



ORIENTAL TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP MEETING

Thursday, September 29 at 8:00AM

507 Church Street, Oriental, NC

Mayor Pro Tempore White Officiating

1 The Town Board of Oriental Quarterly Workshop Meeting held on Thursday, September 29, 2022 was called to  
2 order at 8:00 AM in the large Board Room. Mayor Belangia determined a quorum to be present, and opened the  
3 meeting. Public Comments not to be taken in the Workshop. The meeting was open to the public. All documents for  
4 the meeting were available through the Town's website at [www.TownofOriental.com](http://www.TownofOriental.com).

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6 Present: Mayor Sally Belangia Mayor Pro Tempore White, Commissioner Overcash, Commissioner Price,  
7 Commissioner Roe, Town Manager Diane Miller, members of the public. Commissioner Winfrey was absent.

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9 The Agenda was approved by a **MOTION** from Commissioner Overcash, seconded by Commissioner Roe. 4-0.

- 10  
11 1. Road repair: Manager started with the street assessment and which roads had been chosen for targeting this year,  
12 taking into account drainage issues, traffic, occupancy. Also, some have already been addressed- White Farm  
13 after WPR project.

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15 Windward from Gilgo

16 Neuse at Ragan

17 A few small sections at the bottom of the list. Estimates came back for small amount of paving at \$274,000-  
18 NOT a quote, not an RFP, just a general idea before we go further. Do we want to put out the RFP for these?  
19 Mayor Pro Tempore White asks about S. Water St. Manager notes Water St cannot be improved without  
20 engineering and curb and gutter. Will have to be a separate project. Likely over \$100,000 at least for that one  
21 road. Commissioner Overcash notes we need to get to that road. We're looking for additional solution. Can we  
22 patch the corner at Main? Manager will ask PW Director. MPT White asks if this includes Neuse Dr at the beach.  
23 Yes. Also- signage is over budget following direction of budget to address several traffic issues. Commissioner  
24 Winfrey asks if the project at the beach will be done enough with hurricane inbound. YES, Mr. Cahoon is well  
25 aware of the weather. Board unanimously chooses to move forward with RFP for designated paving. Direction to  
26 stabilize S. Water and Main St. Understand the total fix is \$100-\$200,000. But we need to do SOMETHING  
27 there.

- 28  
29 2. All auxiliary Boards and responsibilities. Handouts with each Board and its direction and projects distributed.  
30 (attached). Commissioner Roe asks about Public Restrooms. Is that HWAC or Parks? We pay cleaning and  
31 upkeep from HWAC. Future maintenance will come from their funds? Yes. Are we building additional kayak  
32 racks? MPT White talks about their project spreadsheet.  
33 Tree Board- \$4K budget each year- contracted pruning. They prune on cycle. We pick up leavings.  
34 Tourism Board governed by Chapter L. advertising. Commissioner Roe notes the Tourism Board has asked for  
35 TB direction on advertising in Sailing magazines? Should we restart that? Commissioner Overcash notes  
36 waterway guide would be good. MPT White notes active captain also is used by many. (owned by Garmin).  
37 Board of Adjustment- no discussion between TB and BOA. Anything that goes to BOA is result of my (LUA)  
38 decision, and follows a quasi-judicial path that does not include the Town Board. You set the rules, I enforce  
39 those, those who disagree, take it to BOA, if still not satisfied, take it to Superior Court.  
40 Planning Board- governed by Section 160D more than anything. I have the ability to take something I am either  
41 not sure of or conflicted about to the PB for discussion. Compares every development request to the GMO  
42 restrictions. They are currently updating Comprehensive Land Use Plan and the CAMA Land Use Plan. Both  
43 require Public Hearing to be approved.  
44 Parks and Recreation- Chapter N: All parks. Beach, rightfully so, has been moved to HWAC. P&R very active  
45 in cleaning up and making more attractive and useable our Parks. Look better, used more.

