



ORIENTAL TOWN BOARD MEETING  
Thursday, June 24, 2021 at 8:00am  
507 Church Street, Oriental, NC  
Mayor Sally Belangia Officiating

1 The Town Board of Oriental Monthly Meeting held on Thursday, June 24, 2021 was called to order at 8:00am.  
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](http://www.TownofOriental.com).

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6 Present: Mayor Belangia, Mayor Pro Tempore White, Commissioner Overcash, Commissioner Simmons,  
7 Commissioner Winfrey, Town Manager Diane Miller, Deputy Finance Director Tammy Cox, Administrative  
8 Assistant Chantelle Allison, and members of the public. Not present: Commissioner Price

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10 The Agenda was approved by a **MOTION** from Commissioner Simmons, seconded by Commissioner Winfrey.  
11 Unanimous vote: 4-0.

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13 The Consent Agenda was approved by a **MOTION** from Commissioner Overcash, seconded by Commissioner  
14 Winfrey. Unanimous vote: 4-0.

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16 Public Comment: Tourism Board Chairman Marsha Paplham requested street closures for the Flounder Fest. This  
17 included Broad Street from Ragan to the bridge closed for the parade, along with Ragan Street for parade staging;  
18 these would reopen immediately after the parade. Hodges St from S Water Street to Factory Street would need to be  
19 closed to vehicles for most of the day to allow for the safety of pedestrians visiting the shops/vendor tents and  
20 attending the Marine Corps band performance. Manager Miller reminded the Board of their Attorney's  
21 recommendation that if the Town allows an event that encourages foot traffic, the street(s) involved should be closed  
22 to vehicles. Commissioner Overcash discussed concerns for the business owners along the requested closed area  
23 and questioned how they would be able to access their businesses by vehicle in order to restock supplies if needed  
24 during the event. Ms. Paplham, the Board, and County Commissioner Candy Bohmert discussed options to ensure  
25 the business owners would be able to gain access by vehicle if needed. The street closures were approved by a  
26 **MOTION** from Mayor Pro Tempore White, seconded by Commissioner Simmons. Unanimous vote: 4-0.

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28 Manager Miller added that the Town was still waiting for the DOT permit for the fireworks on the bridge but should  
29 receive it soon. The bridge would be closed on Friday, July 2 from 3pm -- 11pm, and signs would be going out  
30 today in order to give the required 7-day notice of closure. The Coast Guard would be present to ensure boater  
31 safety during the fireworks.

32  
33 Adjustments to approved Budget for 2021-2022 due to ARPA guidance development: The approved budget contains  
34 projects in both funds and in both revenues and expenses. Additional guidance from the US Treasury and NC  
35 League of Municipalities (NCLM) on distribution and accounting for the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) Plan  
36 funds indicates that the funds must be in a reserved restricted account, so those have been extracted from the regular  
37 budget and moved to accounts similar to the Whittaker Pointe grant-funded project according to NCGS §159-13.2.  
38 In addition, while the Water Fund expenses were isolated and noted, we had hoped to use \$56,000 in GF for  
39 approved priority projects in drainage, Public Works, and Recreation. The Town cannot meet the requirements of  
40 lost revenue on the General Fund side to use ARPA funds in the General Fund, (although there still MAY be an  
41 option for stormwater /drainage usage- the NCLM is awaiting further clarification). Manager Miller suggested  
42 following removal of the ARPA revenues and expenses, all ARPA funds be moved to the Water Fund projects, and  
43 appropriate \$56,000 from savings into General Fund Appropriated to cover the priority projects identified and listed,  
44 and keep the budget balanced. REVISED documents included: Budget Ordinance, Budget Message, Grant Project  
45 Ordinance 2021-278(for receipt and disbursement of ARPA funds). [Following guidance from NCLM, this does not

46 require an additional Public Hearing, nor a budget amendment due to it not being in effect yet.] The revisions to the  
47 Budget, and the Grant Project Ordinance 2021-278 \$251,961.48 for ARPA Funds were approved by a **MOTION**  
48 from Mayor Pro Tempore White, seconded by Commissioner Simmons. Unanimous vote: 4-0.  
49

