



ORIENTAL TOWN BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, May 7, 2019 at 7pm
507 Church Street, Oriental, NC
Mayor Sally Belangia Officiating

6 The Town Board of Oriental Town Board Meeting on May 7, 2019 was called to order at 7pm. Mayor Belangia
7 determined a quorum to be present and called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. She said we have
8 a Public Comment period, if you wish to speak please make sure you are signed up on the correct sheet as there are
9 also two Public Hearings this evening.

10
11 Present: Mayor Belangia, Mayor Pro Tempore White, Commissioner Overcash, Commissioner Price, Commissioner
12 Dammeyer, Commissioner Simmons, Town Manager Diane Miller, Deputy Finance Director Tammy Cox,
13 Administrative Assistant Jeannine Russo, Officer Nic Blayney, Officer Bill Wichrowski and Members of the Public.

14 15 1. Approval of Agenda

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17 **Commissioner Overcash** made a **MOTION** to approve the Agenda. Seconded by **Commissioner Simmons**.
18 Motion passed 5-0.

19 20 2. Consent Agenda (Tab 1)

- 21 a. Consider Approval of Minutes from Town Board Regular Meeting April 2, 2019
22 b. Consider Approval of Budget Meeting Minutes from April 10, 2019
23 c. Consider Approval of Budget Meeting Minutes from April 24, 2019
24 d. Consider Approval of Budget Meeting Minutes from May 1, 2019
25

26 **Mayor Pro Tempore White** made a **MOTION** to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by **Commissioner**
27 **Overcash**. Motion passed 5-0.

28 29 3. Public Comment Period

30 No Public comment
31

32 4. Request for Public Hearing

33 Manager Miller requests a Public Hearing be set at the next regularly scheduled meeting, June 4, for the approval of
34 the 19-20 Fiscal Year Budget and additionally a separate Public Hearing to change the Fee Schedule. Two items
35 need to be changed. One is an increase in tap fees. This is money paid to the contractor to tap vacant lots into the
36 water system; we cannot do this in house and is contracted out. We are currently at a deficit as it costs us more than
37 we are taking in. The second is the Annexation fees. The last annexation, we were at \$1,100 in legal fees, not
38 including advertisement and mailing, and we receive \$50 so this needs to be increased to cover our costs.

39
40 **Mayor Pro Tempore White** made a **MOTION** to set the Public Hearing for June 4 at 7pm, or as soon thereafter as
41 can be reached, including the fee schedule. Seconded by **Commissioner Simmons**. **Commissioner Dammeyer**
42 asked for clarification that these are two separate Public Hearings and they are. Motion passed 5-0.

43 44 5. Prime Time/Neuse Neighbors Presentation

45 Deborah Steenson, Director of Prime Time, spoke to the Mayor and Commissioners. Their group serves the 50+
46 group in Oriental and surrounding areas. The group was developed in 2001 with the Oriental United Methodist
47 Church and was funded by the Duke Endowment until 2015. Church membership is not required to receive
48 services. They are supported by fundraising efforts and grants, individual donations and Oriental UMC, St. Thomas
49 Episcopal Church, Pamlico UMC, St. Peter the Fisherman Catholic Church and other organizations. They are
50 governed by an advisory board with members coming from those churches and other local churches as well. There
51 are two part-time, paid staff members – Ms. Steenson and Brenda Milos, who serves as Nurse Advocate. Ms.
52 Steenson showed their service area. Ms. Milos serves as an advocate/consultant and case manager to help clients
53 receive the proper medical care. An individual outside of the service area can receive a phone consultation or visit
54 the Prime Time office at Oriental United Methodist Church. They provide transportation to doctor appointments and

