



ORIENTAL TOWN BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, October 5, 2021 at 8:00AM

507 Church Street, Oriental, NC

Mayor Sally Belangia Officiating

1 The Town Board of Oriental Monthly Meeting held on Tuesday, October 5, 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. The Mayor noted the Board is having some
5 technical issues started with updates to the internet router.

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

10
11 The Agenda was approved by a **MOTION** from Commissioner Overcash, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore White.
12 Unanimous vote: 5-0.

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14 The Consent Agenda was approved by a **MOTION** from Commissioner Simmons, seconded by Commissioner
15 Winfrey. Unanimous vote: 5-0.

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17 Public Comment: Mr. Frank Roe spoke to the Board concerning the planned expenditures considered for the ARPA
18 funds both received and expected. He suggested that the Board consider using those funds, specifically uses for
19 businesses, hospitality, tourism, or to reduce taxes. Manager Miller explains that the only authorized named uses are
20 water, sewer, broadband, premium pay, and some stormwater, unless the receiving entity can prove a reduction in
21 revenue, which we absolutely cannot. Our Occupancy tax and property tax revenue was record high during the
22 considered period, so we are stuck with the named uses.

23
24 Ms. Bonnie Crosser asks the Board to reconsider the services rendered by a very small Public Works staff that takes
25 up significant time- picking up cardboard and green waste. She feels the service is being abused by those who could
26 absolutely get the waste to the proper place themselves. Suggestion that the Town publicize more widely that the
27 green waste disposal is self-service, because PW being short staffed is making deferred maintenance in other areas
28 because of the time spent in green waste pickup and cardboard pickup.

29
30 Ms. Christine Mele presented information from Allies for Cherry Point's Tomorrow. (attached comments)

31
32 SUP Public Hearing: Planning Board has forwarded a request from Mr. Brewington, new owner at 901 Broad St to
33 convert the existing building to a hotel/Air B&B/hunting/fishing lodge. The request requires a Public Hearing for an
34 SUP (Section 1.240). Commissioner Overcash makes a **MOTION** to schedule a Public Hearing for the November 9
35 meeting. Planning Board will discuss and make recommendation at their October 20 meeting. Commissioner Price
36 seconds. 5-0.

37
38 Personnel Policy Adjustment: As discussed in the September Workshop, presented for the Board is a draft to add to
39 the Personnel Policy a clause that requires a newly certified staff member (specifically NOT one who is undergoing
40 required certificate maintenance continuing education, but rather new certification) to pay back the Town's cost for
41 that education if they leave the Town's employ within one year of the certification. Commissioner Overcash makes
42 a **MOTION** that we approve Resolution 2021-09, the addition to the personnel policy as presented. Commissioner
43 Simmons seconds. No discussion. 5-0.

44
45 Request from CRSWMA: The Coastal Regional Solid Waste Management Authority to appoint a representative to
46 their advisory Board. Mr. Valinoti serves on the Board from the County, but there is no Oriental representative.

47 The appointee can be an elected, staff member, or citizen. Commissioner Overcash suggests that we publicize this
48 opening and see if a citizen is interested.
49

