



ORIENTAL TOWN BOARD REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 7PM

507 Church Street, Oriental, NC

Mayor Sally Belangia Officiating

6 The Town Board of Oriental Town Board Meeting on January 5, 2021 was called to order at 7PM. Mayor Belangia
7 determined a quorum to be present and called the meeting to order.

8
9 The meeting was livestreamed through ZOOM in order to allow the Public to see the entire proceeding. Following a
10 few successful AND unsuccessful meetings through ZOOM, we note that we encountered a few additional technical
11 difficulties. The Board was able to take comment through both the Manager's email (manager@townoforiental.com)
12 prior to the meeting and phone (text) through 252-671-2821 during the meeting, as well as questions through the
13 chat in ZOOM. All documents for the meeting were available through the Town's website at
14 www.TownofOriental.com Registration for the ZOOM meeting was posted with the meeting documents. All
15 participants were required to pre-register.

16
17 It should also be noted that the entire Board was present. Commissioner Overcash was at Town Hall; all other
18 members were present via ZOOM. The following staff were also present: Manager Diane Miller, Officer
19 Wichrowski, Admin Director /Deputy Finance Officer Tammy Cox, as were members of the Public, Lisa Thompson
20 and Allison DeWeese. The Mayor started the meeting at 7:01PM.

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22 The Agenda was approved by a MOTION from Commissioner Overcash, Second by Commissioner Simmons.
23 Unanimous by roll call:5-0.

24
25 The Consent Agenda. Mayor Pro Tempore White makes a MOTION to accept the Consent Agenda- meeting
26 minutes. Commissioner Overcash seconds. Unanimous by roll call: 5-0.

27
28 Public Comment: There were no forwarded messages prior to the meeting, nor did anyone present have comment.

29
30 Mini-Brooks Exemption for ADA contract: Manager explains that we may or may not be required to do this, in case
31 the ECCOG should have done this. This covers us for our portion of the engineering project for the ADA transition
32 plan. Commissioner Barrow makes a MOTION to accept the Resolution, second by Commissioner Simmons. Roll
33 call vote:

34
35 Budget Amendment: All items already discussed. Balance for the increase of the ADA plan, the Police Grant,
36 Whittaker Pointe reimbursement to current expenditures, last is the NCCF Foundation for purchase of AEDs.
37 Motion made by Commissioner Overcash, second by Mayor Pro Tempore White. Unanimous vote by roll call, 5-0.

38
39 Bid for street repaving award (Jan 11 or Jan 25): We are out for bid for the repaving. Manager notes we can open
40 Jan 11 if we receive 3 bids. If not, we open January 25th. Once that time expires, we can award, but the amount
41 requires Board authorization. They can authorize the Manager to award or meet again to award. Makes a
42 Commissioner Barrow makes a MOTION to award on the 28th at the scheduled meeting if not awarded Jan 11.
43 Manager notes that grant is available to May 30. Asphalt plants may close. Commissioner Barrow notes we have
44 other paving projects on our minds. There has not been an addendum added for the S. Water St, deferring to the
45 assessment received. Manager notes we cannot add another street to the bid. Manager recommends to separate this
46 project from all other paving. He requests that Barnhill revisit an issue on South Ave while they are here.
47 Commissioner Barrow withdraws the motion. \$206,750 is set aside from the grant. Manager notes the actual bid
48 may be more than the original estimate due to additional damage done during the project. Mayor Pro Tempore
49 White makes a MOTION to authorize the Manager to award if three bids received, and if not, the Board will meet
50 on the 28th to award. Commissioner Barrow seconds. Unanimous vote by roll call, 5-0.

