



## ORIENTAL TOWN BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, December 3, 2019 at 7pm

507 Church Street, Oriental, NC

Mayor Sally Belangia Officiating

- 6 The Town Board of Oriental Town Board Meeting on December 3, 2019 was called to order at 7pm. Mayor  
7 Belangia determined a quorum to be present and called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.  
8
- 9 PRESENT: Mayor Belangia, Mayor Pro Tempore White, Commissioner Overcash, Commissioner Simmons,  
10 Commissioner Price, Commissioner Dammeyer, Town Manager Diane Miller, Director of Administrative Service  
11 Tammy Cox, Officer Nic Blayney, Administrative Assistant Mary Barnes, Administrative Assistant Heather Hall,  
12 and Members of the Public.  
13
- 14 1. Approval of Agenda:  
15
- 16 Mayor Pro Tempore White made a MOTION to accept the Agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Overcash. Motion  
17 passed 5-0.  
18
- 19 2. Consent Agenda (Tab 1)  
20 a. Consider Approval of Minutes from Town Board Meeting November 5, 2019  
21
- 22 Commissioner Overcash made a MOTION to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Simmons.  
23 Motion passed 5-0.  
24
- 25 3. Public Comment Period : NO member of the Public signed up or asked the Mayor to speak.  
26
- 27 4. Planning Board Requests that the Town Board schedule a Public Hearing for the adoption of the proposed Solar  
28 Ordinance. The draft will be available for review in the required timeframe. Significant revisions were made to the  
29 draft in the Planning Board's November meeting, and, due to the fact that a significant portion of the County's  
30 Ordinance are to be copy/pasted in, and also that the parameters included are to be fit into the NC recommended  
31 template for such Ordinances, as well as additions to the definitions section that cause renumbering, it will take a bit  
32 to get all the pieces into place. Finally, we try not to schedule Public Hearings in January due to people vacationing  
33 and also that required notice is for two consecutive weeks and our paper traditionally skips Christmas week. While  
34 we could make the statute by publishing notice in the New Bern paper, this may not serve the purpose of distributing  
35 that information to our residents most effectively, and encourage more public participation.  
36
- 37 **Mayor Pro Tempore White** makes a **MOTION** to set a Public Hearing for the February meeting. **Commissioner**  
38 **Simmons** seconds. 5-0.  
39
- 40 5. Budget Amendment. The budget amendment offered covers expenditures and reimbursements from both Florence  
41 and Dorian. The November bill from Waste Industries took us past the budgeted amount for green waste removal for  
42 the year, so we are required to do the amendment. We are also meeting with FEMA on our Dorian claim, which will  
43 include preps, debris, labor, equipment, and contracted pruning. Lastly audit fees were overestimated last year, and  
44 not enough allocated this year to cover the costs to get us caught up. Our audits are current and the 18-19 was just  
45 accepted by the State Treasurer this week. We were made to understand that a fixed cost estimate accepted was the  
46 amount to be forwarded. This may not be the case any longer. Tourism additional expenses were also increasing  
47 their line, funded by their restricted reserve as proceeds from Occupancy Tax.  
48
- 49 **Commissioner Overcash** made a **MOTION** that the budget amendment be approved. **Mayor Pro Tempore White**  
50 seconded. 5-0.  
51
- 52 Other Old Business before swearing in new Board was requested by Mayor Belangia. None having been heard,  
53 Mayor Belangia asked to meet Commissioner Eric Dammeyer in front of the dais as he chose not to run for re-

54 election and would be leaving the Board this evening. She read the following from a plaque of appreciation prepared  
55 for the Commissioner:

56  
57 The Town of Oriental gratefully acknowledges Eric Dammeyer for his service to the citizens of Oriental as  
58 Commissioner, December 2017-December 2019.

59  
60 Commissioner Dammeyer thanked the Mayor and all he had worked with.

61  
62 6. Swearing in: Manager Miller swore in Mayor Belangia, Commissioners White, Overcash, Simmons, and Price,  
63 and new Commissioner Martin Barrow. (Certificates attached). The Board returned to the dais

64  
65 7. Mayor Belangia asks if there is any additional item that needs to be added to the agenda moving forward. We do.  
66 The Commissioners' assignments to various volunteer Boards needs to be addressed. **Commissioner Barrow** makes  
67 a **MOTION** to add assignments to the agenda. **Commissioner Overcash** seconded the motion. 5-0.

68  
69 8. Appointments: Staff offers no opinion as these are political appointments. Mayor Belangia has everyone's desires  
70 for appointment. Three Commissioners chose Planning and cannot be appointed to all serve as liaisons to Planning.  
71 Mayor Pro Tempore White gives up his previous position as liaison to Planning as Commissioner Barrow just  
72 recently served on the Planning Board and is well in tune with their workings and issues. Mayor Belangia assigns all  
73 Commissioners to at least one Board. **Commissioner Overcash** makes a **MOTION** to accept all appointments.  
74 **Mayor Pro Tempore White** seconds. 5-0.

75  
76 9. Planning Board Appointments: Commissioner Barrow is no longer Vice Chair of Planning and Member Lohmar  
77 is also resigning. Mr. Dan Allen and Ms. Julie Rahm have entered applications to be appointed to the Planning  
78 Board. Both can be appointed to come on in December. **Mayor Pro Tempore White** makes a **MOTION** to  
79 approve the candidates for Planning Board. **Commissioner Barrow** seconds. 5-0.