46 Water Advisory Board- used to be active when water plant was barely functional and receiving Notices of  
47 deficiency and violation, the Town Board set up this Board with oversight to operations. In 2016, we amended  
48 the powers of that Board on the advice of Mr. Steve Sargent, who has since passed, and removed the oversight  
49 following many capital upgrades, moving the ORC position to part of a Town position, and continuous good  
50 testing results. At this point, we were using the WAB at budget time only to advise projects planned for the  
51 future, but they have not met for two years. Recommend amending Chapter K further to remove the Board as it  
52 was ad-hoc and no longer necessary. We have access to experts that give good advice, your ORC has been  
53 awarded the ORC of the year award, we're good. Commissioner Overcash asks what Manager needs from the  
54 Board. MPT White agrees. Commissioner Price noted his last conversation with Mr. Sargent was Steve advising  
55 that the WAB be done away with. Ms. Crosser notes that the quality of water has improved dramatically.  
56 Staining of the fixtures has improved significantly. Manager notes our staff is well trained and we are now  
57 susceptible to them being lured away. Commissioner Roe has issue with some Boards not putting out Minutes.  
58 We need to add that they must publish Minutes. We need records. We have a talented community and would  
59 like us to do a better job of advertising for openings and potential openings. How do Boards get the authority to  
60 spend funds or am I worrying about what I shouldn't? Manager responds- they recommend what they want to  
61 spend- WE actually spend the funds. We let them know when they are at their limit. In Parks and Rec- they want  
62 to do all kinds of stuff. We allow them to spend up to approved limits. Things can be moved between lines, but  
63 not between departments without Board approval. MPT notes we cannot give fiscal authorities to the Boards. If  
64 something goes over, I can move \$1,000 between lines. If it goes over departmental budget, then the Board  
65 approves. MPT White notes we need the Boards to come to the TB to approve changes. Ms. Crosser notes there  
66 is not full accountability for Tourism and HWAC as a citizen. Manager notes P&R is departmental. Tourism and  
67 HWAC are restricted funds for their specific projects. MPT White notes HWAC has brought everything that is  
68 different from what was approved back to the Board. Manager notes all details can be requested.

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- 70 3. Manager shows the backside of the website logging the adjustments to each posting- lets us see when we posted,  
71 when we adjusted. Proof that we posted on time for legal purposes. We use ALERT lists for important  
72 information- try not to use it too much, so that people are not inundated with things- and then pay attention when  
73 we need them to. Example of storm coming in. Back to list Commissioner Price requested. Helping stop rumors,  
74 information about incidents. Note that Manager has lost all messages prior to August on last iPhone update.  
75 Also- all contacts not used in last 6 months are gone. Commissioner Price asked for agendas from aux Boards.  
76 Parks and Rec sends it a week prior, Planning also does, but HWAC is the day before. Planning and BOA are  
77 required to be posted, but there is no requirement to have agendas posted. Commissioner Price would like  
78 agendas. Fishwrapper is very time consuming. Maybe we can post what happened at last meeting and what's  
79 upcoming. Commissioner Overcash notes staff cannot add any additional tasks. Commissioner Roe supports  
80 more info going out. Considered writing for the paper on a regular basis. Should not be another task for the  
81 manager. Rotate someone to take photos and post them wherever we post. Conflicting tasks- supposed to go out  
82 today- o wait! There's a hurricane coming! No good solutions- a good solution without laying another task on  
83 staff. Allison asked what her opinion is. Hire a dedicated person for communication. Put it out as- this is the  
84 great stuff we're doing. Manager notes hiring a person to do communication after removing a Public Works  
85 position, then hiring to take photos of what Public Works does is not a good move personnel-wise. You set  
86 priorities in July, then pile on afterwards. MPT White notes you asked her for more info in the Manager's report,  
87 it's in there. You just told her to remove that. People have to participate and pull the information they want. We  
88 can't hand deliver posters of each thing to each home. We don't need to add more work. Commissioner  
89 Overcash notes it's a good idea MPT White noted that each of Commissioners are assigned to volunteer Boards-  
90 the liaisons need to update on projects. Ms. Crosser would be happy to help with updates if possible. She would  
91 need access to the website and Facebook to do so. We are still working through bugs on the website. MPT  
92 White says this might be a budget item for next year. We can only do so much, people have to participate.  
93 Commissioner Price asks to ensure Minutes are kept more up to date on website. Commissioner Roe notes that  
94 we need to brag about what we do. People in town need to see the skilled dedicated work done by staff. Now  
95 sees that extended list of monthly reporting is a waste of time. Suggests that we should give someone access to  
96 post stuff on our internet accessible sites. Also in favor of us putting things out publicly- not Diane- us and  
97 someone dedicated to this work. We need to say thank you more often- not hard to believe our folks are getting  
98 offers. Commissioner Overcash asks if there is such thing as limited access to our website. Manager notes it is  
99 either all or none. Manager notes that she is legally responsible for anything we put out- that is her concern when  
100 giving access. MPT White notes we are 3 months into this fiscal year and now asking for so much more than

