



ORIENTAL TOWN BOARD REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, September 1, 2020 at 7PM

507 Church Street, Oriental, NC

Mayor Sally Belangia Officiating

6 The Town Board of Oriental Town Board Meeting on September 1, 2020 was called to order at 7PM. Mayor
7 Belangia determined a quorum to be present and called the meeting to order.

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

12
13 The Agenda was approved by a MOTION from Mayor Pro Tempore White, with a change of moving Item 8 to
14 immediately following the current #4 (Discussion with County Manager) Second by Commissioner Overcash. 4-0.

15
16 The Consent Agenda. Mayor Pro Tempore White makes a MOTION to accept the Consent Agenda- meeting
17 minutes 8-4-20. Commissioner Simmons seconds. 4-0.

18
19 Public Comment: Missy Tenhet statement attached concerning mask wearing in Town Hall. Dan Allen representing
20 Friends of Whittaker Creek- looking for support for reapplication for dredging permit to widen a 500ft length that
21 was dredged to 50 ft wide in the project where it was supposed to (and all other lengths were) dredged to 80 ft wide.
22 To apply for it again, a municipality must support the application. It would require a maintenance amendment to the
23 existing permit. Please consider supporting the effort to get the rest of the project completed.

24
25 County Manager Tim Buck. Manager notes the only topics forwarded prior to the meeting concerned
26 recycling/manned/unmanned stations/contamination of recycling/mandatory trash pickup, etc. County has had
27 several conversations about staffing recycling/trash pickup, etc.

28
29 Manager notes that removal of those receptacles (that are now contaminated regularly) will increase the amount of
30 trash brought in and put into our public cans. The cost would be both the increase to tipping fees and the unsightly
31 mess that brings with it. We've seen overflowing trash at times when for instance, a storm is heading in, or there are
32 larger than normal numbers of visitors. Both take time and effort to clean up and add to our tipping costs.

33
34 Mr. Buck detailed a new program coming for recycling where the existing rolloffs at the Rec Park will be manned,
35 but only once per week. Mr. Cooper (County Public Services Director) also noted that they will monitor and assume
36 the cleanup responsibilities- we just need to call the county if/when it becomes a problem.

37
38 Mr. Buck: CARES funding: County to distribute to the Town. Oriental due almost \$33,000 and it should be
39 transferred in the next two weeks. Town's funding plan looks good. Storm debris contracts should be let out in
40 September. Previously, the Town cooperated with the County for debris pickup, and it would require a new
41 memorandum for that cooperation. Mayor Pro Tempore White asks if the contract is FEMA approved- Mr. Buck
42 notes as best as can be anticipated for the next event. Commissioner Overcash asks about our contracts. Our
43 contractor could not handle Florence event. Staging site was not FEMA approved. Manager notes that we are not in
44 a position to draw contractors to bid on our small town in a very large event. Mr. Buck notes that the County has
45 approved site on 306. Debris hauler that was here left to go to Florida- left a skeleton crew, so we struggled to get it
46 picked up in a timely manner.

47
48 Storm Shelter- part of Pamlico Community College about to undergo significant renovation. We have an agreement
49 to use that facility in the next 60 days, but encourage folks to have their own plan to evacuate to a non-congregate
50 sheltering option in the COVID environment. Manager notes that the State encouraged the same on sheltering- find
51 friends and family first. Mr. Buck notes there are hotel options and sheltering in the Raleigh/Wake area, but all is
52 based on storm path. Encourages our residents to register for Code Red- gets the emergency information out there-
53 County website- scroll down- very bottom of the page. Also- special needs registry- notes people with special needs
54 that need to be addressed in storm situation.

55 Revaluation: Jan 1, 2021 effective date. Appeals still working through the system. Appeals still being taken, but
56 they would have to count for next year- this year is set. Census participation in the County is very low- 46-47%.
57 Census is looking to set up outreach. He can send the Manager information on outreach if our participation is low.
58 CDBG-PA grants available for businesses and homeowners announced recently – income restraints, but if you still
59 need repairs from hurricanes, there is money available.

60
61 Back to recycling: Will be manned sites/rotating basis. As far as mandatory trash, there is not a desire of the full
62 Board of Commissioners to move forward with that. Recycling/Solid Waste committee did recommend, but cost
63 estimates were \$300K to \$1M- forcing people to participate was generally what pushed the Commissioners to
64 decline at this time, as it would take additional taxes or fees. Cost of recycling is extensive- sometimes more than
65 cost of tipping fees. Now it's more expensive for those without current contract to recycle than to tip. Bins will be
66 at the sites and be taken away when the staff leaves. Program starts Oct 1.