51
52 Current COVID-19 Executive Orders/ Vaccination Info- still extensions of 180-184- extending mask mandate,
53 carry-out alcohol, revised closing times. Rollout of vaccination: transitioning into Phase 1b- elderly, frontline
54 workers, including water treatment plant operators. Daily testing and monitoring of the plant. Most municipalities

55 and counties are locked currently to avoid transmission from holiday gatherings. It has been working thus far. One
56 thing that is a big discussion- incentive for encouraging taking the vaccine. Not a single entity is mandating that
57 staff take the vaccine. Once the elderly are vaccinated (hopefully in larger percentage), that will make others more
58 comfortable in receiving. Some are providing incentive- day off for the first shot, two days for the second shot.
59 Manager notes we likely won't be affected either way- we have several that cannot take the shot, and others that
60 don't choose to get it. Some are looking forward to it. Some places are asking to sign a waiver that they are aware
61 of the consequences- encourage and educate is the pan for most of the state. Notes the expiration of the free sick
62 leave for staff having to isolate or take care of family members on Dec 31. We are updating whatever NCDHHS
63 gives to us to our residents. Commissioner Simmons notes she had the vaccine (1st dose), no problem.
64 Commissioner Overcash has a handout for everyone written by Eric Kindle, our EMT, about the vaccinations. There
65 are extra documents in the PPT that are posted to our webpage under the meeting documents.
66

67 Net House questions: Plan for the Net House revealed- full length porch facing the restroom. Can only do this plan
68 if we take out the gum tree. Photos of the tree- at least some limbs have to come out to raise the structure. Dr. Miller
69 looked at this and said the tree could do well for another 10-15 years or change of balance could take out in the next
70 storm, impacting the net house, the restroom and the pumpout (whose roots are intertwined with the pumpout
71 channel). We can take it out and replant two understory (smaller) trees that wouldn't reach that height at maturity,
72 yet still provide some shade, and the one large tree behind the restroom still shades a good portion of that lot. We
73 can install sunshades until we get to that point. Commissioner Overcash makes a MOTION to remove the whole
74 tree. Commissioner Barrow seconds. Discussion: Mayor Pro Tempore White asks if we can get those replanted
75 quickly. Lisa Thompson notes we can replant two to replace the one taken out, and work with the Tree Board. Vote
76 by roll call: unanimous at 5-0. Mayor notes it's sad, but maybe we can gather to plant the new.
77

78 Police Report Officer Wichrowski joined the meeting to discuss the Police Report. Numbers on everything are
79 down, which is typical for this time of year. Still doing business checks- COVID-19 notwithstanding, SOC went
80 well with the events up to the Dragon run- it was a big success even with torrential rain. Oriental doesn't let
81 anything interfere. He asks for questions- none.
82

83 Manager's Report Financials attached. Jesse Burgess has resigned, we wish him the best. This was the point of our
84 redundant certifications, Daniel will take over those duties as ORC of BF&CC. Whittaker Pointe is at 99% unless
85 the modifications are approved- that went out today. Manager reminds folks that positive comments are accepted as
86 well. Two new budgetary items- cableTV has been removed (we use that during emergency situations) and
87 installation of internet node at Public restrooms- satellite dish gets knocked out often- and requires rental equipment
88 to fix. Tax income running as expected, maybe a little above. ADA plans going up in cost already. It was a good
89 move to get ours in place. Juneteenth is a topic of conversation for budget. We have a permit request in from OYC
90 for dredging, which we did not object to. One water test did not go through as a quarterly, not monthly. SOC went
91 well, new decorations and events were great. Lost some things, but gained some also. Acquired drainage deed off
92 Midyette St- that's the next project. Picture of the month was a proposal from a resident to spray Lysol over the city
93 to kill virus germs before they get to us (?).
94

95 Committee Reports- no questions
96

97 Commissioners Comments: Commissioner Barrow talks about the road assessment- might be a good idea for
98 Commissioners to look at the roads on the list, so everybody can be informed in talking about movement forward.
99 The other item is to consider revision of our website to make it more user-friendly. Charlie- vaccination info
100 available. Mayor Pro Tem White notes that we should concentrate on the street assessment. Mayor suggests if we
101 have time to look at website. Commissioner Price asks about Police grant. All that was budgeted is ordered. DOJ
102 has frozen the funds. Car situation is fluid- they are on the lot and purchased pretty quickly.
103

104
105 **Adjourn** Next meetings scheduled as **January 28, 2021, 8AM Topics: Street Assessment,**
106

107
108 Commissioner Simmons made a **MOTION** to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Overcash. Motion passed 5-0
109 by roll call unanimously..