101 decided at budget. We said roads, drainage and people are our priorities. Commissioner Roe notes new website  
102 was discussed. Board needs to give someone else access to be able to update sites. Mayor asks if we are  
103 finished. Manager notes we will do as directed. If you want to designate someone else to do it, that is your  
104 prerogative. We will upload what we can. Commissioner Roe strongly suggests we allow Bonnie to come in and  
105 be able to update media sites and website. Commissioner Overcash and MPT White notes we should not and we  
106 need to discuss at budget. Commissioner Overcash believes we need to participate actively in dissemination of  
107 information. Manager reminds Board that they are discussing things that happen in communities with dedicated  
108 staff for these tasks and note we are not them, we do not have that kind of staffing. We do pretty well for a  
109 Town and Staff our size.

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112 Commissioner Comments: Mayor asks for comments- Board notes they have commented abundantly.

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114 Next meeting scheduled: Town Board Meeting – The Board will meet Tuesday, October 4, 2022 at 8:00AM.

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117 Commissioner Roe made a **MOTION** to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Overcash. Unanimous vote: 4-0.

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119 Meeting **ADJOURNED** at 9:10AM.

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Sally Belangia, Mayor

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Diane H. Miller, Town Manager/Clerk

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129 Approved \_\_\_\_\_, 2022



ORIENTAL TOWN BOARD MONTHLY MEETING  
Tuesday, November 1, 2022, 8AM  
507 Church Street, Oriental, NC  
Mayor Sally Belangia officiating

1 The Town Board of Oriental Regular monthly meeting was held on Tuesday, November 1, 2022 was called to order  
2 at 8:00 AM. Mayor Belangia determined a quorum to be present, opened the meeting and turned it over to the  
3 Manager. The meeting was open to the public. All documents for the meeting were available through the Town's  
4 website at [www.TownofOriental.com](http://www.TownofOriental.com).

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6 Present: Mayor Belangia, Mayor Pro Tempore White, Commissioner Overcash, Commissioner Price, Commissioner  
7 Winfrey, Commissioner Roe, Town Manager Diane Miller, Administrative Director Tammy Cox, Officer Blayney,  
8 and several members of the public. Mayor begins with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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10 Approval of Agenda: Commissioner Roe made a MOTION to accept the agenda. Commissioner Winfrey seconds.  
11 5-0.

12 Consent Agenda: Commissioner Roe White made a MOTION to approve the consent. Commissioner Winfrey  
13 seconds. 5-0.

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15 Public Comment: 8:06AM Mr. Neil Whitford, 710 Arendell St Morehead City, comments on letter sent to Manager  
16 concerning use at R-1(1216 Lupton) lot at Sailcraft/M&J Marine. Notes issues started in 2019 with NOV. 1) normal  
17 boatyard operations were in place before GMO. 2) have never been discontinued since for 180 days. 3) those  
18 operations should be grandfathered. 10 letters were forwarded noting that the operations have continued  
19 uninterrupted. Letter to Manager asking for grandfathering letter. Were not notified that PB was taking on the issue.  
20 If no amicable resolution, will end up in a quasi-judicial meeting before the BOA. Requests that, in the future, his  
21 clients be given notice if their request is brought up before any Board. Did not leave a copy of his comments.

22  
23 Pamlico Special Olympics- Jess Aldridge: Ms. Aldridge asks for use of Town Beach for Polar Plunge. January 28.  
24 Mayor and Board nominate each other to participate. Not asking for Police. Manager notes we will use Police and  
25 block the road if intending a crowd in/near the road. Beach can be easily isolated from Vandemere and Ragan.  
26 Commissioner Overcash asks if there will be media coverage. She will reach out. Commissioner Overcash makes a  
27 MOTION to approve. Second by Commissioner Winfrey. 5-0.

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29 Coastal Cycle Share- Steven Clayton: Currently in New Bern, looking to expand electric bicycles into existing  
30 private property. Asks for additional zoning requirements. If you are on private property, between you and the  
31 businesses already operating those uses. Not available in residential zones. Must make setbacks for all upright  
32 structures. Once card swiped, charges you until you put them back in. Commissioner Overcash asks if there are  
33 repercussions if left elsewhere. Yes, charged until re-docked. Agreed to send additional information through email.

