ORIENTAL TOWN BOARD SPECIAL MEETING
Thursday, May 28, 2026 11AM
507 Church Street, Oriental, NC
Mayor Sally Belangia officiating

Present

Commissioners present included all members of the Board of Commissioners, town administration staff, and three members of the public.

Call to Order

The Special Workshop Meeting of the Oriental Town Board was called to order by Mayor Sally Belangia. The purpose of the meeting was to review and discuss revisions to the FY 2026-2027 proposed budget following additional information regarding county tax revaluation appeals and projected revenues.

Agenda Approval: Motion by PJ, Second by IC, 5-0.

Budget Discussion

The Town Manager reviewed the budget development process, statutory requirements, and recent financial updates affecting the proposed budget. Discussion focused on maintaining essential services while minimizing impacts on taxpayers amid significant countywide property revaluations.

The Board discussed:

- Health insurance numbers received- previous discussion concerning changing the waiting period for new employees in order to insure Police and potentially Public Works employees due to the nature of their work. In a pool of less than 50 workers, it cannot be classed- all workers must fall under the same restrictions. As directed in May, new Officer's health ins will be continued from previous employer until 90 days of employment have passed.

- Blue Cross Blue Shield of NC also requires us to set a waiting period with each renewal, so the Board must decide- 0/30/60/90 days- or leave it at 90 and decide whether or not to pay extra dependent on position before we can sign our renewal. Motion (IC) to leave personnel Policy the way it is as a 90 day waiting period, changeable on case by case basis. DM seconds. 5-0.

SRF Loan offered: For your situational awareness: The State offered a 2.45% LOAN of $1,052,000, not grant, to add to the $5.4M grant to fix water system issues. We may NOT pay it off early. Still awaiting the answer to "How long do we have to accept or reject this offer?"

Personnel Issues: The Board will enter Closed Session to discuss personnel according to N.C.G.S.§ 143-318.11(a)(6).

The Board returned to Open Session at 11:50AM

Adjournment

Motion: CM: Motion to adjourn.

Second: IC: Second received.
Vote: 5-0.

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Sally Belangia, Mayor

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Diane H. Miller, Town Manager/Clerk

Approved: _____________________, 2026

ORIENTAL TOWN BOARD REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, June 9, 2026 6PM
507 Church Street, Oriental, NC
Mayor Sally Belangia officiating

Present

Commissioners present included members of the Board of Commissioners, town administration staff, and members of the public.

Call to Order

The Mayor called the meeting to order, led the Pledge of Allegiance, confirmed a quorum was present, noted Commissioner Cooper was absent, welcomed attendees, and corrected the agenda to reflect that the Mayor—not the Mayor Pro Tem—was presiding.

Approval of Agenda

- Motion to approve the agenda by PJ, second by LO. carried unanimously.

Public Comment

- David White commended the Board and staff for a transparent budget process and commented on the tax rate and removal of the Lupton Park pecan tree.
- Stephanie Carperos requested reconsideration of stop signs on North Street and urged the Board to request removal of the all-way stop after further review.
- Abigail Adams presented updates for the upcoming Croaker Festival, including schedule changes, children's activities, and fundraising for fireworks.
- Vicki Rasmussen urged the Board to consider mitigation measures before removing the Lupton Park pecan tree and emphasized transparency.
- Butch Rasmussen spoke to conversations that were shared in email that he thought should not have been.
- Bob Miller discussed his professional experience with hazardous trees and supported removal of the tree based on risk.
- Carol Small recommended reviewing the Town's arrangements with Cycle North Carolina for future events.

Public Hearing – FY 2026-2027 Budget

The Town Manager reviewed the proposed budget, including uncertainty created by pending state legislation affecting property revaluation and tax calculations. The Manager recommended delaying budget adoption until the General Assembly provided final direction.

- Public hearing opened Motion by CM, Second by PJ. 4-0.
- No public comments were received.
- Motion by PJ, second by CM to recess the public hearing until June 25, 2026. 4-0.

Consent Agenda

- Approved minutes from prior meetings as presented.

Old and New Business

- Authorized the Mayor, Town Manager, and Finance Officer to execute the annual audit contract PJ, LO, 4-0.
- Board appointments were deferred until June 25, 2026.

- Approved amendments to the Traffic Ordinance establishing additional no-parking areas PJ, LO, 4-0.
- Approved a temporary street closure request for a neighborhood event.
- Approved a tourism budget amendment CM, PJ, 4-0.

Town Manager's Report

- Provided updates on budget legislation, Croaker Festival preparations, bridge closures, Town Hall holiday schedule, FEMA heat guidance, hurricane preparedness, DEQ matters, pending legislation, financial reports, and occupancy tax revenues.

Police Department Report

- The Police Chief announced participation in the North Carolina Law Enforcement Accreditation Essential Standards Program to update departmental policies and procedures.

Lupton Park Pecan Tree

The Board discussed the independent tree assessment, liability considerations, mitigation options, and public comments.

- Motion by CM, second by PJ approved to proceed with removal of the pecan tree at Lupton Park.