50 Road Repair update: Immediately following the workshop where roads were discussed at length, the Manager
51 received the engineered drawings of the repair at the Town Beach. Problems discussed are that there is no headwall
52 holding the pipe in place, which led to the cantered result, also the likelihood the substrate is not adequate.
53 Additionally, recommendation was to replace one 40" pipe with 2-42" RCP culverts. Cast cement box culvert was
54 considered, but this seems to be a better fix. Laid correctly, the reinforced concrete will hold. We have water and
55 sewer lines running across the existing culvert. Additionally a few trees would have to come out at the beach. Also
56 considered was extending the pipe out further, which potentially could present additional impaction issues, and
57 require a lengthy CAMA process. You'll see an option for duckbill valves at \$27,000 each. We also have allowed
58 water to move in and out with storms and rain, and the dynamic movement of water has not been the total issue. If
59 not allowed in through culverts, water will come up over the road. We are awaiting cost estimates and road repair
60 estimates. We have discussed overspending the trench. SOG says we can overspend and then back in the
61 reimbursement. There was some discussion about not doing that. We are almost through spending what has already
62 been received for the chlorine alarms and generator as approved. If the Board chooses not to overspend the first
63 trench, we are at a halt for moving any of this forward. Mayor Pro Tempore White speaks to hesitancy for receiving
64 the second trench. Current staff from March 2020-March 2021 is eligible except for the Manager for premium pay
65 as allowed by ARPA guidance. We also discussed this at the workshop. In the package is a number of emails from
66 the Mgr listserv what other municipalities are planning. Restrictions are \$25,000 per employee. In NC, most
67 municipalities are recognizing the service of employees who continued face to face service. We are receiving
68 \$24,000 more than expected. We can't make this happen right away because the Mgr needs a sample
69 Ordinance/policy/resolution that allows for the premium pay. Commissioner Overcash notes this was discussed at
70 the quarterly meeting. We want to recognize employees for their service. Manager needs a figure to put into a draft
71 when received. Commissioner Simmons noted that they had discussed a little more than the proposed \$1,000-\$1,200
72 per employee, but that seems to be the standard. Manager notes \$100/month/employee.
73

74 9/11 Commemoration Service: Commissioner Overcash requests the closing of Hodges St on 9/11 (Saturday from
75 8:30AM through approximately 8:45AM-9AM) for remembrance of those lost on 9/11. Station 19 will park at rail
76 (Town Dock 1)- requested cones/tape to prevent parking in that spot at that time. Moment of silence at 8:46AM.
77 Playing of Taps following. Commissioner Overcash makes **MOTION** to approve street closing as presented.
78 Commissioner Winfrey seconds. 5-0.
79

80 Police Report: Officer Blayney. A lot of work on the GCC grant- most of the items have been purchased,
81 reimbursed, in the middle of installation. Radio dispatch and connection to our Officers is much stronger when
82 communications are weak. We are updating our WiFi to accommodate. Part of this is why the Commissioner tablets
83 are not hooking up. The new vehicle is here and online. New equipment being installed. Speed limit signs are
84 deployed- it will be logging data. Once driver approaching at 19MPH starts registering, over limit, starts blinking,
85 20+ over, the sign blinks in more color. Mayor Pro Tempore White notes that it will give us average speeds.
86 Manager notes it is a portable unit that needs to be recharged between shifts- the advantage is portability, the
87 disadvantage is that it cannot run 24/7. Commissioner Overcash asks if we can access that information from the
88 device.
89

90 Manager's Report: Manager Miller discussed the Financial Reports as provided. OFPMF this weekend- weather not
91 promising, but will move forward anyway. Church St goes ONE AWAY toward the river starting Friday, other
92 closures will happen. Car Show is the following weekend. We do not regulate Halloween- it has always been on the
93 designated date. Police will be on duty and giving out candy to kids who flag them down. Silverbrooke Witches
94 will be fundraising again this year, and have asked for street closure at Ms. Thompson's house for pedestrians in the
95 road. Commissioner Simmons will be with us for the November meeting- does the Board want to swear in the new
96 member prior to the December meeting? We will do as directed. We will know the outcome of the election by the
97 next meeting. We will have to swear in the whole Board. Manager asks the Board to let her know when decided.
98 You also now have a Public Hearing that day.
99

100 Commissioner Comments: none

101

102 Next meetings scheduled: Town Board Meeting – The Board will meet in a workshop Tuesday, November 9, 2021
103 at 8:00AM.

104

105

106 Commissioner Simmons made a **MOTION** to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Winfrey. Unanimous vote: 5-0.

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108 Meeting **ADJOURNED** at 8:51AM.

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Sally Belangia, Mayor

Diane H. Miller, Town Manager/Clerk

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118 Approved _____, 2021