55 pharmacies. Neuse Neighbors Network assists with this. They provide seminars on health related issues for the
56 aging and healthy eating, day trips, game days, Prayer Shawl Ministry and other fellowship gatherings. Two grants
57 were received from ECC on Aging where volunteers were trained at a six-week course for caregivers and an eight
58 week course for help with balance and falling issues. There is assistance with dementia issues. Jayne Demers of
59 Neuse Neighbors Network spoke about their partnership with Prime Time. Their mission is to help community
60 members over 50 remain active. They are part of a nationwide Village-to-Village organization. Their services
61 include transportation – for any reason, help with difficult household tasks, running errands and respite visits and
62 technology. Members are enrolled and pay dues of \$150 per year per household and \$120 for an individual and are
63 among the lowest in the nation. They are completely volunteer and have no paid staff. There are currently 65
64 members with 18 waiting to be enrolled. There are 56 trained volunteers who are screened and have passed
65 background checks. Neuse Neighbors is not providing activities as Prime Time does. Ms. Demers spoke about the
66 creation and beginnings of the group and all of the community help they received. Both groups thanked the Mayor
67 and Commissioners for their time and allowing them to make this presentation and welcome all volunteers.
68

69 **6. Resolution (Tab 2)**

70 **Resolution proclaiming May 12-18, 2019 National Law Enforcement Week, with May 15th being**
71 **National Peace Officers Memorial Day.**

72
73 **Commissioner Overcash** made a **MOTION** to support the **Resolution/Proclamation**. Seconded by **Commissioner**
74 **Price**. Motion passed 5-0.
75

76 **7. Request to authorize continuation of Waste Industries Contract: (Tab 3)**

77 Manager Miller stated that our existing Waste Industries contract will end on June 30 of this year. We have an
78 option to extend our old contract for up to three years. We received a proposal that would add an additional 0.92/ton
79 for recycling and will be locked into that if we sign. Manager Miller stated there is not another option that is
80 affordable for us and the only other option is at twice the cost. She has asked for it to be written in that we can pull
81 out of this contract in year two to three or pull out of the recycling part in year two to three if it should become
82 unaffordable/unacceptable to us as there is the possibility that it could double, triple or quadruple within the year due
83 to those purchasing recycled materials are buying less and we are able to recycle fewer items. There is not cost of
84 living adjustment for this budget year which is over 2% plus gas and tipping fee increases, which we are also not
85 paying so Manager Miller feels this is the best agreement we will get. Mayor Pro Tempore White asked about the
86 0.92 increase and wanted to clarify that we do not know what increase we will receive in the second and third years.
87 Manager Miller stated that is correct. Mayor Pro Tempore White stated we need to have the out clause as normally
88 the increases will be in a contract and if they do not allow the out clause that we should consider signing for one
89 year only. Manager Miller stated the existing contract says they are allowed to increase it by the CPI each year,
90 nothing more. No matter who has the contract, it all goes to the same landfill. Discussion that the Town is
91 subsidizing trash and recycling by \$44,000 per year but Manager Miller stated that this fiscal year due to the storm,
92 a lot of our debris was paid through FEMA. Commissioner Dammeyer asked for confirmation that we can cancel in
93 year two and three and we can cancel the recycling only.
94

95 **Mayor Pro Tempore White** made a **MOTION** to allow Manager Miller to sign the contract provided we get the
96 out clause in year two and three. Seconded by **Commissioner Overcash**. Motion passed 5-0.
97

98 **8. Award of Dodge Durango (Tab 4)**

99 Manager Miller stated the police Dodge Durango was awarded to Mrs. LaVonda Hardy, who is with us tonight.
100 Manager Miller stated all of the deficiencies were disclosed and we are very pleased to award her the vehicle.
101

102 **Commissioner Dammeyer** made a **MOTION** to award the bid to Mrs. Hardy. Seconded by **Commissioner**
103 **Overcash**. Motion passed 5-0.
104

105 **9. Police Report (Tab 5)**

106 Officer Blayney stated it was a good month. He did wish to mention that Mayor Pro Tempore White inquired about
107 the mileage last month and Officer Blayney did some research back to October of last year. His average mileage is
108 approximately 500 but has gone slightly up. Manager Miller stated Officers Blayney and Wichrowski have also
109 done quite a bit of training so are not just staying in Town and when someone needs to be transported or a ticket is