34  
35 Request for Public Hearing: Planning Board has been wrestling with Driveway Ordinance from the perspective that  
36 it may currently be too restrictive. In an attempt to limit the drainage issues, and the amount of concrete over  
37 waterlines and the cost to fix, the changes made in 2021 may unnecessarily restrict construction. Draft provided  
38 here. PB will meet another time before final draft is ready for Public Hearing, but they ask you to set a Public  
39 Hearing for December 6. Commissioner Overcash makes a MOTION to set a Public Hearing for December 6 to  
40 look at changes to the driveway Ordinance. Mayor Pro Tempore White seconds. 5-0.

42 Neuse Beach Project: You were notified when we initially signed the contract that the materials cost had increased  
43 \$6,000. That was a change order, which you authorized me to accept. In addition, the headwalls on the new culverts  
44 are significantly further from the street than previous, and also, several trees and their root systems had to be  
45 removed during the construction. As such, we have a lot of unstable new dirt in the area. In order for us to keep  
46 that, I authorized an additional \$1600 to purchase sod and have it laid to attempt to hold that dirt in place. This  
47 budget amendment covers all of that. Commissioner Roe notes that “stuff happens” should authorize the Manager a  
48 contingency percentage (+10%) on large projects like this in the future. Manager notes MOST of our large projects  
49 have contingencies written in. This one did not. We can certainly change the financial policy to allow for such at  
50 your direction. The other is an adjustment for tree board and a donation to their cause- after a very expensive  
51 removal nearly wiped out their budgeted amount. Commissioner Roe would like the extra amount to be taken from  
52 GF Appropriated and WFE at the same rate as the original project was funded. MPT White notes the WFE budget  
53 will be expended heavily this year. Commissioner Overcash notes that this should be a consideration in the future,  
54 but let this one go. Mayor Pro Tempore White makes a MOTION to accept the budget amendment as presented.  
55 Commissioner Overcash seconds. 4-1 Roe dissenting.

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57  
58 Police Report- Officer Blayney leads with the number of questions about the incident at Dollar General, but notes  
59 that since the investigation is still active, he is restricted in his ability to respond. Business checks yielded two  
60 businesses with unsecured doors, notified owners, resolved. Noting that we have a very low crime rate, we cannot  
61 become complacent. Heading into Holiday Season we will be putting out information for businesses and residents  
62 shortly. Both officers did much training this month. Both Officers have earned an Advanced Law Enforcement  
63 Certificate from NCDOJ Training and Standards, which is the level Chiefs of Police are required. We will be  
64 presenting them when both certificates are received. More traffic enforcement, Halloween went well. Coming off  
65 the bridge is still the biggest issue. Commissioner Overcash asks for tickets being given out. Commissioner Price  
66 noted several folks approached him on speeding on Broad St. Has been the same vehicle repeatedly. Commissioner  
67 Overcash noted photo was forwarded of folks dumping trash at our beach.

68  
69 Manager’s Report: Financials attached. Sample ballot attached in Mgr report package, next Tuesday is Election Day.  
70 Also attached is a letter I sent to and received from the Postal Service concerning cleanliness issues raised by the  
71 beautification committee. There is action on taking care of the facility. Also a letter from Rotary thanking you all  
72 for support of the Car Show. Continuing education hours for water operators, Deputy Finance Director, Police.  
73 Parks and Rec will post an Open House. OWC has Christmas Fair Nov 12, and Rotary Poker Run Nov 5. USDA  
74 came to see in person the failure at Hodges St and evaluate the extent of the problem- timed perfectly- water came  
75 up onto both of their vehicles while here. Road, sidewalk separation, tiebacks, seawall- all compromised. Problems  
76 likely following Florence but did not appear until much later. Neuse Beach project is finished. Fixes at WPR  
77 complete. Met paving contractor week, RFP almost ready to go out. ECCOG meeting very helpful Board will meet  
78 with ECCOG rep tomorrow- open to the public- and discuss how to get our project on NCDOT STIP and SPOT.  
79 Town Hall will be closed Friday, Nov 11 and closing early Thursday the 10<sup>th</sup> at 3PM. Also closed Thursday and  
80 Friday for Thanksgiving. Closing early Wed, Nov 23. Demo on Net House following removal of salvageable parts  
81 was delayed because the landfill was closed for new scale installation. Audit moving forward Nov 18.