67
68 Mr. Cooper: Self service bins have been at the Rec Park 24/7, and a lot of trash is there. We've wrestled for years
69 on how to make sure it's just recycling. 7:30AM-6PM manned site at the Rec Park- no bags. Encouraged citizens to
70 bring it un-bagged. We collected 464.7 tons of trash from recycling bins, 136.6 tons from Oriental. We'll likely
71 have trash on the ground at the onset- and we will dispatch trucks to pick it up. Hopefully, as time goes on, there
72 will be less. Manager notes that this trash will then show up in our public trash cans and on the roads, and other
73 places. Our current recycling costs are still lower than tipping. You can't start new if you don't already have it.
74 Once the County starts this process, much of that trash we will end up paying for it.

75
76 Commissioner Barrow asks if there can be a trash dumpster in addition to the recycling bins? Mr. Cooper says it has
77 been discussed. Mr. Buck notes that it wasn't necessarily 136 tons of trash, but once there is trash in it, the whole
78 load is then dumped as trash. Manager notes that we track every ton dumped through GFL.

79
80 Commissioner Overcash asks the Public to note if they see people bringing trash in and dumping in our cans- either
81 say something or take license plates- we have an Ordinance against that.

82
83 Question from audience: If trash is dumped, who do we call? Town can call County to come clean up- first three
84 months it will be closely monitored.

85
86 Item 8 moved up: Draft Minimum Housing Code- Planning Board questions have been forwarded to be answered.
87 Commissioner Barrow notes that each question brings on another. One thing that came up repeatedly was how does
88 Health Dept and Building Inspector come into the process. Where the starting place is is the key issue. Asks for
89 Skip and a rep from the Health Dept to answer if there are anything they can do before we get Ordinance into action.
90 Commissioner Barrow notes also that we want to target dilapidated vacant, abandoned buildings, not necessarily
91 occupied, but those that needed to be addressed from a safety standpoint. The Draft was composed by our attorney-
92 and we need to explore how much of this we really need. Commissioner Overcash notes that this was never about
93 appearance, only safety. Commissioner Barrow notes that we need the threshold determined. Manager Buck notes
94 that a draft to Skip with where he might be questioned. Mayor Pro Tempore White notes that we need public input-
95 Public has not been participating. Frank Roe has sent us a note with his concerns- but he was the only one. Mrs.
96 Jennifer Roe notes that if the Public was aware that the Board is discussing that, they might be more interested.
97 Commissioner Overcash notes we are in the very preliminary standards. Commissioner Simmons notes abandoned
98 and dilapidated, beyond repair- not appearance at all. Point is to care for the neighborhood and the neighbors- like
99 the one that came down by new owner- leaning into the next property, leaning toward new structure next door- they
100 present a clear danger to the public. Also- how to bear the burden of the cost to make it all happen.

101
102 Topics for Sept 24 Workshop: Manager notes the Ordinance is one of the main topics- with the Health Director and
103 Building Inspector would direct where that conversation goes. Commissioners noted they wanted Whittaker Pointe
104 progress update, road paving following street assessment. Commissioner Barrow notes we will have SOME paving
105 happen following the Pointe project. The survey will give us a worst to best shape, the sooner we start, the sooner
106 problems get fixed. Mayor Pro Tempore White notes we talked about funding that also- and that needs to be part of
107 the discussion. On The Pointe- what's left, what do we have left money-wise, and what do we have left to do.
108 Recycling and Trash- we knew we were subsidizing trash- we need to hear where we are. Manager notes now we

109 have the year-end normal numbers. Audience comment (Mr. Lambert) to use smaller cans with holes to help sort
110 out recycling.

111
112 CARES Act funding: Our costs- in cash and other expenses- cleaning and cordoning supplies and signage, salaries
113 deemed eligible, cleaning contract, cleaning supplies, zoom costs. The Board was given two sheets- what is claimed
114 with the County distribution, legal fees, and eligible costs to date. March 2020-December 2020- salaries include
115 Police, staff that had to care for someone, or awaiting test results. YTD \$46K+.

116
117 Ordinance is to accept the CARES funding to be redistributed to those lines where the funds were spent. You'll
118 have a budget amendment in the future to cover these. Mayor Pro Tempore White makes a MOTION to approve the
119 Ordinance that receipts CARES funding and distributes to the proper lines in the budget. Commissioner Overcash
120 seconds. 4-0.

121
122 2020-273 Ordinance to repeal Ordinance that inserted prevention of collection of late and cutoff fees. One very
123 generous individual came through with funds to pay off all past due accounts and bring them up to date. At some
124 point in the future when all bills were caught up you would have had to come restore Chapter K to its original form.
125 With that donation, the time is now. Commissioner Overcash makes a MOTION to approve 2020-273.
126 Commissioner Simmons seconds. 4-0.

127
128 2020-274 Ordinance to insert a specific Whistleblower policy into the existing personnel policy. This, while in
129 force in all our contracts, needs to be articulated in the Personnel Policy in order for Police to accept and receive
130 their grant from the Governor's Highway Safety Program. Language is standard from the School of Govt.
131 Commissioner Barrow makes a MOTION to approve 2020-274. Mayor Pro Tempore White seconds. 4-0.