110 written, that entails a trip to Bayboro. Commissioners Overcash and Price inquired about the wreck that occurred
111 Saturday evening. Officer Blayney did not respond but Officer Wichrowski was on scene and provided answers to
112 the Commissioners' questions. Commissioner Overcash asked about the traffic citations, eight of them. Officer
113 Blayney stated Officer Wichrowski has been doing a lot with traffic enforcement and the department has been
114 approved to join the Governor's Highway Safety Program and will begin to see more joint checkpoints with the
115 Sheriff's office where we receive points to be used for equipment without cost to the Town. Manager Miller stated
116 Officers Wichrowski and Blayney have completed a significant amount of required in-service training in the past
117 month such as juvenile delinquency and opioid abuse.
118

119 **10. Manager's Report (Tab 6)**

- 120 • Financials are attached, nothing new since Budget
- 121 • Whittaker Pointe – we are now with the third iteration of the engineer's drawings and have attempted to set
122 up the scoping meeting with the environmental agencies to get our permits to begin work. Manager Miller
123 stated it is a good plan and combines a lot of different elements – granite sill, reef maker option, oyster
124 shells, fill, marsh grass – moving well.
- 125 • Waterline replacement was completed by Cayton.
- 126 • Repair and replacement for the fishing pier is almost complete. Mr. Cahoon believes it may be open by the
127 end of the week. He also repaired and replaced the small boat dock, gangway and pilings at the Wildlife
128 Ramp.
- 129 • The road repair RFP is at the engineer's desk. When we get that back, it will be sent off to Barnhill, who is
130 in Town now and will save a significant cost if they were to take that project on.
- 131 • Daniel Early will test in June for Physical Chemicals
- 132 • Manager Miller and Tammy Cox will go to Wilmington for Resilience Forum about hurricane preparation
133 on May 14.
- 134 • Town Hall will be closed for Memorial Day on Monday, May 27.
- 135 • The Council of Governments has hired a new Director, will probably meet her in the coming months
136 regarding a grant for mitigation for smaller communities.
- 137 • Saturday, May 11 is the Annual Bulk Pick Up and encourages residents to get items to the curb Friday
138 evening.
- 139 • We have a new Public Works employee, Thomas Jones.
- 140 • Resolutions that do not need Board approval – one is from the North Carolina Mayors regarding continued
141 oil exploration off the coast. Mayor Belangia, as the Mayor, not with the Town or Board, has joined in
142 signing this Resolution. The next Resolution is from Governor Cooper and recognizes Traven and Tourism
143 Week, May 5-11. This effects Oriental tremendously.
- 144 • There is a Budget Meeting tomorrow at 8am, Wednesday, May 8. Both funds are currently balanced with
145 no capital. There are no tax increase. The only fees increasing are annexation and water tapping. Unless
146 there are changes on May 8, there will be no more Budget Meetings scheduled. Manager Miller is required
147 by North Carolina General Statute to have a balanced budget to the Board by June 1. The Public Hearing
148 was set for June 4.
- 149 • We are starting next week spraying for mosquitos.

150
151 **11. Committee Reports (Tab 7)**

- 152 HWAC – March 14
- 153 HWAC – April 9
- 154 Tree Board – March 26
- 155 Planning – Did not meet
- 156 BRMSD – Did not meet

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158 **12. Commissioner Comments**

159 Commissioner Overcash stated Dr. Cordes on Hodges Street sent a letter to Mayor Belangia and he was copied
160 regarding a home on Hodges in state of disrepair and she had not gotten a response and asked Manager Miller if she
161 corresponded with her. Manager Miller stated she has not as Dr. Cordes corresponded with the Mayor. Manager
162 Miller stated we had started down the road with that particular house before Hurricane Florence and has contacted
163 Skip Lee, Pamlico County Building Inspector. He stated we need to enact a local Ordinance – Commissioner

