor Sally Belangia Officiating

6 The Town Board of Oriental Town Board Meeting on November 10, 2020 was called to order at 7PM. Mayor
7 Belangia determined a quorum to be present and called the meeting to order.

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9 It should also be noted that the entire Board was present. The following staff were also present: Manager Diane
10 Miller, Officer Wichrowski, Admin Director /Deputy Finance Officer Tammy Cox, Water Clerk Heather Hall,
11 Admin Asst Chantelle Allison, as were several members of the Public were present. The Mayor started the meeting
12 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

13
14 The Agenda was approved by a MOTION from Commissioner Overcash, Second by Mayor Pro Tempore White. 5-0.

15
16 The Consent Agenda. Commissioner Overcash makes a MOTION to accept the Consent Agenda- meeting minutes
17 10-6-20. Mayor Pro Tempore White seconds. 5-0.

18
19 Public Comment: Marsha Paplham: Spirit of Christmas: because so much is to be outside, we are encouraging
20 residents and business owners to decorate their properties and asked the Board to be judges for this event- judging to
21 take place the week before Spirit of Christmas. Commissioner Overcash asks if he must abstain if they are
22 participating (laughter). Marsha says no- she has already spoken with Mrs. Overcash. Categories will be
23 forthcoming. Thursday of SOC, the Memory Tree will kick off the SOC- park is going to be decorated. That will
24 kick it off. Saturday and Friday we will not have the traditional concerts. Thursday Dec 10-Saturday, Dec 12.
25 Pencilling in a parade- currently, the orders do not allow for a parade.

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27
28 Draft Minimum Housing Code- Manager introduces that several meetings have been held between the Planning
29 Board and the Town Board. Attorney was here October 6, directing us to identify the problem. Awaiting direction.
30 Commissioner Barrow makes a MOTION to rescind our direction to the Planning Board and indefinitely table the
31 development/adoption of an Ordinance to address the minimum housing requirements. Mayor Pro Tempore White
32 seconds. Discussion: Mayor Pro Tempore White thanks the Planning Board for their work, which identified many
33 unintended consequences. Both properties brought to our attention, which we are making progress on.
34 Commissioner Barrow notes the PB has come up with a lot of the same questions as the TB. This proposed
35 Ordinance is a little more than we were looking for. Manager notes the Chair of the Planning Board is present for
36 questions. Commissioner Simmons noted that it was brought to her, and after that, we were on our own. There is
37 more work to be done, but there needs to be more citizen participation before moving forward. 5-0.

38
39 Budget Amendment: This amendment takes into account the money received from the North Carolina Office of
40 Resiliency and Recovery (NCORR) to purchase a replacement tractor for use by Public Works. We received the
41 money in the last fiscal year. The delays caused by supply chain disruption, prevented us from putting this into this
42 year's budget, and now we will be taking delivery, we need to move that fund back into the budget to pay for the
43 equipment. Mayor Pro Tempore White makes a MOTION to approve the budget amendment. Commissioner
44 Overcash seconds. 5-0.

45
46 ADA Transition Plan: Manager was granted permission last month to pursue participation with the Eastern Carolina
47 Council of Govt (ECCOG) grant award for services to create ADA Transition Plans for the smaller Towns in the
48 region. The proposal you have is a plan that would cost us \$12,425, and be a turnkey product with policies and
49 forms required to implement. The Manager also solicited a quote from JM Teague Engineering, as they had just
50 completed our street assessment survey. Their quote was \$12,800. When we repair and replace things, we then make
51 them ADA-compliant, however, there are benchmarks for other things- website accessibility- usually an engineering
52 firm that completes these. After conversation with the Director of ECCOG who agreed that the Manager is not best
53 positioned to complete the task. The deadline right now is August 2022. It could move closer. Once that date
54 comes close, or the date is moved closer, the plan is due- we currently have 4 grants plus FEMA 75/25 fed/state

