



## ORIENTAL TOWN BOARD REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, April 14, 2026 6PM

507 Church Street, Oriental, NC

Mayor Sally Belangia officiating

The Town Board of Oriental regular meeting was held on Tuesday, April 14, 2026, 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](http://www.TownofOriental.com). Mayor starts with the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Town Board Meeting Minutes**

**Location:** Town Hall

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#### **1. Call to Order**

- Meeting called to order
- Pledge of Allegiance recited.
- Quorum confirmed. All present- Mayor Sally Belangia (SB), MPT Paul Jordan (PJ), Commissioners Iris Cooper (IC), Don McGuire (DMc), Lou Ostendorff (LO), Chris Moffat (CM), Manager Miller(DM), Finance Officer Millington, Members of the Public.

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#### **2. Approval of Agenda**

- **Motion by PJ, second by LO passed 5-0;** agenda approved.

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#### **3. Public Comment**

- **Mayor Belangia** held a moment of silence for former Mayor and Commissioner Sherrill Styron.
- **Buddy Kelley** requests reservation of Town Dock 1 for Flicka group May 15-17. **DMc** makes the motion, **IC** seconds. 5-0.
- **Dan Forman, Joe Geraghty, Matt McIntyre, and Sarah Holt** speak in favor of pickleball expansion.

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#### **4. Consent Agenda**

Items approved:

- March 10, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes
- March 26, 2026 Retreat Day 1 Minutes
- March 27, 2026 Retreat Day 2 Minutes
- Rules of Procedure as amended March 26.
- **Motion CM, Second PJ, 5-0.**

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#### **5. Auxiliary Board Reports**

- Roger Huth gave an update for the Water Advisory Board about upcoming Valve project and others under development.

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#### **6. Public Hearing – Special Use Permit (SUP)**

**Property:** 316 Hodges Street (alcohol service)

- Prior to applying to the ABC commission, they had to have paperwork signed off from us. And, in that zone at MU-1, it is required to have a special use permit. The planning board has forwarded a condition for you to consider that may be required to post signage. The

CASA QUE PASA property is not where this application is for. This is the taco tower that's behind the fish shack. This is because they're two separate properties and they intentionally only applied for one, that would be the property that's granted and then be required to post signage between that structure and their other property and the street. It must say alcohol cannot leave beyond this point, which is normal. So, other than that, nobody appeared to oppose it. No evidence has been received from the surrounding neighbors. Notice went out as required by state statute and it's been advertised as required by state statute. Motion to open Public Hearing by PJ. Second by CM. 5-0.

- (SB) The Town Commissioners shall issue the requested permit unless:
  - The permit is not within its jurisdiction. The property is within its jurisdiction.
  - Does the public have any comment on jurisdiction of this application? Commissioner questions? Okay.
  - The application is incomplete. The application has been deemed complete by the land use administrator and the planning board.
  - Does the public have any comment on the completeness of the application? So, yes, I do live, we live very close to this, but so is is, am I correct that if they didn't apply for a permit for this, like there's uh, little tables on the, uh, gravel out there. So you're not gonna be able to buy a beer from the place. You can't sit out doors at one of those tables, and that's because they didn't apply for. At the stores they would've had, would they have to pay two fees?
  - (DM) Yes, ma'am. To do that, and, and I have tried on several occasions while they've been building to get them to erase that line and make it one property. And they are very resistant to that for whatever their reason is. But because they have kept that line between the properties, we have to do it this way. Thank you. Thank you.
  - Any commissioner questions if completed as proposed, will not comply with one or more requirements of the GMO, does any of the public have any evidence to offer concerning compliance with the GMO Commissioner questions? No.
  - Will materially endanger public health or safety? Does any member of the public have any comment on endangerment of public health and safety? Commissioner questions will substantially inquire the value of adjoining or abutting property.
  - Does any member of the public have any evidence to offer that indicates that the project will injure the value of adjoining or abutting property? Any commissioner questions?
  - Will not be in harmony with the existing uses development in the area. Does any member of the public have any evidence that the project is not in harmony with the existing uses in the area? Any questions? Alright.
  - Will not be in conformity of the land use plan or other plan officially adopted by the town? Okay. Does any member of the public have evidence that the project is not in conformity with the existing plans? Commissioner questions? Okay.
  - That's all the questions. Unless y'all have anything we can motion to close the public hearing.
  - PJ: Move that the public hearing be closed. Got a motion? Second. CM Second. Any discussion? All those in favor say aye. 5-0. The public hearing is now closed.
  - PJ: Madam Mayor, I'd like to move that we approve the special use permit for application for an alcohol permit for Casa Que Pasa at 316 Hodges Street because the application will. With one or more requirements of this chapter of the GMO, it will not materially endanger public health or safety. It will not substantially injure the value of adjoining or budding property. It will be in harmony with existing uses development in the area, and will be in conformity with the land use plan or other plan officially adopted by the town. And move to approve with the condition that signage be posted at all exits from the property even to adjoining property that alcohol cannot go past the limits of the subject property. That's got