Board Comments

- Commissioners thanked the Town Manager for her work during the budget process and discussed possible repurposing of the tree wood for community use.

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned following a motion by DM, second by LO, and unanimous vote.

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Sally Belangia, Mayor

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Diane H. Miller, Town Manager/Clerk

Approved: ____________________, 2026

ORIENTAL TOWN BOARD MEETING
Friday, June 26, 2026 9AM
507 Church Street, Oriental, NC
Mayor Sally Belangia officiating

Call to Order

The Mayor called the meeting to order, a quorum was confirmed, all members present, Manager, Finance Officer, members of the Public and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. One citizen comment sheet was received.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Cooper moved to amend the agenda by moving the Tourism Ordinance item ahead of Board Appointments. MPT Jordan added a discussion regarding professional training for Chief Bill. The Board briefly discussed the proposed changes before voting.

Motion(IC): Amend the agenda.
Second: Received (PJ).
Vote: Approved unanimously.
Action Taken: Agenda amended.

Public Comment

Bonnie Crosser encouraged the Board to continue opening meetings with the Pledge of Allegiance, stating that it promotes unity despite differing viewpoints. No other speakers came forward.

Public Hearing – FY 2026-27 Budget

Manager Miller explained the uncertainty created by pending state legislation affecting county revaluations and property tax calculations. Three budget scenarios were presented, including one based on existing property values, one based on revaluation, and an interim option. She advised adopting an interim budget until the General Assembly's actions became clear. Commissioners discussed coordination with Pamlico County, statutory deadlines, reserve funding, and revenue impacts. Interim Budgets use fund balance as revenue, no tax revenue. Another reason for maintaining a significant fund balance. If we are using fund balance and then also have a weather emergency (hurricane), that also comes from fund balance. (Interim Budgets do not require a Public Hearing)

Motion (PJ): Adopt the interim budget and continue the public hearing on the permanent budget for July 14, 2026.
Second: Received (CM).
Vote: Approved unanimously.
Action Taken: Interim budget adopted and public hearing rescheduled.

Budget Amendment

Staff presented a budget amendment for the 25-26 FY.

Motion: Adopt the budget amendment as presented(CM).
Second: LO.
Vote: Approved unanimously.
Action Taken: Budget amendment adopted.

Harbor & Waterfront / CAMA Application

The Harbor and Waterfronts Committee presented its analysis of the marina/CAMA application. Staff reported the application remained incomplete because additional information had been requested by CAMA. Commissioners praised the committee's thorough review and expressed concern about acting before a complete application was available while also ensuring no response deadline was missed.

Motion(IC): Defer Board action until July 14 pending receipt of a complete CAMA application while retaining the committee's analysis.
Second: Commissioner Moffat.

Vote: Approved unanimously.
Action Taken: Item deferred.

Tourism Ordinance

Commissioners discussed replacing the Tourism Ordinance with an expanded Tourism and Economic Development Ordinance to broaden support for local businesses. Members agreed additional review was appropriate before making appointments.

Motion (IC): Table the ordinance and Tourism Board appointments until July 14, 2026.
Second (CM): Received.
Vote: Approved unanimously.
Action Taken: Ordinance and appointments for Tourism deferred.

Board Appointments

Tree Board:
Motion to reappoint members as presented (PJ).
Second: CM.
Vote: Approved.

Parks & Recreation:
Motion: Appoint Olga Herman.
Second: Received.
Vote: Approved. Members Vicki and Butch Rasmussen resigned, Bonnie Crosser not a member, but joins for work effort.

Harbor & Waterfronts:
Motion (IC): Appoint Jim Blackerby, Pat Stockwell, and Breena Litzenberger.
Second: PJ.
Vote: Approved.

Planning Board:
Motion PJ: Appoint Charlie Overcash.
Second: Received (CM).
Vote: Approved.
Motion (CM): Reappoint Pete Flood and Linwood Strickland.
Second: Received (IC).
Vote: Approved.

Board of Adjustment:
Motion (CM): Reappoint Bill Marlowe.
Second: PJ.
Vote: Approved.

Tourism Board Resignations

Following discussion of the proposed ordinance changes, Marsha Paplham announced the immediate resignations of herself, Vicki Rasmussen, Linda Hoff, and Suzanne Gwaltney from the Tourism Board. The Board thanked them for their years of volunteer service and contributions to promoting Oriental.

Police Chief Training Request

Chief Bill requested Board funding to attend a professional leadership training course in September. He estimated registration at $250 with total costs between $500 and $750. CM asks for deadline for registration. Commissioners requested a written estimate and agreed to place the funding request on the July 14 agenda after adoption of the permanent budget.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioners thanked Manager Miller and staff for preparing multiple budget scenarios and closely monitoring legislative developments. Members recognized the extensive work required to keep the Town compliant during an unusually uncertain budget cycle.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn (CM).
Second: Received (DM).
Vote: Approved unanimously. Mayor notes she will not be present for 7/14 meeting.
Meeting adjourned.

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Sally Belangia, Mayor

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Diane H. Miller, Town Manager/Clerk

Approved: ____________________, 2026