80  
81 10. Election of Mayor Pro Tempore: Mayor Pro Tempore White was nominated to continue as Mayor Pro Tempore  
82 for another term by **Commissioner Overcash**. The Mayor asks for any other nominations. Having heard none,  
83 **Commissioner Simmons** seconds the motion. 5-0. Mayor Pro Tempore White is sworn in (certificate attached).

84  
85 11. Police Report Officer Blayney

- 86 • Officer Blayney offers congratulations to the Board-
- 87 • Little activity during the holidays- some boat overstaying issues- fines paid.
- 88 • Larcenies reported out of Town Limits that we worked.
- 89 • More suspicious persons calls than usual/trespassing issues- still fairly quiet.
- 90 • "Porch Pirates"- issues caution to folks who have packages inbound- keep an eye out and on your
- 91 neighbors' properties also- track you packages and know when they are coming.
- 92 • Spirit of Christmas events- OPD will be on the porch at Town Hall prior to the parade with info to
- 93 distribute.

94  
95 12. Manager's Report :

- 96 • Financials attached.
- 97 • Last FEMA community rating system ratings meeting in Alliance tomorrow- this is the project that
- 98 forwards our info to the NFIP people and affects our ratings for flood insurance- regulations we have,
- 99 procedures we do- adds to our drainage efforts- we have forwarded this information on several occasions.  
100 Still awaiting the receipt of those. Our rating has slipped, these efforts trying to get us back. Preliminary  
101 maps about to become official. A lot of structures here came out of the flood zones. The new maps do not  
102 include info from Irene or Florence- so the data upon which decisions are made is skewed and the Manager  
103 has concerns that the freeboard will be lowered to put some structures back into the flood vulnerability.  
104 County is revising the ordinance and our concerns will be raised prior to the enactment. Encourages  
105 everyone to pay attention and potentially attend the public meeting tomorrow evening to voice that concern  
106 as well. The floodplain will be smaller, and then the freeboard is adjusted by the County. It will be  
107 interesting to see the minimum height standards following the new maps. Commissioner Price notes that  
108 this will prompt people to drop flood insurance- that's the manager's concern as well. Commissioner

109 Barrow asks if they have received the info we forwarded for additional measures enforced by our GMO and  
110 our educational procedures and such that Oriental does that others do not. Mayor Pro Tempore White asks  
111 our rates related to freeboard. Manager notes it's 2 different issues. People WILL come out of the flood  
112 zone, rates will go down. In addition, new structures will be built to new maps, not necessarily to a  
113 standard that keeps new structures dry.

- 114 • Christmas- Volunteer Appreciation party Friday- we could not possibly afford to pay for the expertise we  
115 enjoy.
- 116 • Closed 24, 25, 26, January 1.
- 117 • New Program Manager will be here this week to assess our Dorian damages.
- 118 • Manager will be in Chapel Hill at NCCCA committee for sustainability meeting at School of Govt  
119 Thursday.
- 120 • Dredge Spoils bid is out to clean out the spoils at Sea Harbour- we are leasing the site, which requires to be  
121 cleaned out first and made ready to accept new spoils. Attorneys have that now. Hope to be dredged by  
122 March 31.
- 123 • Tourism Group directs Spirit of Christmas- candle ornaments on a new tree to be put up in Lou Mac Park-  
124 \$5 donation- funds to be forwarded to Ocracoke fund for recovery following the collection. Manager notes  
125 that when we got slammed and Ocracoke did not during Florence, they forwarded extra supplies our way.  
126 They were wiped out in Dorian, it's our turn. Also- Toys for Pamlico Kids box is here- we ask anyone  
127 coming to Town Hall and Volunteers attending the party bring a new unwrapped gift for that box.
- 128 • Commissioner Price asks about the audit- ours is finished and a very few questions had been forwarded  
129 from the Treasurer- Auditor is answering those.- One thing we will need to do additionally next year is  
130 additional paperwork if receiving more than \$100,000 from the Federal Govt- which we will between  
131 Florence recovery and the WPR project.

132  
133 13. Auxiliary Boards: Workshop – Notes from the abandoned vessels workshop in Washington and our progress  
134 toward enacting a local ordinance. Lisa will be asking for an amendment to existing law vice having a new local bill  
135 for us separately. Will keep the Board informed of that progress. Mayor Pro Tempore White asks if the Ordinance  
136 prepared by Dan Allen would be approved by this Bill. No. The local bill would allow us to enact the Ordinance-  
137 the Town Board would do that following the local bill.

138  
139 14. Commissioner Comments: Mayor notes that she will be lighting the star on the Harbor with Commissioner  
140 Overcash. Admin Services Director Cox notes that the switch has been installed- the Mayor can do that when she  
141 wants to. Question about Christmas lights. We've been working on this since the week before Thanksgiving- hung  
142 all fixtures- lights switched on- nothing on Broad ST works. Apparently, old wiring was beat good in Florence,  
143 dried out and was torn up during Dorian. Not until strung and tested did we realize every pole was affected. Duke  
144 and private electricians continue to go back and forth on who can touch and repair the connections. Still hoping to  
145 make it happen before the weekend.

146  
147 15. Picture of the month: Shelf off the wall in our office- awaiting the installer to come rehang it.

148  
149 16. Adjourn. Next meeting scheduled as January 7, 2020.

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151 Commissioner Simmons made a MOTION to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Overcash. Motion passed 5-0.

152  
153 Meeting adjourned at PM

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157 \_\_\_\_\_  
Sally Belangia, Mayor

157 \_\_\_\_\_  
Diane H. Miller, Town Manager/Clerk

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159  
160  
161 Approved \_\_\_\_\_, 2019 \_\_\_\_\_