55 grants in progress right now. Those would be put on hiatus until the plan in place. Commissioner Barrow had done
56 some research into the plan requirements and noted that the plan, as required, requires less of those towns with less
57 than 50 employees. He suggested we could possibly do the plan ourselves. Manager notes that significant education
58 would be required to hit the hoops and that this task is not something she has ever participated in, and that she would
59 be hesitant that she would miss something that makes our plan not right, or open to litigation. Commissioner Barrow
60 thinks we would maybe be better off to do the study in house and then take the money toward the actual movement
61 toward compatibility. Commissioner Overcash thinks we should take the grant and let them do it- take the burden
62 off staff and have it done thoroughly and in compliance with standards. We have a lot of grants going now, and may
63 have more incoming- would hate to risk that. Commissioner Price asks if the ECCOG price is close to \$25,000 and
64 our quote from another is \$12,800. YES. That's a big difference. Manager notes that the Director believes that once
65 the date moves closer/ date moves, the cost will increase further and the firms that can do it will be (a) less available
66 and (b) choosing to work for larger entities. This quote also comes with all of the policies and grievance process,
67 paperwork, forms. Commissioner Simmons asks the deadline. We need to have an answer to the ECCOG by
68 November 20. Mayor Pro Tempore White notes that we don't want to miss one thing and find that out later.
69 Manager notes that we had to recently add something to our personnel policy in order to receive the grant. Her best
70 recommendation is that we take the grant and get the work done, but staff will do as directed. Commissioners
71 Overcash and Simmons believe that we are best served by the group that is familiar with all the requirements.
72 Mayor Pro Tempore White makes a MOTION to authorize the Manager to go forward with the grant funded ADA
73 Transition Plan through the ECCOG. Commissioner Overcash seconds. 3-2, with Commissioners Barrow and Price
74 voting against.

75
76 Police Report: Officer Wichrowski notes only one big event in October- Halloween. No incidents in the events.
77 Charger was fixed successfully- it goes where you steer it now! Recycling issues have settled down and no new
78 issues. We did find two individuals in town with active warrants- each officer captured one- we have no active
79 warrants currently. Low activity, even for this time of year. Manager and Officer noted that he had a hard time
80 giving away candy, even though reports are that there were more Trick-or-Treaters than usual. At least Officer
81 Wichrowski did not sneak up on any and turn on the lights, forcing them into the ditch.

82
83 Manager's Report: Financials attached. Welcome Chantelle Allison (Allie) to our team. Videos that were playing
84 were by Mr. Blackerby. Whittaker Pointe is at 95%, then we have a Major Modification in the works to extend the
85 jetty. Oyster shell placement with volunteers scheduled for November 18, 2020, 9AM-2PM. Bring boots/waders,
86 gloves. Construction is holding well against high water, plugs have taken root. Need a Volunteer count- NCCF is
87 providing lunch.

88
89 Volunteer Appreciation scheduled for Dec 4- Governor today reduced the indoor limits to 10 from 25. Manager
90 cannot recommend that we gather. You can go onto the porch, reschedule. Staff will do as directed.- maybe move
91 off to Retreat timeframe. (Board concurs)

92
93 Census numbers reported. Oriental response 51.8%, as opposed to 2010 42%.

94
95 Parade permit cannot be granted in conflict with State code.

96
97 Town of Oriental was granted funds to purchase 5 AEDs to be deployed to 5 restaurants- Silos, Toucan, M&Ms and
98 Brantley's and the Bean- staff will be trained to use. Either the cost to maintain is absorbed by the Town or re-apply
99 to Dottie Gray for replacement parts. Thankful to the NCCF to help extend survivability.

100
101 Committee Reports: Parks and Rec has a Survey on TownDock.net- about 200 responses to the survey. Numerous
102 comments, alerts to equipment damage, etc. Bonnie Crosser goes through responses to the survey. Tennis/Pickleball
103 at the Rec Park, Covered pavilion and lighting (for use for parties/bbqs)-highest interest-extend space, add grills,
104 movies at the park (will see how this weekend's movie at Silos goes), bocce ball, gardens, no opinion was the
105 highest rating for disc golf. 289 comments to be summarized. Good response. Residents and visitors do like to
106 speak their minds. Commissioner Barrow thanks Ms. Crosser and the committee and Town Dock for getting that
107 done.

108

109 Commissioner Comments: Commissioner Overcash asks about tax collections coming in better than expected. Yes-
110 tax collection is up from same month last year. Comment came in complimenting PW crew cleaning up Hwy 55
111 drain paths. Commissioner Barrow- some road signs need attention- covered with vegetation. Ask Tree Board to
112 swing by and look at them. NCDOT speed counts done in 2019- we'll be able to do our own when we get the speed
113 signs. They are convinced there is an outlet to the drains on Hodges/Broad. We may need to go up the food chain
114 to access it. Manager notes we are working at the other end to clear that to the creek, then come back toward Broad
115 and try to get it flowing into that drainage. Also, moving on the reduction of speed. Mayor asks all Veteran's to
116 raise hands to be recognized. Commissioner Price brought apples for everyone.

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

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120 Meeting adjourned at 7:41PM

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Sally Belangia, Mayor

_____ Diane H. Miller, Town Manager/Clerk

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128 Approved _____, 2020 _____