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Meeting adjourned at 7:38PM

Sally Belangia, Mayor

Diane H. Miller, Town Manager/Clerk

Approved _____, 2021 _____



ORIENTAL TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP MEETING

Tuesday, January 28, 2021 at 8AM

507 Church Street, Oriental, NC

Mayor Pro Tempore David White Officiating

6 The Town Board of Oriental Town Board Meeting on January 28, 2021 was called to order at 8:03AM. Mayor Pro
7 Tempore White determined a quorum to be present and called the meeting to order.

8

9 The meeting was livestreamed through ZOOM in order to allow the Public to see the entire proceeding. Following a
10 few successful AND unsuccessful meetings through ZOOM, we note that we encountered a few additional technical
11 difficulties. The Board was able to take comment through both the Manager's email (manager@townoforiental.com)
12 prior to the meeting and phone (text) through 252-671-2821 during the meeting, as well as questions through the
13 chat in ZOOM. All documents for the meeting were available through the Town's website at
14 www.TownofOriental.com Registration for the ZOOM meeting was posted with the meeting documents. All
15 participants were required to pre-register. Twelve (12) registrants for the meeting [does not include the Manager]

16

17 Mayor Pro Tempore White was at Town Hall; all other members were present via ZOOM, except Commissioner
18 Price. Mayor Belangia was not present due to work conflicts. The following staff were also present: Manager Diane
19 Miller, Admin Director /Deputy Finance Officer Tammy Cox, Admin Asst Chantelle Allison, as were several
20 members of the Public (Keith Gapen, Bonnie Crosser, Lisa Thompson, Allison DeWeese, Jim Kellenberger, Daniel
21 Forman.

22

23 The Agenda was approved by a MOTION from Commissioner Overcash, Second by Commissioner Simmons.

24 Unanimous by roll call: White, Barrow, Simons, Overcash (4) Belangia (absent), Price (absent)-0.

25

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27 Public Comment: There were no forwarded messages prior to the meeting, nor did anyone present have comment.

28

29 *Commissioner Price joined the meeting.*

30

31 Roads Assessment: Manager introduces the plan as presented. Some things that may not show up in the survey that
32 you may want to address in discussion. One is the curb transitions like those installed when NCDOT repaved Hwy
33 55. We would do those when repaving roads with curb and gutter. Golden Leaf funds will be paying for the White
34 Farm/Maritime Dr sections (near the top of the list), so we would skip those. [Commissioner Price Arrives]. Types
35 of repairs- spray on with gravel, not conducive to bicyclists.

36

37 Manager pauses to report the amount of funds available. \$206,750 in grant for White Farm/Maritime, \$170,220 in
38 checking + \$61,000 in NCCMT. Things not in the assessment- roads in the assessment to be paved not taking into
39 account building plans approved, imminent construction. When we KNOW heavy traffic will be in/out regularly for
40 construction, we should consider delaying those. Process is choosing the roads, going to bid, takes some time to
41 make that happen. Drainage is also not in the assessment- standing water and regular ponding deteriorates the road
42 faster.

43

44 Maps with the assessment are color coded. Other issues: section of Neuse at the beach- in bad shape, but not solely
45 road issues- replacing culverts for drainage- which may require CAMA approval PLUS potential need to BRMSD
46 assistance as their project replaced the line to the lift station.

47

48 Commissioner Barrow asks that we ask Barnhill, while they are here to look at the red sections and get an estimate
49 to get those fixed first. On numerical score point of view, we stay with the recommendation- but take into account
50 also the amount of traffic on roads also. The section on Vandemere just doesn't see traffic- might not be a priority
51 fix. Manager notes that the flooding caused at that intersection may be alleviated with the Neuse Rd fix.

52 Commissioner Overcash notes that if we work on Mildred, trucks are rerouted- more damage done at S. Water and
53 Main due to rerouting from South Ave repaving dug out that intersection hard. So the order in which the roads are
54 fixed is also important, taking into account the damage that happens.