a motion on the floor. LO:Second. Any discussion on it? All those in favor say aye. 5-0  
The SUP is granted.

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### 7. Harbor and Watefronts Advisory Committee Contract for Dinghy Dock

- HWAC went for bid twice to repair the dinghy dock seawall as it supports the substrate to the road. After two rounds, Bobby Prescott Marine Construction LLC brought a bid of \$45,450.08. The HWAC group would like to attach a contingency of 10% to allow for additional uncovered problems. **IC: Motion to approve and allow Manager to execute with 10% contingency. DMC Seconds. 5-0.**

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### 8. Manager's Report

- **Water** You're at 75% of the year. The only thing that is behind revenue wise is sales tax, even though we're two months behind, we're still \$5,000 ahead of where we were last year.
- Our tipping fees are not up as I would have expected them to be.
- DMV taxes stopped there. So at March 31st, statute says you have to use the March 31st number. However, there's also a provision in there that says, if you don't want to use this number, you can use the final number from the previous year. Our final number from the previous year was \$42,000. Remember, this is a depreciating tax unless everybody goes out and buys a new vehicle, everybody's tax on their vehicle goes down year over year. So
- Administration is over. That's because we pay all our annual stuff out of administration, our fees, our licensing, our permits, our annual subscriptions, you know, for text my gov. All of those things get paid off all at once at the very beginning of the year.
- I still left that number for sanitation in red. I don't think that's going to be enough, but we will see.
- Water revenues are good. Remember that there's a big chunk of PFAS money and there is more, there are two more chunks of PFAS money coming at us from the settlements for those companies that discharged PFAS into natural waters and the aquifers. We hold that in reserve in case we ever have a problem with our wells indicating that we have PFAS,
- Water's doing pretty well, which is good that it's supposed to cover its operating cost by, by a factor of two. This is the number that we should have X number of days of operating funds sitting in the water savings account in case everything goes south-we have a hurricane and nobody can pay their water. We have to keep producing water, and we should have enough in the bank to be able to do that without getting payment.
- General fund, regular checking. We're waiting on \$250,000 from the state for reimbursement from the dredging. We're waiting on a hundred thousand dollars from FEMA, from Hurricane Florence.
- Regular checking looks pretty good. Um, I don't we have anything else to say further to the next one. So that's all of it together at once.
- And then your Powell funds. So you have \$206,131 in Powell funds. Plus remember at the beginning of this fiscal year, you set up a new reserve fund that says at the end of this year, a hundred thousand dollars gets taken out of the general fund and put into a reserve. So you're up to 306 that you can pave with in the upcoming year. It's all good news.
- This is important- burnout. It's when we change the disinfection process at the water treatment plant. We currently operate on chlorines, which is a, which is a combination of ammonia and chlorine. Um, we use that. The other option is pure chlorine. We use chloramines because it avoids the byproducts of TTMs Trihalomethane, as a byproduct. And we try to avoid those things because it ends up getting into the water system, all the, So for 30 days out of the year, we switch to free chlorine and that clears the lines. Lines