50 Budget Amendment: Final Budget Amendment to balance our books prior to year end. Reminder that Town Hall  
51 will be closed to the Public Wednesday, June 30, and we will NOT be processing any payments or permit  
52 applications on that day, in order to close out FY 20-21 and open FY 21-22. We will be open with all services  
53 available at 8AM July 1. The Final Budget Amendment was approved by a **MOTION** from Mayor Pro Tempore  
54 White, seconded by Commissioner Overcash. Unanimous vote: 4-0.  
55

56 Annual Hurricane Preparedness Presentation: The revised latest guidance from the NC Office of Emergency  
57 Management and our own documents for distribution as widely as possible. Explanations and review in  
58 presentation. All documents available to be downloaded from our website at [www.TownofOriental.com](http://www.TownofOriental.com) under  
59 News and Events, 2021 Hurricane Prep. Manager Miller explained that hurricane categories only refer to wind, and  
60 do not take into consideration any flooding/water damage, which does not always accurately define the hurricane's  
61 consequences. The Town has converted to AT&T FirstNet for cellular service, as it is designed for better  
62 emergency response.  
63

64 SUP Public Hearing request/ GMO Public Hearing request: The Planning Board requested the Board schedule two  
65 **(2) Public Hearings** for the August 3 Town Board Meeting: 1. Short term rental for 316 Camp Creek and 2. Adding  
66 a section to the GMO regulating wind turbine power. A draft of the small system (single parcel) wind power  
67 addition is included. The Planning Board may or may not have a large system (farm/utility) draft available in time  
68 for the August meeting's required advertisements but will meet again July 21 and work toward that goal. Mayor Pro  
69 Tempore White clarified that 316 Camp Creek is zoned R2, which does allow for the requested use, upon approval  
70 from the Planning Board. The Public Hearing requests were approved by a **MOTION** from Commissioner  
71 Overcash, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore White. Unanimous vote: 4-0.  
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74 Personnel Policy: Manager Miller proposed an adjustment to the Holiday Schedule incorporating Juneteenth as an  
75 option on Floating Holidays. Making this an option as a floater allows Town Hall to remain open with services  
76 continuing with partial staff. This policy change has resulted in several days gained since the change whereby some  
77 staff take the day off and some do not, allowing Town Hall to remain open. Manager Miller and the Staff agree this  
78 is a good solution. The Personnel Policy change was approved by a **MOTION** from Mayor Pro Tempore White,  
79 seconded by Commissioner Overcash. Unanimous vote: 4-0.  
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82 Manager's Report: Manager Miller discussed the Financial Reports as provided, Town Hall office closures – June  
83 30 for Fiscal Year End procedures, July 5 for observance of Independence Day, acceptable drainage projects (EPA),  
84 Whittaker Pointe grant updates and site regrowth wildlife updates, SB-279/Jurisdiction of Waterways – still moving  
85 along, Manager Miller attending NC City/County Managers Association Summer Seminar in Wilmington.  
86

87 Commissioners discussed the positive support from Boat U.S. for SB-279.  
88

89 Committee Reports Provided: Parks & Recreation June 8, 2021 – Cleaning up Rec Park, scheduled event during  
90 Flounder Fest at Lou Mac Park – popsicles, arts/crafts for kids 11:30am-1:30pm on July 3.  
91

92 Police Report: none (generally skipped for July meeting, will provide updates at next regular meeting)  
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94 Commissioners Comments: none  
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97 Next meetings scheduled: Town Board Meeting – The Board will meet Tuesday, August 3, 2021 at 7:00pm.  
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100 Commissioner Simmons made a **MOTION** to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Winfrey. Unanimous vote: 4-0.

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102 Meeting **ADJOURNED** at 8:52am.  
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Sally Belangia, Mayor

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Diane H. Miller, Town Manager/Clerk

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112 Approved \_\_\_\_\_, 2021