55
56 South Water fixes are halfway there, but the grading will assist further to get it to drain to both ends. [Kellenberger]
57 notes that they did not do borings on any roads- the standing water has not compromised that road YET. And again,
58 how many people actually use the road- Commissioner Overcash notes that in high water events people turn off
59 there to avoid the water on Hodges. Commissioner Barrow notes our equipment for speed tracking also does vehicle
60 counts- so we would get those traffic counts. Commissioner Price asks what kind of repair is going on
61 Maritime/White Farm. Full depth repairs mostly on Maritime in chunks, and one overlay of asphalt once the
62 substrate is repaired.
63
64 Mayor Pro Tempore White notes we might need to do core samples to see how bad the substrate is. We need to
65 decide which roads and then find out what the engineers recommend on type of repair. We would need that
66 information to make a good decision.
67
68 Manager notes that also, there are two roads- one with one home on it, and one with no homes on it-that are RED-
69 not the best use of our funds to pave roads with mostly undeveloped lots and then have building happen.
70
71 Mayor Pro Tempore White notes that drainage addressed in a repair is on our dime, in addition to the cost of the
72 road, plus whatever BRMSD would have to do to help get the repair done properly. We can get estimates on what it
73 will take to get that done.
74
75 Other potential problems- pine beetle infestation on Falcon where contiguous undeveloped lots will have to be
76 logged to eradicate that.
77
78 Commissioner Price asks about the annexed section. Manager notes we directed trucks away from Tarpon- the
79 access to that new property. Commissioner Barrow asks can we require a road bond when they DO develop? Yes-
80 can be part of the permitting process.
81
82 Grants on drainage: Commissioner Overcash asks the Manager to look for drainage grants. Manager notes that
83 without a stormwater utility- another tax- which calculates the amount of impervious surface and taxes the property
84 as used. One reason we would not be eligible for grants is that we don't "do what we need to do to help ourselves."
85 Other patch is on Vandemere. South Ave inspection will come with the company while paving in town.
86
87 Review of potential for vehicle tax- we only have 1170 vehicles to be taxed- \$5/ gives \$5850, \$30 (state limit) give
88 \$35,100. Not much ROI for this. Powell Funds are decreasing. No other State options- Powell is it.
89
90 White Farm/Maritime Bid #2. Barnhill contracting. Estimate was \$206,750. Manager expected this to be higher
91 considering the additional damage. Bid was \$206,820. Contingency fund should cover. Mayor Pro Tempore White
92 asks for a motion. Commissioner Barrow makes a MOTION to accept and award the Bid to Barnhill Contracting
93 Co. as bid at \$206,820. Commissioner Simmons seconds. By roll call, bid is accepted and awarded unanimously, 5-
94 0.
95
96 Social Media Archiving. Lots of usage of our web presence. You have excerpts as well as the whole policies from
97 NC Dept of Cultural Resources as NC Retention schedule. This is built for archiving government records with a
98 webcrawler, not page freezer. Vendor (Facebook, Twitter, etc) has no archiving requirement. If someone deletes
99 THEIR page, we are still responsible to archive what THEY wrote on OUR page in an FOIA request. SM creates
100 public records- that can be mission-critical- tornado warning, emergency for weather. Anything from 6 years ago
101 MAY be missing records- we are responsible- for both the data and the metadata. Showed the record request search
102 engine. NC was the first state to do statewide departmental archiving.
103
104 There was a question about charging the requestor for delivering the request. The standard may be charged for
105 limited time, but very limited and per page copying, but most ask for electronic records. It's a huge amount of data.
106 Likelihood of deleted items is high and getting higher. There is still pending litigation on charging for the service.
107 Commissioner Simmons notes the trouble happening when deleted items are not able to be retrieved. Shows
108 example that people have closed account in the last week, but posts from October 2020 were deleted. Lawsuits are
109 discussed where in the last six months other municipalities are in litigation for evidence of blocking, deleting posts,

