



ORIENTAL TOWN BOARD REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, August 12, 2025 6PM

507 Church Street, Oriental, NC

Mayor Sally Belangia officiating

The Town Board of Oriental regular meeting was held on Tuesday, August 12, 2025, 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. Mayor starts with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Mayor Belangia(SB), Mayor Pro Tempore Price (AP), Commissioner Overcash(CO), Commissioner Roe(FR), and Commissioner Crosser(BC), Commissioner Litzenberger(BL), Town Manager Diane Miller(DM), Finance Officer Lisa Millington, and members of the Public. Mayor calls the meeting to order and starts with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda: FR Makes a MOTION to approve the agenda. CO seconds. 5-0.

Public Comment: Bob Weigand discusses Pirate Jam 8/29 and Movie 8/22- Goonies for Pirate Month.

Consent Agenda: FR makes a MOTION to approve the Consent Agenda.

Public Hearing- Fee Schedule Changes: Manager describes 2 fees to be added: \$1.25 to be charged for those who choose to receive a paper water/sewer/trash bill. The second is a per plug-in charge for the Plug-In Electric Vehicle (PEV) charging stations.

BL Makes a Motion to open the Public Hearing.

SB: The public hearing is opened. And did anybody want to sign up for that? (None)

CO makes a MOTION to close the Public Hearing. FR seconds. 5-0. No discussion.

BL makes a MOTION to accept the fee schedule changes. FR seconds. 5-0.

Animal Control: County short-staffed after officer injury; state only mandates rabies, dog bites, dangerous domestic animals. Considering \$36 per resident town contribution for expanded services; no decision yet. Also no policy yet. When the call volume information is available, we'll get it.

Manager's Report:

- Manager discussed placement and timing of election signage and noted that the most important part is not blocking line of sight at intersections. GMO notes all political signs are to be on ROW on Town Roads and NCDOT has different rules.
- Whitaker Creek dredge budget increased due to channel survey changes and gravel work.
- DEQ water project reimbursement progressing.
- Copper effluent issue likely resolved.
- **Personnel** – Officer Blayney leaving for sheriff's department; praised for service.
- **Hurricane Prep** – Tropical Storm Aaron being monitored; residents urged to prepare for 72-hour self-sufficiency.
- **Financials** – Revenues up, expenses down; occupancy tax slightly down; sanitation may run \$8k short; \$100k moved from investments to cover early-year costs.
- The newly enacted fee for printed bills will be added once we are sure the new printer is no longer printing ALL bills.
- Reviewing budget vs actual EOY 24-25, it looks like we will be short in sanitation, some lines already tapped out. All of the one-time annual licensing/professional association/insurance fees are paid.

Auxiliary Board Reports: BC notes WAB extension request working through, and Manager working with Engineer to get all of that updated.

Budget Amendment and Capital Project Ordinance Amendment: The Whittaker Creek Dredge project was amended and is now underway. In the original, \$1,500 was set aside for administrative costs to be paid to the Town, DEQ denied that expense. So it is added to whatever comes from the match. In addition, \$6,000 of gravel was added

51 due to saturating rains making it difficult to get into and out of the spoils site. Also- Ordinance 2025-321 revises
52 2023-295 to match the new amounts granted in the amendment.FR makes a MOTION to accept the Budget
53 Amendment. CO seconds. 5-0. BL makes the MOTION to amend the CP Ordinance. BC seconds. 5-0.

54
55 BL Makes the MOTION for Daniel Early to be awarded a **bonus as allotted in the budget** for overcoming the
56 copper issue. CO seconds. BC describes the painstaking work of moving through each component and testing every
57 step to isolate the issue. Agrees that the effort should be rewarded. 5-0.

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59 **Police Report:** Officer Wichrowski notes the loss of Officer Blayne and his respect for the work accomplished and
60 the energy devoted to Oriental. We will be hard-pressed to replace him.

61
62 Manager notes **last minute request from Sailing Club** to reserve Town Dock 2 for Aug 30 for group. FR makes the
63 MOTION- to approve, CO seconds: discussion that this is the holiday weekend and Pirate Jam. 3-2 Crosser,
64 Litzenberger dissent.

65
66 **Mayor and Commissioner Comments**

67 Mayor notes the Women's Golf Tournament 8/23 at Minnesott Golf Club.

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70 **FR: Distributes resignation letter.** Effective September 1. He is moving to New Bern.

71
72 MPT Price makes the MOTION to go into **Closed Session**, in accordance with N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(6),
73 Personnel Issues. CO seconds. 5-0. (6:57PM)

74
75 Board returns to Open Session 7:22PM. BC makes a MOTION to increase Officer Wichrowski's salary by \$2/hr plus
76 a\$200/payday bonus for shouldering the dept while the Board decides its next action on Police, contingent on Officer
77 Wichrowski's acceptance. BL seconds. 5-0

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79 MPT Price Makes a **MOTION** to adjourn. CO: Seconds. 5-0- 7:32PM.

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83 _____
84 Sally Belangia , Mayor

83 _____
84 Diane H. Miller, Town
85 Manager/Clerk

86 Approved , 2025