



ORIENTAL TOWN BOARD REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, October 14, 2025 6PM

507 Church Street, Oriental, NC

Mayor Sally Belangia officiating

The Town Board of Oriental regular meeting was held on Tuesday, October 14, 2025, and was called to order at 6 PM. Mayor Belangia determined a quorum to be present. The meeting was open to the public. All documents for the meeting were available through the Town's website at www.TownofOriental.com. Mayor starts with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Mayor Belangia(SB), Mayor Pro Tempore Price (AP), Commissioner Overcash(CO), Commissioner Crosser(BC), Commissioner Litzenberger(BL), Commissioner Winfrey (SW) Town Manager Diane Miller(DM), Finance Officer Lisa Millington, Officer Wichrowski, and members of the Public. Mayor calls the meeting to order and starts with the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by **Mayor** at 7:00 PM. The **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited. Attendance was recorded, and a quorum was established.

2. Agenda Approval

A motion was made to amend the agenda by:

- **Removing** Item #7 – Police Vacancy Discussion
- **Removing** Item #15 – Closed Session
- **Adding** Volunteer Holiday Party discussion after Item #10

Motion: Commissioner Litzenberger

Second: Commissioner Overcash

Vote: Unanimous approval.

3. Public Comment Period

Speakers were limited to three minutes.

1. **Larry Summers** – Former commissioner. Recommended returning to *Robert's Rules of Order* and ensuring the town attorney's presence at meetings. Emphasized transparency and adherence to the council-manager system.
2. **Greg Bohmert** – Requested public workshops for discussion of **police department restructuring**. Cited financial and resource concerns.
3. **Butch Rasmussen** – Opposed hiring additional police officers. Argued that the **Pamlico County Sheriff's Department** provides sufficient coverage.
4. **Officer Bill Wichrowski** – Clarified jurisdiction limits and noted that many county calls occur outside town limits, but in the Oriental zip code.

4. Consent Agenda

Included approval of regular and closed session minutes, Whitaker Creek dredging contract award, and a resolution recognizing *World Pancreatic Cancer Day*.

An error was noted in the closed session minutes; item was removed and corrected.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda (as amended): Passed unanimously.

Motion to approve Closed Session Minutes (as amended): Passed 5-0.

5. Manager's Report – Diane Miller

- **Audit:** Completed ahead of schedule; official presentation set for **November 18, 2025**. Auditor available for discussion on **November 17 at 9:00 AM**.
- **Water e-Billing:** Transitioning to e-billing; resident confusion being addressed.
- **EV Charging Revenue:** \$144 received for September.
- **Duke Power:** Tree trimming concerns; Christmas lights cannot be installed until **January 2026** due to scheduling conflicts at Duke Power.
- **PFAS Water Testing:** New testing firm engaged; costs to be covered by PFAS settlement funds.
- **Financial Position:**

- General Fund Balance: **\$1,000,000+**
- Revenues: 28% of budget (ahead)
- Expenditures: 24% (below expected)
- **Audit Review Meeting:** Scheduled for November 17, 9:00 AM.
- **Tree Work:** \$19,950 in required removals; \$15,664 additional funding needed.
- **Property Revaluation:** Public hearing on **October 20, 2025, at 7:00 PM** at Pamlico County Courthouse.
- **Certifications:** Manager certified by League of Municipalities as Financial Expert; passed lead testing compliance.

6. Board and Committee Reports

A. Water Advisory Board – Commissioner Crosser

- Discussion with **EFI Solutions** regarding prefabricated buildings for booster and water plants.
- Prefab may reduce cost and timeline; analysis pending.
- **Valve Replacement Project:** Near final bid stage (target January–February 2026).
- **Generator Replacement:** 1954 unit replaced successfully.
- Water fund increased by **\$29,000** in retained earnings.

B. Parks and Recreation – Barbara Miller

- Partnering with Tourism Board on *Spirit of Christmas 2025*.
- Hosting **Fall Festival** on **Saturday, November 1, 11 AM–3 PM** at the Recreation Park.

C. Harbor Waterfronts Board – Jim Blackerby

- Approved plan to bid **bulkhead and deck replacement** at Dinghy Dock.
- Permit process underway.
- Minor storm damage repaired promptly.