132
133 Police Report: Numbers are mostly down- just a few incidents. Stops that also have attached warrants. Officer
134 Wichrowski noted the remembrance we need to keep in mind for Sept 11 and the officers and civilians who lost their
135 lives on that day. Mayor Pro Tempore White asks about the recent rash of trailer theft in the County. Officer
136 Wichrowski agrees that those with empty trailers need to put them in a garage or lock the load mechanism-
137 something so that someone cannot simply pull up, hook up, and leave with your trailer. Commissioner Overcash
138 notes there are a lot of trailers in the ROW following high fishing time. Officer Wichrowski notes that it IS a
139 problem for emergency services but that Police would have to SEE it happening. Question from audience- vehicles
140 also parking the wrong way on a street- trucks and trailers- crazy on the corner of Link and Neuse. Officer
141 Wichrowski still must see it happen. We can leave warning tickets. Mayor Pro Tempore White also notes that those
142 people are coming in to spend money vacationing here, we really don't want to deter that. Officer Wichrowski notes
143 that our Ordinance says we give a warning ticket FIRST always. Question about erecting more signs. Signs erected
144 at water's edge are susceptible and then obscures water- there have been several arguments. Question about how
145 often we have this problem. Question about speed limit sign.- Manager notes that piece of equipment is included in
146 the grant that we just passed 2020-274 to receive.

147
148 Manager's Report: Financials attached. Hurricane I- debris pickup finished. Doesn't look like we will make the
149 threshold for storm prep (\$3600)- that will not be refunded. Debris will likely be. Awaiting a declaration. We need
150 to reexamine all of this when we discuss next year's budget. There was a lot more green waste debris to be picked
151 up than there should have been in this storm. We'll have to decide if we are going to pick up these amounts after
152 every storm. The street Assessment is happening this week- they WILL be in the road- there may be one lane
153 closures when this is in progress. Governor declaration 2.5: Playground equipment will reopen at 5PM on Friday
154 Order 163). None of the orders require facemasks- they are encouraged if you cannot maintain social distance. High
155 Risk individuals encouraged to stay home- Safer -At-Home. One section says all over age of 2, another section says
156 over the age of 5. Law Enforcement section: Law Enforcement may not criminally enforce the face covering
157 sections of this order. May enforce trespassing laws if the business requires you to have one and you go in without.
158 Fitness centers may open, daycare centers, pools, outdoor and indoor capacities are increased. Government
159 Functions are exempt from gathering numbers. To remain in effect until October 2, 2020, unless modified or
160 rescinded. Whittaker Pointe: from TownDock.net photo- almost complete. Rock complete, fill in, mats down, plants
161 to be delivered this week, oyster shells being bagged. Manager shows the as-built drawings with all of the
162 amendments. Upland restoration will happen later. We will have volunteers looking late September/early October.
163 Anyone looking to volunteer needs to send Manager@townoforiental.com name, phone number, email address.

164 Question about dead/dying trees: will not be removed- also provide habitat. Mr. Spruill makes comment about PW
165 crew picking up debris- did a great job. Mayor Pro Tempore White asks if Mr. Blackerby brought to Manager about
166 floating docks- Mr. Dillard offered dock- but surface would be destroyed by shells. Could we build what's needed?
167 Manager notes there is a reimbursable line that has been reimbursed- so we could likely purchase what we need for
168 floaters. Manager will get with Mr. Blackerby to find out exactly what they need. CAMA inspection was last Friday-
169 we passed. Attorney will not be with us Sept 24, but will be when the 24th conversations are to that point. We will
170 be closed Labor Day. We will likely have to put off Softener rehab due to other equipment issues at the plant.
171 Lightening surge protectors being installed. We'll need to consider installing a generator at Well #2 at some point in
172 the future. Have had conversations with USCG to re-mark the channel properly. Census numbers determine what we
173 get for 10 years- that number we receive from the County is dependent on the number from 2010- Medicaid, Health
174 Dept, School, Social Services, Emergency- it's all funded by those numbers. Beyond that, we are federally required,
175 just like filing annual taxes, to file once every ten years. A ten minute online survey at 2020census.gov- Sept 30 is
176 current deadline. We can help you file at Town Hall. We received our last two documents from FEMA- the admin
177 costs and also the fishing pier/Lou Mac/electric/water fountain project. Have received our Dorian money.
178

179 Committee Reports: HWAC has not been meeting. Parks and Rec has a Survey on TownDock.net , water billing
180 should be able to send those messages. Any messages to be included, we must have ahead of the last day of the
181 month.
182

183 Commissioner Simmons made a **MOTION** to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Barrow. Motion passed 4-0.
184

185 Meeting adjourned at 8:41PM
186
187

188 _____
189 Sally Belangia, Mayor
190 _____
191 Diane H. Miller, Town Manager/Clerk
192

193 Approved _____, 2020 _____