142 build up, you know, stuff on the inside of the line. And so every once in a while you're  
143 you're going to get a good strong sniff of chlorine when you open up your tap. And we  
144 will continue to flush. They'll start at the outer lines actually, and they'll try to pull as  
145 much as they can. And then we'll go back to the plant and, and start bleeding it off. And  
146 then it goes for a month. It goes through May 20th, and then we'll switch back. This is  
147 really important for elderly animals, elderly people, fish. If you have a fish tank, they,  
148 they don't make that switch for really well. So best to use bottle of water or something like  
149 that for that long that we're doing those things.

- 150 • Your consumer confidence report from 2025 is now online. The link was sent out in your  
151 water bill. You can access that from our website at Under News.
- 152 • Paving Solutions hopefully is supposed to come to give us some alternates for some roads  
153 that maybe can be preserved without a full depth repair. That might save us some money  
154 and get us a little further.
- 155 • And our new permit for the water treatment plan has been received. And our limits for  
156 copper are much higher than they used to be. There can be more copper in your drinking  
157 water than can be in the water that we put into the creek.
- 158 • Something that was sent out to all the volunteer boards. These are all of the appointments  
159 that are expiring. I would like for us to maybe get through some on the same schedule as  
160 everybody else. So we're all at 6/30 of whatever year. This board had a discussion at their  
161 budget retreat and would like for everybody to have to fill out a form and then they will  
162 appoint however many spaces are open on at the June meeting. But, anybody who is  
163 currently on board still needs to put in an application. Those are online, under residents,  
164 under online forms, and anybody that is not on board that would like to be on the board  
165 feel free.
- 166 • This board has asked that **a member or two of each of the volunteer boards come to the**  
167 **next board meeting in May and, uh, set up tables and have information and be able**  
168 **to answer questions about what their board does.** Some of them are strategic kinds of  
169 boards where they try to find a way to make things happen. Some of them are absolutely  
170 hands on and if you have energy to burn and frustration to work off the tree board is your  
171 Group or Parks and Rec is your group. They will put tools in your hand and you'll be out  
172 there working hard. You know, things happen and people have to resign because of other  
173 requirements of their life, family situations and whatnot, then we have people ready to  
174 step in so that we don't lose the momentum.
- 175 • And in your packages, the last, um, settlement for PFAS. Then I got another one the next  
176 day. So you'll be seeing more of those.

#### 177 178 **8. Zac Schnell- Pamlico Community College- AI workshop**

- 179 • We are putting on here, uh, at the community college in this case, um, uh, which will take  
180 place for the community on this coming Thursday, which is April. 16. Day two, which is  
181 April 16<sup>th</sup>, is for anyone and everyone to come to come on campus and see what's going  
182 on. And also one of the things that we do have for day two is a variety of different types of  
183 workshops essentially. For example, we've kind of set up three different tracks. So Track  
184 One is kind of geared a little bit more towards like business owners or small business  
185 owners to show you and, and teach you different ways that you can utilize AI to help you  
186 with your businesses. Basically, in this case, track two is geared more towards  
187 administrators and educators to show them different tips and tricks of how to utilize AI  
188 with that. And then Track three is just for general community use. So on April 16th, it  
189 officially starts at 12:30 PM in the afternoon, and it'll end up going till about, uh, 6:30 PM  
190 because the very last hour block basically is an award ceremony that we're putting  
191 together for the high school students who have submitted things. And of course there's

going to be door prizes and other things like that going on, and you gotta be present to win.