7. New Business

A. Staff Holiday Bonuses

Original amount: \$10,377.76

Adjusted total: \$11,331.75 (includes FICA and ORBIT retirement).

Motion: Commissioner Litzenberger

Second: Commissioner Overcash

Vote: 4–1 Approved, Crosser dissenting

B. Volunteer Holiday Party

Reinstated funding for volunteer appreciation event.

Amount: \$2,500 from Storm Prep Fund.

Motion: Commissioner Litzenberger

Second: Commissioner Winfrey

Vote: Unanimous approval.

C. Consultant Contract – Harry Bailey

Authorization for Manager to execute contract with **Harry Bailey**, water consultant and DEQ expert, at **\$50/hour**.

Motion: Commissioner Litzenberger

Second: Commissioner Crosser

Vote: Unanimous approval.

D. Rules of Procedure

Motion: Commissioner Overcash moved to return to *Robert's Rules of Order* as the official meeting procedure.

Second: Commissioner Litzenberger

Vote: Approved unanimously. Commissioner Crosser distributes new books.

E. Budget Amendments

- Covered tax on new tractor purchase and increased water postage.
- Reallocation of \$2,500 for officer healthcare line correction.

Motion: Commissioner Litzenberger

Second: Commissioner Overcash

Vote: Approved unanimously.

F. Restricted Reserve Fund for Road Repairs

Proposal: Create a restricted reserve fund using **50% of unrestricted budget surplus (~\$196,000).**

Motion: Commissioner Crosser

Second: Commissioner Litzenberger

Vote: Failed 2-3.

Item deferred pending audit confirmation and rescheduled for November agenda.

G. FEMA Reimbursement

Town to receive **\$106,600** within 45 days for Hurricane Florence recovery expenses. An additional **\$37,000** still pending.

H. Tourism Board Appointment

Nominee: Vicky Rasmussen

Motion: Commissioner Crosser

Second: Commissioner Overcash

Vote: Unanimous approval.

8. Police Report – Officer Bill Wichrowski

- **Calls for Service:** 29
- **Total Incidents:** 152
- Explained limitations of Sheriff's jurisdiction and importance of town police for ordinance enforcement.
- Highlighted community involvement and relationship-building with residents.
- Recent Events Supported: 9/11 Ceremony, Greens Creek Challenge, Front Porch Music Festival, and Heritage Day.

9. Commissioner and Mayor Comments

- Commissioner Overcash commended the **productive tone** and **teamwork** of the meeting.
- **Mayor Belangia** announced "Good Witches of Silverbrook" fundraiser for **Pamlico Partnership for Children** on **October 31 at the annual Witches Crawl at the corner of King St. and 1st Avenue.** (Then proceeded to wonder aloud why the Manager was not one of the Witches..)
- **Spirit of Christmas** Open House planned for **December 13** at the Boathouse.

10. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Commissioner Winfrey

Second: Commissioner Overcash

Vote: Unanimous approval.

Meeting adjourned at: 7:10 PM.

Next Regular Meeting:

Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at 6:00 PM, Scheduled meeting with Auditor Nov 17, 9AM.

Town Hall, Oriental, NC

Sally Belangia , Mayor

Diane H. Miller, Town
Manager/Clerk

Approved , 2025



ORIENTAL TOWN BOARD MEETING ACTION ITEMS

Tuesday, October 14, 2025

507 Church Street, Oriental, NC

Mayor Sally Belangia Officiating

1. Manager will send Resolution 2025-11 to the entity that had requested.
2. Manager will sign and execute the contract with King Dredging.
3. The Manager will request meeting with Auditor 11/17/25 9AM
4. Manager/FO will prepare budget amendment for 11/18 concerning movement of funds for volunteer appreciation party, movement of tree funds to useable, movement of storm prep fund to tree maint.
5. Manager/FO will prepare a budget amendment will increase the funding in the merit, FICA, and Orbit lines for the proposed 2% bonus
6. Planning begins for the volunteer appreciation party!
7. Manager will execute contract with Mr. Harry Bailey to review TRC plans.
8. FO will make budget adjustments per Budget Amendments approved.
9. Manager will have restricted reserve Ordinance ready for November 18 meeting.