



## ORIENTAL TOWN BOARD REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, July 14, 2026 6PM

507 Church Street, Oriental, NC

4 Mayor Pro Tempore Paul Jordan officiating

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

### 2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was amended by IC to add a request from the Oriental Rotary Club to place Rotary signs on the two town entrance signs.

Motion (IC) : Approve the amended agenda.

Second: Commissioner LO

Vote: Ayes – unanimous

### 3. Public Comment

Pat Allen requested additional explanation regarding the proposed Fulcher Seafood CAMA permit application, asking what benefits the project would provide to the Town of Oriental and requesting those issues be addressed during the agenda discussion.

### 4. Consent Agenda

Motion (IC): Approve the Consent Agenda Second: LO

Vote: Approved unanimously

### 5. Public Hearing – FY 2026–2027 Budget

The Board received the Town Manager's presentation on the proposed budget, opened the public hearing,

PJ: The public hearing is open.

Did anyone sign up for the public? We should have two sheets. I have two sheets, and the other one is blank Would anyone like to speak?

DM: So that takes us to the old values, which for us is more definitive, we know those numbers. Those numbers aren't going to change. Whereas the new numbers are continuously changing every week when they have board of equalization meetings up in the county. So we saw it drop from \$435M I'm sure that it will drop further as those Boards equalize the values. So there are several items to be adjusted/ addressed in the budget

The budget overview is that is our total budget number is over because \$403,000 is coming from restricted reserves.

Paving, harbor and waterfronts, parks and rec, tourism

The adjusted number is only \$849 more than last year because we're using all of those restricted.

So, the board worked really hard. With the eight hundred and forty-nine dollar increase, we still have

added two positions, and we have answered all of the things that everybody wanted to see into this budget.

So that was amazing. Our board did good work. It took, I think, six meetings altogether.

Your tax rate goes from twenty-two cents to twenty-three cents, and we'll show you what that means. So

here's the budget ordinance, one million seven hundred and forty-three thousand in general and four

hundred and thirty-five and sixty dollars in water.

This is what that means for you. If your assessed value is in that far left column, the change in your taxes is

the far right column. So if your property is two hundred thousand dollars, it'll go up twenty dollars. If it's

two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, it'll go up twenty-five dollars. If it's six hundred thousand dollars,

So not terrible. And still gives us everything that we need. Everything that you asked for, all, all of the

things that all the boards asked for, all the residents asked for.

There's a significant amount in paving, and we're going to talk about that more.

We also have the meeting schedule. All of the meetings that we normally have are in there. September eighth is going to be a little iffy because that's the day after a holiday, so really important that we get stuff in on time, anybody that has items for that. And then you'll go to retreat on April eighth to the ninth instead of in March like we did this year because March was too early. We didn't have any numbers, and the state is getting later and later in putting out those numbers that we use to do accurate projections. So I moved it to April.

The first Thursday, Friday of April. And this is our regular holiday schedule. Those are the holidays that have been approved. Same as it has been for years

This budget amendment is a sweeping budget amendment that allows us to move from the interim budget to the full fiscal year budget. We've approved the interim. You will approve this fiscal year budget, and Lisa will make one sweeping budget amendment that adds in the difference between the two to get them all up to speed.

Can you go back to the- Chapter S also though does include sewer rates, and the sewer rates changed very slightly, twenty-five cents per thousand gallons on the upper end users. And then for commercial users, their base rate went up some, and that's all in the paperwork that's for this meeting. But I didn't put it in here.

Most people run between twenty-five hundred and forty-five hundred gallons a month. And, when I say most, that's ninety percent of us run in those numbers. And that would mean seventy-five cents more on your sewer bill for residents. Businesses will see a bigger impact. And I'd be happy to answer any questions.

(Commissioner) I have one, if I may.

DM: Yes, sure.

(Commissioner) So full transparency, we do not know yet what the county numbers look like, correct?

DM: We do not know yet what the numbers-

(Commissioner) I just wanna make sure everybody understands. I believe they are doing it first Monday in August. They're going to their full fiscal year budget.

DM: Any other questions I can answer?

We need a motion to close the public- We need a motion to close ... CM: Make a motion we close the public hearing. IC: Second.

Motion: Close the public hearing

Vote: Approved unanimously budget, meeting schedule, holiday schedule, Chapter S.

IC Motion: Adopt the FY 2026-2027 Budget, holiday schedule, meeting schedule, Chapter S sewer rate amendments, and transition from the interim budget to the full fiscal year budget. CM Seconds.

Vote: Approved unanimously

## **6. Town Manager Report**

- Hurricane preparedness meeting scheduled for August 17.

- Road paving funding and reserve updates presented.

- Mosquito spraying schedule discussed; consensus supported increasing spraying to twice weekly with public notification. Also moving the time from 4AM-6AM to 5:30AM-7:30AM.

## **7. Board and Advisory Reports**

Reports were received from the Water Advisory Board, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, and Planning Board regarding water system improvements, board vacancies, and pending short-term rental legislation.

## **8. Fulcher Seafood CAMA Permit**

CM Motion: Refer the revised CAMA application back to the Harbor & Waterfronts Committee for review, authorize committee liaisons to finalize the response, and submit it to CAMA. DM second. HWAC will meet this Thursday 4:30PM to discuss.

Vote: Approved unanimously

## **9. Tourism & Economic Development Board**

CM: Motion: Amend the ordinance increasing board membership from seven to nine members and revise staggered terms accordingly. LO seconds.

Vote: Approved unanimously

Appointments:

- Three-year terms: Daniella Harrison, Karen Thomas, Leslie Kellenberger.

- Two-year terms: Mark Norman, Nikki Kurdys, Andrea Pape.

- One-year term: Kim Bell.

One vacancy remains.

## **10. Board Appointments**

IC: Motion: Appoint Yvonne Jones to the Planning Board.

Additional board appointment- James Blackerby to HWAC

Second DMc.

Vote: Approved unanimously

## **11. Approve request to reserve TD 2**

DM: Motion to approve reservation of TD 2 for Parrothead Regatta July 18. IC Second. 4-0.

## **12. Rotary Club Request (added item)**

LO: Motion: Approve placement of Rotary Club signs on the two town entrance signs at no cost to the Town. Disclosed that 3 members of the Council are Rotarians. CM Second. 4-0.

Vote: Approved unanimously

## **12. Police Department Report**

The Police Department reported significant work updating standard operating procedures, evidence handling, mutual aid agreements, and reviewing legacy case files to ensure compliance with current state law.

## **13. Commissioner Comments**

Commissioners thanked the Town Manager for extensive work preparing the FY 2026–2027 budget and commented on the efficiency of the adopted budget despite increased operating costs.

## **14. Adjournment**

IC Motion: Adjourn the meeting. Second: CM

Vote: Approved unanimously