



ORIENTAL TOWN BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, November 9, 2021 at 8:00AM
507 Church Street, Oriental, NC
Mayor Sally Belangia Officiating

1 The Town Board of Oriental Monthly Meeting held on Tuesday, November 9, 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. Mayor noted the clock had not been reset for
5 the DST change.

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 Bill
9 Wichrowski, 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 Mayor Pro Tempore White, seconded by Commissioner Simmons.
12 Unanimous vote: 5-0.

13
14 The Consent Agenda was approved by a **MOTION** from Commissioner Price, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore
15 White. Unanimous vote: 5-0.

16
17 Public Comment: Nobody signed up

18
19 SUP Public Hearing: A request from Mr. Brewington, new owner at 901 Broad St to convert the existing building to
20 a hotel/Air B&B/hunting/fishing lodge. Manager Miller sets the situation for the Board. Differences between Air
21 B&B and B&B- Air B&B does not require the owner onsite, individual rooms rented and secured separately. Air
22 B&B similar to hotel- no meal service. Large space behind the building and the area to the right has been cleared for
23 access to the rear. Recommendation from the Planning board to restrict trailered vehicle parking to the rear, so as to
24 prevent backing out onto Broad St. as is consistent with other regulations in the GMO. Meeting has been properly
25 noticed, notifications sent by registered mail to property owners within 150 ft of the property in question. All
26 documents available online. One call received asking how to object- were told about evidence based objection.
27 According to both State Statute and our Ordinances, permit must be granted unless the listed items are satisfied in
28 section 86.

29
30 Mayor (SB) asks for opening of the hearing.
31 Mayor Pro Tempore White (DW) makes a MOTION to open the Public Hearing.
32 Commissioner Overcash (CO) seconds.
33 Unanimous 5-0,
34 SB: Now let's get started:

35 SB: The Town Commissioners shall issue the requested permit UNLESS:

- 36 1) The permit is not within its jurisdiction (property is within jurisdiction of TOO)
37 Does the Public have any comment on jurisdiction of the application?
38 Commissioner questions?
39 2) The application is incomplete (the application has been deemed complete by the Land Use
40 Administrator and the Planning Board.)
41 Does the Public have any comment of the application?
42 Commissioner questions?
43 3) If completed as proposed:
44 a) will not comply with one or more requirements of this chapter (GMO)
45 Does any of the Public have any evidence to offer concerning compliance with the GMO?

46 Commissioner questions?
47 b) will materially endanger public health or safety
48 Does any member of the public have any comment on endangerment of public health and safety?
49 Commissioner questions?
50 c) will substantially injure the value of adjoining or abutting property
51 Does any member of the Public have any evidence to offer that indicates that the project will injure
52 the value of adjoining or abutting property?
53 Commissioner questions?
54 d) will not be in harmony with existing uses/development in the area.
55 Does any member of the public have any evidence that this project is not in harmony with existing
56 uses in the area?
57 Commissioner questions?
58 e) will not be in conformity of the Land Use Plan or other plan, officially adopted
59 by the Town.
60 Does any member of the public have evidence that the project is not in conformity with existing
61 plans?
62 OK- all the questions have been asked.

63 DW: We need to close it.

64 SB: Do y'all have any questions?

65 DW: Motion we close the Public Hearing

66 CO: Second

67 SB: All those in favor say "Aye"

68 Unanimous to close 5-0.

69

70 Mayor Pro Tempore White makes ONE MOTION to encompass all questions:

71 The permit is within jurisdiction, the application is complete. It will comply with the requirements of the GMO.

72 No evidence was presented today or at the September or October meetings of the Planning Board that would
73 indicate that it would endanger public health or safety, or will substantially injure the value of
74 adjoining or abutting properties. It is in harmony with existing uses and development and it will
75 comply with the Land Use Plan. I will add the stipulation that the Planning Board recommended-
76 trailered vehicles should park in the back to avoid backing out onto Hwy 55 (Broad St.)

77 Commissioner Overcash seconds.

78 Mayor Belangia asks for discussion. There is none. 5-0. SUP is granted. Mayor Pro Tempore White notes he thinks
79 it will make a great addition to the Town.

