



ORIENTAL TOWN BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, December 4, 2018 at 7pm

507 Church Street, Oriental, NC

Mayor Sally Belangia Officiating

6 The Town Board of Oriental Town Board Meeting on December 4, 2018 was called to order at 7pm. The Mayor
7 Sally Belangia determined a quorum to be present. She said we have a Public Comment period, if you wish to speak
8 please make sure you are signed up on the correct sheet.
9

10 Present: Mayor Sally Belangia, Mayor Pro Tempore White, Commissioner Overcash, Commissioner Simmons,
11 Commissioner Dammeyer, Commissioner Price, Deputy Finance Director Tammy Cox in Manager Miller's
12 absence, Administrative Assistant Jeannine Russo, Administrative Assistant Samantha McKinney, Officer Nic
13 Blayne, Officer Bill Wichrowski and Members of the Public. Manager Miller is absent.
14

15 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

16 Commissioner Overcash made a **MOTION** to approve the Agenda. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore White.
17 Motion passed 5-0.
18

19 1. Consent Agenda (Tab 1)

- 20 a. Approve Minutes from Regular Town Board Meeting November 7, 2018
21 b. Approve CLOSED SESSION Minutes from Town Board Meeting November 7, 2018
22

23 Mayor Pro Tempore White made a **MOTION** to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Commissioner
24 Dammeyer. Motion passed 5-0.
25

26 REGULAR BUSINESS

27
28 **2. Hurricane Florence Update. (Tab 2):** *The Deputy Finance Officer will present the current situation with respect*
29 *to the debris removal, contracted services for recovery, status with NCLM Insurance and FEMA claims, and*
30 *completed recovery projects.*

31 Deputy Finance Director Tammy Cox reported that there has been 35,273 cubic yards picked up compared to 16,760
32 cubic yards in Irene. She received an email this afternoon from County Manager Tim Buck stating:
33

34 For County designated roads (municipal and private), January 1, 2019 is the deadline for citizens to move storm
35 debris to the right of way. Insulation should be placed in clear plastic bags. Vegetative and construction and
36 demolition debris must be separated. Large trees should be cut in 10-12 foot sections. If you have any questions, you
37 may call Pamlico County Administrative Office at (252) 745-3133.
38

39 County Manager Buck stated they are on their second pass and will make sure that the parade route is clear – Ragan,
40 Broad, Hodges and South are all clear. If we see any areas not picked up, we are to call him. The third pass will be
41 after that January 1st date.
42

43 3. Public Comment Period:

44 Larry Summers: Update on Spirit of Christmas. Bag folding is finished. Reporting one problem, the Christmas star
45 is missing. He is working with Deputy Finance Director Tammy Cox and Public Works Director Drew Cox to see
46 what happened to it. It is not owned by the Town and was on loan. A star has been ordered by the Town and should
47 be delivered by 5pm on Friday. He will have a wooden one built in the event it does not get delivered in time. Billy
48 Flockhart (Piggly Wiggly) has been asked to say a few words and raise the star. Some folks from the Chorale will be
49 present to sing carols. The star will be lit at about 5:30pm. Commissioner Overcash stated since the Town has gone
50 out of their way to get a star, if it does come in, will it be used? Larry Summers responded maybe, the wooden one
51 will be up and if he has enough time to pull that one down when the other one is delivered, he will "make it work."
52 The kayak flotilla will come into the harbor at about 5pm.
53

54 4. Holiday Schedule (Tab 3)

55 Deputy Finance Director Cox stated, as Larry Summers reported, the folding of the bags is complete. The candles
56 will be pre-lit and the bags stuffed at the firehouse on Thursday, December 6 at 3:30pm. Friday, December 7,
57 luminaries will be loaded on the trailer at the firehouse. On Saturday, the Boy Scouts help clean up on Saturday.
58 This year, the Oriental Police Department will be at Town Hall on Saturday on the front porch, Officer Blayney will
59 speak about that during the Police Report. We will have our Spirit of Christmas parade and at Town Hall we are
60 collecting Toys for Pamlico Kids, not Toys for Tots, so this does go for our Pamlico County kids. We will also
61 collect at our annual Christmas party for the high school students, boys and girls, on Friday, December 14 from 3-5
62 here at Town Hall.

