



ORIENTAL TOWN BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, December 7, 2021 at 8:00AM

507 Church Street, Oriental, NC

Mayor Sally Belangia Officiating

1 The Town Board of Oriental Monthly Meeting held on Tuesday, December 7, 2021 was called to order at 8:00 AM.
2 Mayor Belangia determined a quorum to be present, opened the meeting and stated there will be a public comment
3 period if anyone would like to speak. The meeting was open to the public. All documents for the meeting were
4 available through the Town's website at www.TownofOriental.com.

5
6 Present: Mayor Belangia, Mayor Pro Tempore White, Commissioner Overcash, Commissioner Price, Commissioner
7 Winfrey, Town Manager Diane Miller, Deputy Finance Director Tammy Cox, Officer Bill Wichrowski, and
8 members of the public. The Mayor opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

9
10 The Agenda was approved by a **MOTION** from Commissioner Overcash, seconded by Commissioner SWinfrey.
11 Unanimous vote: 4-0.

12
13 The Consent Agenda was approved by a **MOTION** from Commissioner Overcash, seconded by Commissioner
14 Winfrey. Unanimous vote: 4-0.

15
16 Public Comment: Former Commissioner Martin Barrow spoke to the Board expressing thanks to several members of
17 the Board and Staff for his time as a Commissioner and wished the newly elected well. Encouraged the Board to
18 elect Commissioner Price as Mayor Pro Tem. Congratulates Commissioner Roe.

19
20 *At the conclusion of old business, the previous Board paused to swear in and seat the newly elected Board prior to*
21 *conducting any new business.*

22
23 Mrs. Roe interjected a Parliamentary question concerning adjourning the previous Board prior to swearing in. Mrs.
24 Roe that the old business was concluded. Mayor Belangia noted that we are doing it this way. Mrs. Roe then asked
25 the Judge present the same question. He declined to answer. Mayor Belangia stated this was not the time for that
26 discussion.

27
28 Swearing In: The Honorable Judge Paul Delamar was present at the request of, to swear in Mr. Frank Roe. Manager
29 Miller swore in the remainder of the Mayor and Board. Oaths attached to official Minutes.

30
31 The newly elected Board was seated. Mayor Belangia welcomed Commissioner Roe to the Board.

32
33 Mayor Belangia asked for Motion to elect a Mayor Pro Tempore. Commissioner Overcash nominates David White.
34 Commissioner Winfrey seconds. Mayor calls for a vote. Ayes- 4, Nay-1, Commissioner Roe against, Commissioner
35 Price abstained (counted as Aye). Commissioner Roe asks to stop the process. Asking why she did not ask for other
36 nominations.

37
38 *At this point the Manager interjects that there are two potential methods- Motion-Second-Vote, if the vote fails, start*
39 *again. OR Nominations from the floor requiring paper ballots that are then part of public record. It is the Mayor's*
40 *choice. Mayor notes that "we usually nominate and then we'll vote, and then if that doesn't work, then we'll take*
41 *another." Commissioner Roe thanks the Mayor and Manager for the explanation.*

42
43 4-1. Manager swears in David White as Mayor Pro Tempore.

44
45
46 Organizational Duties:

47 Harbor Waterfronts: Commissioner White, Commissioner Winfrey
48 Parks and Rec: Commissioners Overcash and Price
49 Planning: Commissioners Roe and Commissioner Overcash
50 Tourism: Commissioner Roe and Mayor Belangia
51 Tree Board: Commissioner Price
52 ECC: Commissioner Price
53
54 Check Signing: White, Overcash, Belangia, Roe
55 Human Resources: White and Winfrey
56 Regional planning: *Manager notes this group meets in New Bern quarterly and is liaison to NCDOT and other state agencies.* Mayor Belangia
57 Bank Statement opening: Price
58
59
60 Appointment: Ms. Janice Coakley has applied to be a part of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and awaits
61 appointment. Commissioner Overcash makes a MOTION to appoint Ms. Coakley to Parks and Recreation.
62 Commissioner Price seconds. 5-0.
63
64 Record Retention: The Dept of Cultural Resources determines how long records are retained by the municipality.
65 The latest schedule was approved in 2019, before that 2012. This was put out for approval in October 2021. We
66 have always followed the schedule. Commissioner Roe asks about changes. Some things are added. Electronic
67 additions make up the bulk of new regulations. He asks about recordings as public record. The recording from
68 Minutes approved today, will be destroyed today. We keep them until Minutes are approved. Social Media (now is
69 logged by ArchiveSocial) to capture more of those electronic, new records. Commissioner Roe makes a MOTION
70 to accept the new schedule. Commissioner Overcash seconds. 5-0.
71
72
73 Drainage Plans: The plan provided at the last meeting estimate came in almost twice expected and the Manager was
74 not comfortable moving forward with double the expected cost to homeowners. It went from potentially \$75-
75 \$100/residence to \$150-\$175/residence. PW has purchased new equipment and will attempt to clear some of those
76 on the list prior to having the contractor back for those that could not be cleared. In addition, PW is working through
77 those issues that are affecting whole neighborhoods first. Have completed work at High St and are now on Ragan,
78 noting having found some broken and collapsed culverts that will be replaced. Residents should note that where the
79 streets are cut to remove the faulty culverts, there WILL BE GRAVEL for an extended period of time to allow the
80 proper settling prior to paving. Paving too soon leads to sinking patches and bigger problems.
81
82 Pamlico County Flood Study: 42 total surveys have been submitted. Yesterday, the Manager sat in on webinar from
83 USDA for Emergency Watershed Protection funds to be distributed following the infrastructure bill. THESE kinds
84 of documentation are what would be helpful in these applications. That and the previously completed RENA study
85 would be key. The RENA study had good participation, all noting that Hodges ST was the most mentioned issue.
86 The seawall is currently separating from the sidewalk, causing water to infiltrate the road and cause failure quickly.
87 Notes from the audience indicated that the form online and the linked form were different. The paper survey linked
88 to our website is the best version. Anything received today can still be forwarded. Commissioner Roe will
89 endeavor to get more surveys filled out and forwarded today prior to the County's meeting this evening.
90
91 Half Staff Explanation: We are often asked WHY our flags are at half-staff, especially when it goes over days. The
92 flags were to be lowered for Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, today, December 7th- you'll see the President's
93 proclamation attached in the agenda. In addition, the passing of Senator Dole revised that order to allow the flag to
94 be so from Dec 5 through Dec 9 (later extended to Dec 11).
95
96 Police Report: Officer Wichrowski spoke to the report- not a lot of happening issues. The speed sign continues to
97 receive good feedback from the public. Compliance is happening- the GOAL. He also discussed safety practices for
98 the holiday season- not putting labeled boxes out in the trash- taking them to the recycling facility, or breaking them
99 down. Keep tabs on when your online purchases are to arrive and don't let it sit out there longer than necessary.

100 Commissioner Roe asked about the speed sign. People believe there is a speeding issue in town. He asked for a
101 report. Last month's data indicated 3,000 vehicles came through. The vast majority were going within 5 miles of the
102 limit and still approaching a change in the limit (35-25).
103

104 Manager's Report: Manager Miller discussed the Financial Reports as provided. Spirit of Christmas this weekend.
105 Tree lighting, folding bags for luminaria, Friday luminaria put out star is lit, kayak flotilla, Saturday parade 1PM,
106 various business open houses Friday and Saturday. Friends of Whittaker Creek are \$12,000-\$15,000 short of match
107 for dredging the final stretch that was hard shoaled in. Contact Dan Allen to make a contribution. Pamlico Musical
108 Society may be coming forward with request for permission for a Mardi Gras parade. Several entities are dealing
109 with water shortage our ORC has NOT recommended instituting those measures YET. Potential for Hodges St
110 project to start moving. Road at Ragan/Neuse will be done separately because intent is to use Powell funds for that
111 fix. Manager asks the Board for permission to move forward. Commissioner Roe indicates we absolutely need to
112 move forward. You are absolutely able to reject all bids, if they all come in in an unacceptable range. AGAIN, the
113 gravel has to sit and compact. Must be bid separately.
114

115 Resolution: 2021-10 Resolution to thank Commissioner Simmons for her service to the Town at her final meeting.
116 Mayor Pro Tempore White makes a MOTION to approve the resolution. Commissioner Overcash seconds. 5-0.
117 Mayor Belangia stands with Commissioner Simmons, reads the Resolution of thanks (attached).
118

119 Commissioner Comments: Mayor Belangia will be lighting the star on Friday night. Manager will check to time and
120 get back to the Mayor. Mayor presents Resolution recognizing Dr. Dimond's service to the community and PAWS.
121 Commissioner Overcash makes a MOTION to accept Resolution 2021-13. Mayor Pro Tempore White seconds. 5-0
122

123 Commissioner Roe thanks the Board and Staff to help his movement to the Board so easy, answering questions.
124 Commissioner Overcash welcomes Commissioner Roe and is looking forward to the experience he brings. Mayor
125 Belangia invites all to the bank Friday at 4PM for open house.
126

127 Next meeting scheduled: Town Board Meeting – The Board will meet Tuesday, January 4, 2022 at 8:00AM.
128
129

130 Commissioner Winfrey made a **MOTION** to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Overcash. Unanimous vote: 5-0.
131

132 Meeting **ADJOURNED** at 8:50AM.
133

134

135

136

137

138 _____
Sally Belangia, Mayor

Diane H. Miller, Town Manager/Clerk

139

140

141

142 Approved _____, 2022