80

81 ARPA Policy for Premium Pay: What had been discussed at both the September workshop and the October regular
82 meeting is \$1200 per eligible employee to compensate for service during the Pandemic March 2020-March 2021. At
83 the rate of \$100/month. Part of the requirements in your package are excerpted requirements from policy according
84 to ARPA Treasury Dept Interim Final Guidance and UNC School of Govt. Total amount payment per employee,
85 who determines, who will keep records and the accompanying budget amendment required, but separate from
86 another budget amendment in case you approve one and not another. As directed, the policy is prepared hitting all of
87 the requirements. You are welcome to change anything in it, but the SOG discourages making legislation on the fly-
88 we could bring it back at another time, if you have changes to make, especially if you change any of the dollar
89 amounts. Manager was directed to prepare according to direction given. Eight of our employees are eligible for the
90 pay, according to limits. We will do as directed. Commissioner Simmons makes a MOTION that we accept the
91 resolution as prepared. (2021-11) Commissioner Winfrey seconds. Commissioner Price asks if the \$1200 is the
92 gross amount. It is not- it is net. He asks that in the future we clarify if the numbers discussed are gross or net. He
93 understood the numbers tossed out are the cost to the Town. Commissioner Overcash notes this is not a cost to the
94 town, it is funded under the ARPA funding. Mayor Pro Tempore White noted that this was put up on the website
95 November 2, with these numbers to be reviewed and all the other Commissioners spoke to Diane about it prior to the
96 meeting. This is what the Manager was told at her prior evaluation- that we wanted the information sooner- it was
97 there. Mayor Belangia calls for a vote. 5-0.

98

99 Budget Amendments (2) Budget amendment one are those associated with the ARPA funds. We had budgeted and
100 expected \$250,000.00 in revenue and posted the accompanying expected expenses in the 21-22 budget. We were

101 allocated an additional \$24,398.50. As you approved Resolution 2021-11, \$12,944.17 funds the ARPA Premium
102 pay you just accepted and the remaining \$11,454.33 is to be split between the lines already approved for water
103 upgrades. Budget Amendment #2 is the \$12,425.00 you had approved and sent to the ECCOG as match to a grant
104 funded project to create our ADA transition plan. The ECCOG determined that a match was NOT required. These
105 funds came from our professional services line previously, and are recommended to be returned to that line,
106 knowing we will have additional unexpected engineering costs for our Drainage project at the beach and also the
107 Hodges St flooding situation. Mayor confirms that we need to approve these. Manager agrees. Commissioner
108 Simmons makes a MOTION to approve the budget amendment for the ARPA increase. Mayor Pro Tempore White
109 seconds. 5-0. Mayor Pro Tempore White makes a MOTION to approve the second budget amendment.
110 Commissioner Price seconds. 5-0.

111
112 Drainage: Drainage noted as the priority this fiscal year- now is the time of year we re-grade and clear ditches. PW
113 Director went with our contractor to look at clogged culverts. The project assessed drainage impacting 101
114 residential properties as well as some town-owned property issues. Fix proposed will cost affected residents
115 approximately \$75-\$100/household vs independently contracted cost of \$250/household. While culvert clearing is
116 the responsibility of the property owner, multiple whole neighborhood drainage issues are caused by blocked
117 culverts. The town can assist by contracting this service at a reduced cost and then being reimbursed by property
118 owners affected. Maps attached show the stretches that are in the worst shape. Manager describes the working of a
119 stormwater utility which assesses each homeowner according to impervious surface on each lot. Another fee. Pays
120 for things like cutting streets and replacing culverts- at about \$16,000/year. Powell funds ARE eligible to clear open
121 ditchwork- not culverts, but have been designated for road repair this year. Manager goes through lien process,
122 invoicing those homeowners whose culverts are cleared, or nothing at all. Also an option to allow others who would
123 LIKE to have their culverts addressed to add on. Recommended option is for us to contract, and invoice residents.
124 Staff will do as directed- these are our best options right now. The discussed quote is not final. We are awaiting an
125 actual quote. Letter attached that will go out to explain the process once we have the final quote. We did not do a
126 lot of lawn enforcement over 2020 due to Covid and came to find out in 2021 that a lot of people contracted one
127 service and were paying for that service, but the service was not being rendered. Once notified, property owners
128 immediately, took care of it. This lends some credence to the fact that our property owners are generally responsible
129 for their properties, even the absentee owners. Commissioner Price asks if we are putting it out there to be voted on
130 in December and the Manager responds that we will do as directed. Mayor Pro Tempore White agrees that we need
131 to get information out there, and let people know about the plan. If pipes are crushed, that becomes a bigger deal
132 than just blowing it out. Manager notes that some concrete pipes are failing, but jetting will not do new damage.
133 Commissioner Overcash asks if the contractor looked at Hodges St. NO- Manager had the engineer on Hodges St to
134 address those issues. Looks like the seawall is cantered and failing- separating from the street/sidewalk- causing
135 holes/eruptions. Last estimate on that fix was \$785,000. Manager notes- related to drainage, Commissioner Barrow
136 and started down the road at Hodges and Broad drainage on 55 has been significantly improved.
137
138