63 64 **5. Meeting Schedule (Tab 4)**

65 Upcoming closings: On December 24, 25 and 26 (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday), Town Hall and Public Works
66 offices will be closed. The water bills will be not past due until close of business on December 27. We will have
67 limited staff in Public Works that whole week. Jesse Burgess will be our one on duty that whole week. On
68 December 31, we will have two Administrative staff and one Public Works. January 1st, we will be closed. Regular
69 scheduled Board Meeting for January 1 has been rescheduled to January 8 at 7pm including a Public Hearing on 807
70 Midyette for short-term rental. The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for January 31 and a time has not been
71 chosen, this falls on Thursday. Mayor Belangia asked for 8am, all were in agreement. Regularly scheduled Board
72 meeting is Tuesday, February 5 at 7pm. First Monday in February, staff usually collectively takes off as we
73 encourage vacation time to be taken when it not busy so if any Agenda items should be sent the week prior.
74 Emergency contact numbers have been posted for the Public Works worker on duty during the holidays.

75 76 **6. Manager's Report (Tab 5) *Financials included***

- 77 • Financials are attached.
- 78 • There have been some issues with Christmas decorations. Some have been lost. Power lines to some of the
79 poles have been spotty. Turning the decorations around has not been an option due to the conduit on the
80 opposite side.
- 81 • 2015-16 has been finalized for the Board's review. The auditor should have it to us within the next few
82 weeks. Only a few changes needed to be made.
- 83 • Whittaker Creek dredging as of today is \$77,965.
- 84 • Deputy Finance Director Tammy Cox introduced our new Water Clerk, Samantha McKinney.
- 85 • Martin Barrow, Planning Board, has been working with DOT about the speed limit signs. The 35mph sign
86 is up. They moved the 45mph sign from just past Piggly Wiggly to the next parking lot. Mr. Barrow has
87 also asked DOT to put a reduced speed alert that there will be a change in speed where we did not have one
88 before. Mayor Pro Tempore White suggested Officer Blayney park his car out there to slow traffic down.

89 90 **7. Police Report (Tab 6)**

91 Officer Blayney presented a draft to the Board of the handout they will have available to the public. On Saturday
92 during Spirit of Christmas during the time PAWS will have their chili (between 9am and 4pm). The purpose of this
93 presentation is to discuss safety tips and common sense things to be aware of during the holidays such as not putting
94 it on social media if your home will be empty. They will be serving coffee, hot chocolate and cider. There will be a
95 Grinch theme and will have a TV/DVD playing the movie to occupy children as they speak with their parents.
96 Officer Blayney also invited Oriental Fire Department members so that they can present fire safety tips if they wish.
97 Commissioner Overcash asked if he had invited anyone from the Sheriff's Department or County for the
98 presentation. He had not but the Sheriff's Department is helping with the parade and feels they will probably stop by
99 and help answer questions as well. The Sheriff's Office has already volunteered to help with the parade, still
100 working out the details. Officer Blayney spoke about their new School Resource Officer car and may ask if they
101 would like to put them in the parade, possibly leading the parade. Officer Wichrowski will be driving the Charger
102 leading the parade and maybe have their new car up front as well. Commissioner Overcash inquired about using the
103 QRV. Officer Wichrowski believes it will be in line with the fire engines. Officer Blayney stated we are grateful for
104 the officers from the Civil Division that will be coming down to help as well. As far as reports, it was a pretty good
105 month, a lot of things related to the hurricane – information stops, citizen assists. A lot of things with other law
106 enforcement agencies – Animal Control and Sheriff's office. There have been more Ordinance violations due to
107 migrant boaters sailing south. Commissioner Price asked if all of the stop signs are back up since the hurricane; he
108 believes there are still a few not replaced.