82  
83 Committee Reports: Ms. Crosser did not meet in October. Open House November 12, K-9 demonstration,  
84 Blackbeard will exchange coins for candy. Bill’s Hot Dogs will provide hot dogs, P&R will provide soda and chips.  
85 To thank all who helped get the park cleaned up and useable. Also working on Spirit of Christmas. Marsha notes  
86 that advertising is set through the first of the year. Working on re-doing the brochure to get a QR code to take you to  
87 other information through the Town website. Spirit of Christmas coming together. Jim Blackerby notes HWAC had  
88 another workday, now working on floating dock. Will be attending USCG emergency Mgmt meeting. Julie came  
89 from Planning Board noting continued work on CAMA LUP and Comprehensive Plan.

91 Commissioner Comments: Commissioner Price asks if we are still spraying for mosquitoes- we ARE, we all got  
92 eaten alive on Halloween, but we are spraying. PEV questions: we do have a ticket in-problem is that SOME folks  
93 are able to charge, so it doesn't always show up as unavailable to Chargepoint. For us it says the station is  
94 unreachable, but some are using it regularly. There are also people parking in front of the charges. Is it possible to  
95 get more? Or get a rapid charger? We specifically requested long charge to keep people in town longer- there is  
96 also a disadvantage in that the fast chargers tend to deteriorate the battery faster. 1<sup>st</sup> two were funded by Coal Ash  
97 settlement. Mayor Pro Tempore White notes Manager's performance bonus is up in December- will send  
98 information to Commissioners.

99 Mayor Belangia asks to move the January meeting. Jan 10. Manager notes the 10<sup>th</sup> was supposed to be both the  
100 meeting and the quarterly meeting. Meeting will not move.

101 March 10 Mayor will not be here. (Retreat) Change to March 3 unless objection.

102 Commissioner Roe asks that we publish all openings on auxiliary Boards for at least a cycle, emphasize we had  
103 tradition that the Board recommends. Citizens should know that there is an opportunity if they want to participate.  
104 Notes that the Planning Board meeting agenda was published well in advance, so it was not like we were meeting in  
105 secret. Troubling activity in town- filtering down. Would like a comprehensive discussion on what are we doing in  
106 Police- just discussion in light of increased bad activity. What can the citizens do? Compliments Police for their  
107 response and resolution.

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110 Next meeting scheduled: Town Board Quarterly Meeting – December 6, 2022, 8AM.

111 Meeting **ADJOURNED** at 8:50 AM by MOTION of Commissioner Winfrey, second by Commissioner Overcash.  
112 5-0.

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Sally Belangia, Mayor

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Diane H. Miller, Town Manager/Clerk

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119 Approved \_\_\_\_\_, 2022



ORIENTAL TOWN BOARD MONTHLY MEETING  
Tuesday, November 29, 2022, 8AM  
507 Church Street, Oriental, NC  
Mayor Sally Belangia officiating

1 The Town Board of Oriental Special meeting was held on Tuesday, November 29, 2022 was called to order at 8:00  
2 AM. Mayor Belangia determined a quorum to be present, with all members. The meeting was open to the public.  
3 Document for the meeting was available through the Town's website at [www.TownofOriental.com](http://www.TownofOriental.com).

4  
5 Present: Mayor Belangia, Mayor Pro Tempore White, Commissioner Overcash, Commissioner Price, Commissioner  
6 Winfrey, Commissioner Roe, Town Manager Diane Miller, Administrative Director Tammy Cox, and one member  
7 of the public.

8  
9 Approval of Agenda: Commissioner Overcash made a MOTION to accept the agenda. Mayor Pro Tempore White  
10 seconds. 5-0.

11  
12 Mayor Pro Tempore White makes a MOTION at 8:02AM that the Board will go into Closed Session for personnel  
13 matters according to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (6) for the Manager's merit evaluation. Commissioner Winfrey  
14 seconds. 5-0.

15  
16 At 8:17AM, the Board returns from Closed Session. Notes the Manager will receive a 3% Merit bonus as was  
17 budgeted for in the 2022-23 FY budget unanimously. No changes made.

18  
19 Meeting **ADJOURNED** at 8:23AM by MOTION of Commissioner Winfrey, second by Commissioner Overcash. 5-  
20 0.

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22 \_\_\_\_\_  
23 Sally Belangia, Mayor

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Diane H. Miller, Town Manager/Clerk

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27 Approved \_\_\_\_\_, 2022