139 Pamlico County Flood Resiliency survey: Link on our website and on the water bills this month to a survey that will
140 help us justify the needs and requests to the state/federal grant entities to fund these large problem fixes- like Hodges
141 St. We ask that everyone fill one of these out electronically, or print it out and send or bring it to Town Hall by
142 Nov. 30. Recurrent flooding- access to things on a regular basis- What can you not access? Five minute survey that
143 helps us move toward fixing those high water access issues.
144

145 Police Report: Officer Wichrowski unveils the first of the speed limit sign progress. Also- the movement of the old
146 car, and using it as a spare- has been effective. Locals are aware- visitors not so much. Even if they know nobody is
147 in it, they DO slow down. Some have taken photos with it, some wave, we've had a FOR SALE sign put on
148 it...speeds are set up as "Approaching" and total number of vehicles over a month. Goal is enforcement to
149 compliance- not enforcement for punishment. So the unit can be in any given area over a month, but can't move to
150 different areas every day to keep the data comparing apples to apples. Vast majority are in the limit in the zone- only
151 a very few are over the limit.
152

153 Manager's Report: Manager Miller discussed the Financial Reports as provided. Halloween went very well. All our
154 children were safe. Two of our employees sat for exams this week- awaiting results. Next event is the

155 Thanksgiving Day bike ride- simple closings for crossing Hwy 55. Scheduling for hazmat pickup is underway. We
156 worked hard to get hazmat pickup moved to May so that when folks were clearing out garages for the yard sale, and
157 came across hazmats- old paint, fertilizer, etc, there was an opportunity prior to Hurricane Season to get rid of those.
158 For the newly elected and re-elected, Ethics course has not yet been scheduled. You'll have to pass a resolution to
159 accept the law firm doing the training. You are welcome to bring another person to swear you in- the Manager, the
160 Mayor, any judge, etc. You are welcome to bring your own bible. Please let me know if you are bringing a guest.
161 Also- committee assignments are available for you to reassign which groups to be liaison to. Continuing education is
162 ongoing. Police software installed to keep our Police more firmly connected to dispatch and other officers. Budget
163 survey is also available to you- the annual NCLM survey- who funds what at what levels- priorities- street maint,
164 water, etc, costs,- all look to be in line with what the rest of the state is doing. Tax levels, fund balance appropriated-
165 it's all in there. This Thursday is Veterans' Day- school system is taking off Friday as well. Not as a municipal
166 holiday, staff will collectively take the day as vacation to have children at home.
167

168 Resolution: 2021-10 Resolution to thank Commissioner Simmons for her service to the Town at her final meeting.
169 Mayor Pro Tempore White makes a MOTION to approve the resolution. Commissioner Overcash seconds. 5-0.
170 Mayor Belangia stands with Commissioner Simmons, reads the Resolution of thanks (attached).
171

172 Commissioner Comments: none
173

174 CLOSED SESSION: Mayor Pro Tempore White makes a MOTION to **The Board will go into Closed Session for**
175 **personnel matters according to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (6)** for the Manager's merit evaluation.
176

177 Board returns from closed session. Manager did not get a raise, but was allowed to compete for up to 3% same as
178 the rest of the employees. She will be awarded a 2.7% merit bonus, which equates to \$2500. As the line of merit was
179 approved in the budget, no motion to approve in open session is necessary.
180

181
182 Next meetings scheduled: Town Board Meeting – The Board will meet in a workshop Tuesday, January 4, 2021 at
183 8:00AM.
184

185
186 Commissioner Simmons made a **MOTION** to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Winfrey. Unanimous vote: 5-0.
187

188 Meeting **ADJOURNED** at 8:56AM.
189

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191

192

193

194 _____
Sally Belangia, Mayor

_____ Diane H. Miller, Town Manager/Clerk

195

196

197

198 Approved _____, 2021