164 Dammeyer and our attorney are working on an Ordinance by which we can start a process that requires residents to
165 either fix their homes or take them down. Mayor Belangia asked that we get a letter to Dr. Cordes to let her know
166 what we are working on. Commissioner Simmons wished to remind everyone about the Tourism Board Quarterly
167 Meeting on May 16 at 8am at Brantley's. This meeting concerns Cycle NC 2020 and will start planning at this
168 meeting how we will deal with this event and stated we need input and volunteers. Manager Miller stated they have
169 still not designated Oriental as their community and they are still checking on previously used properties for RVs
170 and camping and have not received a decision yet. Commissioner Overcash stated he spoke with some of the Cycle
171 NC people and are still discussing whether or not they are coming here. Commissioner Simmons will speak with
172 Marsha Paplham, Tourism Chair. Manager Miller spoke about something posted on Towndock.net showing money
173 taped to a mirror in the harbor restrooms. The note said this is a tip for the lady who cleans the restrooms and we
174 received an email from them expressing their appreciation to the Town.

175
176 **13. Adjourn.** Next meeting scheduled as May 8, 2019 at 8am. (Budget – Water Fund)
177 **Commissioner Simmons** made a **MOTION** to adjourn. Seconded by **Commissioner Overcash**. Motion passed 5-
178 0.

179 Meeting adjourned at 7:58pm

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Sally Belangia, Mayor

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Diane H. Miller, Town Manager/Clerk

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189 Approved _____, 2019 _____



ORIENTAL TOWN BOARD BUDGET MEETING

Wednesday, May 8, 2019 at 8am

507 Church Street, Oriental, NC

Mayor Sally Belangia Officiating

6 The Town Board of Oriental had a Town Budget Meeting on May 8, 2019 that was reconvened at 8am. Mayor
7 Belangia determined a quorum to be present.

8
9 Present was Mayor Belangia, Commissioner Dammeyer, Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Price, and
10 Commissioner Overcash, Town Manager Diane Miller, Deputy Finance Officer Tammy Cox and 1 Member of the
11 Public- Ms. Lisa Thompson. Mayor Pro Tempore White was absent.

12
13 The Board was presented General Fund revised expenses, following direction of the Board to remove Capital
14 Projects and Reserve contributions. Manager Miller again noted expenditure projections for this year will be more of
15 an educated guess than in the past as projections are made off of the previous year.

16
17 The Board looked at the Water Fund budget, which was presented balanced, with no Capital Projects. The meter
18 purchase on the replacement schedule was removed due to little of last year's meters having been replaced following
19 the Hurricane. Manager Miller noted the second payment of the lead abatement at the Water Plant and again thanked
20 the Board for their commitment to the project, despite its cost, to have a professional firm abate the lead paint in an
21 area in near proximity to our well, so that the danger was efficiently removed prior to any flaking or intrusion of that
22 flaked paint into the groundwater. We'll have three more payments on that abatement. A project to replace softener
23 media was delayed to make budget. Manager Miller contacted both the newest member of the Water Advisory
24 Board and the remaining former member and sent the draft and received no comments back to pass on to the Board.
25 She believed both members were out of the area currently.

26
27 The Manager cautioned again about the subsidy of the trash fund by taxes at \$.02/\$100, with nothing but expected
28 increase in price in future years of trash collection. Currently, it would take a \$4.77/month raise in trash fees to
29 become solvent as the enterprise function that it should be. We currently charge \$13.30/house for trash and
30 recycling- lowest in the eastern counties. Private contracts in our area are averaging \$30-\$35/month per house for
31 trash only. \$18.07 is break even cost.

32
33 Ms. Thompson spoke up and encouraged the Board to consider operating the trash fund as an enterprise function
34 that is a pass-through- our cost is charged to the customer. The adequate rate is still more than \$10/month less than
35 in unincorporated areas.

36
37 The Manager noted that the revenue projections may increase enough to add back one or more Capital purchases
38 prior to the June 1 deadline, and would only add back if the revenue projections could legally be increased. We
39 were at 96.25% collections with 3 more months of income to be received.

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41 The meeting was adjourned, on a MOTION by Commissioner Overcash and seconded by Commissioner
42 Dammeyer, with the Manager given direction to add Capital if the revenue increase supports it at 8:15am.

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Sally Belangia, Mayor

Diane H. Miller, Town Manager/Clerk

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50 Approved _____, 2019 _____