110 **8. Commissioners' Comments**

111 Commissioner Overcash spoke about a resident that has approached him about Uber drivers and if we have any
112 regulations and was not sure if we do. He has made the Planning Board aware and put it to the Board to see if
113 anyone had any comments. Mayor Pro Tempore White stated we have had Uber drivers before and is like someone
114 with a cab coming to your home. Commissioner Dammeyer said the cab people at the airport in New Bern give the
115 Uber drivers a hard time and this discourages them. Commissioner Overcash brought to everyone's attention that the
116 Old Hotel is going to be raised next week so there will be a lot of congestion at the intersection of Broad and Hodges
117 Streets. Commissioner Price wished to thank Deputy Finance Director Tammy Cox on a "job well done" while
118 Manager Miller is out of the country and preparing for the meeting. Commissioner Dammeyer presented something
119 to the Board, to consider in the future, regarding derelict vessels in the harbor and issues that have occurred as a
120 result. He spoke about a study done by the University of North Carolina School of Law and Duke School of Law
121 and the legalities of what Towns can and cannot do to protect the citizens from these vessels and improper discharge
122 in the water. The Mayor and Board received copies of this study and proposes that it be put on the Agenda to study
123 and decide if it should be put to the Planning Board. County cooperation would be needed for some of it.
124 Commissioners Dammeyer and Simmons have spoken about this and the extreme cost of dealing with this issue.
125 Lisa Thompson, Chair of HWAC has been looking at this. Mayor Pro Tempore White agrees, this is a big issue,
126 comes down to enforcement and pay. He believes the owners are abandoning them; they can be fined but if they do
127 not pay, how do we enforce it. It is a big problem. The Coast Guard currently, as he understands, will remove the
128 batteries and fuel and leave the vessel. Commissioner Overcash asked if Beaufort recently cleaned out the Town
129 Creek area. Mayor Pro Tempore White stated it was mostly about how long boats could stay. Commissioner
130 Simmons stated, according to the article, boaters left and went to other places after the hurricane as they knew they
131 could leave their boats somewhere else and they were sinking the boats, which also puts pollution in the water –
132 problem for fisherman and wildlife. Commissioner Dammeyer stated previously we felt we were powerless to do
133 anything about boats dumping sewage in the harbor but the study, it appears, says we do have authority to do
134 something but may be expensive. He believes cost should be secondary to the ability to do it, maybe change
135 Ordinances. Mayor Pro Tempore White would like to find a way to hold people accountable – we can defer this to
136 the next meeting or put on an Agenda meeting - all agreed – but stated we would need legal guidance.
137 Commissioner Dammeyer mentioned Michael Tigar, one of the people in charge of this project, may be able to help.
138 Commissioner Simmons stated Ryke Longest, who brought the other lawyers down here, may also be available. Lisa
139 Thompson and HWAC has requested that study be done and got that started, has been working on this for two years,
140 and that was the outcome from it. She encourages the Board to come to their Committee meetings. Commissioner
141 Dammeyer said they would like to have their input. Next HWAC meeting is December 13. Mayor Pro Tempore
142 White stated it is \$395 per foot to remove these boats. Lisa Thompson stated this was such a problem after Irene,
143 may seem slow but we are progressing.

144
145 **9. Auxiliary Board Reports: (Tab 7)**

146 BRMSD November
147 HWAC November
148

149 Mayor Pro Tempore White stated he had spoken with Deputy Finance Director Cox prior to the meeting regarding
150 the indication in the Bay River report that they were waiting for us to see if we could do any abatement on the water
151 issue coming up – does not think we will construct a wall so they can redo their site. We should touch base with
152 them to see when they will do the work as it is a safety concern.

153
154 **10. Adjourn:** Next meeting scheduled as January 8, 2019, 7pm Town Hall

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156 **Commissioner Simmons** made a **MOTION** to adjourn. Seconded by **Commissioner Price**. Motion passed 5-0.
157 Meeting adjourned at 7:29pm.

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Sally Belangia, Mayor

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Diane H. Miller, Town Manager/Clerk

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165 Approved

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