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#### 9. Angelia Pridgeon- Area Agency on Aging

- So our program is a federal program that's adopted in 1972. We are under the Older Americans Act. And our mission is of course to protect our residents' rights and improve their quality of care. And just making sure that we're protecting their health, their safety, their welfare, and their rights. We are under the North Carolina State Ombudsman Program, the Division of Aging. We cover nine counties. Pamlico is one of our counties and we have about a hundred facilities between the two of us that we visit. We have to visit them quarterly as well as anytime we have complaints. And then we have our local volunteers in each county. We provide information to the public. So, we are helping individuals who need placement, trying to be as informative as possible, so to know how to pay for it. So understanding Medicare, Medicaid, special assistance, paying privately, what those costs look like, what facilities accept Medicaid or special assistance and what, um, those that are only private pay. We only have two facilities, grants Brook Nursing and Rehab, and the Gardens of Pamlico County. But we really desperately need volunteers, extra visitors to go and check on our residents to make sure that they are getting quality care..**Butch Motion passed 4-1 IC dissenting.**

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#### 10. Public Hearing Request

- Short-term rental for 5 0 5 Mildred Street. Request to schedule for May 12th please. CM: I make a motion that we schedule it. May the 12th. IC: second. 5-0.

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#### 11. Budget Amendment

- Salary movement as approved earlier, additional cost for elections, movement at FYE to cover overage in Tourism. PJ Motion to approve. LO second. 5-0.

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#### 12. Appointment

- Appoint Lou Ostendorff to the BRMSD Board of Directors. IC makes the Motion. DMc seconds. 5-0.

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#### 13. Police Report

- Chief Wichrowski announces that we are mostly through the process for hiring a new officer.

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#### 14. Mayor and Board Comments

- Commissioner Cooper clarifies that the discussion on pickleball has gone on and on. For the last three months, we've been inundated with letters, pros and cons, and I think it's time to talk about it. So first of all, I would like to remind everyone that we can respectfully disagree. Bullying and name calling is not an appropriate form of conversation or communication, and we have seen some of that. So we've heard, I understand the passion for pickleball. I'm passionate about Zumba and tabbada and cardio, drumming. I get it. But we have a whole community to consider and. You know, and what if we say no to Lupton Park? That doesn't mean no to pickleball. So I want to put that out there. We've listened to the residents and we cannot just dismiss their concerns. We've also listened to Parks and Rec and some of their recommendations and there are standing committee that have a lot of valid points for us. So I think I speak for

the other commissioners, and you've all come to chime in that I don't think we're inclined to consider an expansion of Lupton Park. But here's what we would like to do is really focused on getting a master recreation plan for the community. That includes considerations for pickleball, for suggestions, parks and rec made to us, other recreational activities. There are a lot of opportunities and once we have that master recreation plan. And we are considering investing in this, then we can get better grant funding opportunities to go big. And I think that's really what the future for this town should be. So again, what I'm saying is if we say no to Lupton Park, that doesn't mean no to pickleball.

- Commissioner Jordan: I would like folks to know, I mentioned earlier I'm on the Eastern Carolina Council of Governments, as Oriental's representative. I'll be meeting with a comprehensive planner this week who is going to help us develop a, a master plan for Parks and Recreation. So regardless of what happens, we need a master plan for Parks and Rec. This will enable us to apply for grant money that we have not been able to apply for in the past.
- Mayor Belangia: I just wanted to thank everybody, all the residents, the businesses, the police, everybody for the Oriental Rotary Club Boat Show. It was a success, but it is a job and so many people in here volunteered and is so appreciated. And we did raise money for our good causes in the town. And I also wanted to mention an artist, Betty Brown. She is retiring from her art and wants to give it away. She says, I'd rather see my art in homes that love Oriental than stored away. And she will be at the Village Brewery April the 18th from five to eight, and she has the coolest arch. She has dragons, she has historic places in Oriental, and she wants people to come and get it. So I just wanted to mention that. And one day I'm gonna be ready to play pickleball, so I'm all for it. One day we will get it done. I can remember when we first got the tennis courts. My mama and dad were so thrilled. They went right out there and played tennis. It's going to happen. We're growing, and I just love all of y'all because you, you spoke up and you told us, and I really appreciate it.

**15. Adjourn** CM Makes a Motion to adjourn at 7:14PM. IC seconds. 5-0.

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Sally Belangia, Mayor

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Diane H. Miller, Town Manager/Clerk

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_, 2026