

Town of Onancock
Town Council
January 26, 2015
7:00 PM

Call to Order and Roll Call:

Mayor Jones called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and roll was called. Mayor Russell Jones and Councilmembers T. Lee Byrd, Catherine Krause, John Morgan, Sandra Fox, Joshua Bundick and Fletcher Fosque were present. All members were present and a quorum was established.

Consideration and Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting on December 22, 2014:

Mayor Jones asked if there were any corrections, changes, or additions to the December 22nd, 2014 council meeting minutes.

With none, Councilmember Morgan made a motion to approve the December 22nd, 2014 Meeting Minutes. Councilmember Bundick seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Public Business:

Town Council Meeting Schedule for CY 2015:

Mayor Jones explained that this is done for the whole year at a time so that we can pick alternate dates if things such as holidays conflict. Town Manager Lawton shared that the only conflicting date for calendar year 2015 is Memorial Day. Mr. Lawton suggested that council create a subsequent date such as the Thursday that follows the fourth Monday.

Mayor Jones asked if council had any discussion on this issue. There were none.

Mayor Jones asked for public comment on this issue.

If none, Councilmember Fox made a motion to schedule the regular Town Council meeting for the Fourth Monday of each month, with the exception of May, which will be held on Thursday, May 28th, 2015 in order to observe Memorial Day. Councilmember Byrd seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Public Comment:

Mayor Jones opened the floor to any public comment on any items not already covered on the agenda.

Kent Sudman, Meadville Drive, I read that there was an agreement between the town and the county for the town continuing to service the county's wastewater needs.

Mayor Jones explained that that report was in error. The Accomack County Board of Supervisors asked the town to send them a proposed fair cost for services along with a town plan for future fiscal advancement. The town has complied with all of the county's requests and within their timeframes. Town Manager Lawton heard from the county today, he was told that the town would most likely not hear back from the county until they are done with setting their new fiscal budget.

Eric Dodge, Meadville Drive, during the Town Hall meeting which was held a few months ago raised a lot of questions and it got some residents doing research about the town's current rate structure. Mr.

Dodge stated that they have found that the current charges for water and sewer in town are extremely reasonable. In fact, they need to be raised. Mr. Dodge urged council to not back down to the county when discussing a new rate structure. Mr. Dodge also showed great concern in the county building their own wastewater facility.

Jay Davenport, Poplar Cove, asked Mr. Lawton when the county has indicated that they will look at the report that was submitted to them by the town. Mr. Lawton stated that they probably would not look at the proposal until after their budget process which would be about 60 days out.

Planning Commission:

No meeting.

Marketing Committee:

Councilmember Morgan shared that they did have a quorum to hold their last meeting.

Nancy James, Blarney Stone Pub, wanted to let everyone know that this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade will be held March 15th, 2015, starting at 1:00 PM.

Personnel Committee:

No meeting.

Waterfront Committee:

No meeting this month. The next meeting will be held February 10th, 2015 at 5:00 PM. Councilmember Byrd shared that the biggest concern is the town's boat ramp. Town staff tried to go down there today at low tide to get an idea of possible solutions but it was not low enough and the water temperature is too low to pour concrete.

Mayor's Report:

No report.

Town Manager's Report:

Mr. Lawton shared that the septage receiving project is completed and the haulers will be getting their cards to utilize the system. Mr. Lawton shared that the town hopes to start receiving septage by the end of the week.

Mr. Lawton shared that the town met with USDA-Rural Development last week and that the town has some grant monies left over but that those funds cannot be used for trees. Some thoughts for the monies would be painting the digester tank at the plant. Screening materials are out and proposals for using the grant monies would need to be functional to the actual sewer system. Mr. Lawton shared that it is about \$30,000 that the town has to utilize.

Mr. Lawton explained that the town wharf's new gas tanks should be onsite by February 15th, 2015. Once the tanks are onsite it should not take very long to get them up and running.

Mr. Lawton stated that it time for the town to start its budget process. Mr. Lawton encouraged council to let him know what projects they would like to see accomplished this coming fiscal year.

Mayor and Town Council Comments:

Councilmember Bundick asked about the town's timeframe for removing Christmas decorations. Mr. Lawton explained that it starts after the New Year. January is a bad month for the guys considering most houses dispose of their Christmas trees that month. Mr. Lawton also explained that some of the decoration removals have to be on ANEC's timeframe since they have the bucket truck to remove certain items.

Mayor Jones shared that there was an incident at GF Horne over the weekend. The Onancock Fire Department was called to the facility because of a possible gas leak. There was no gas leak, the smell was due to low amounts of gas in their tank.

Mr. Lawton also wanted to share that there are some legislative initiatives being introduced at the Virginia Assembly that could negatively affect local governments such as town fines collected being rerouted to the state.

Closed Session, Contract Negotiations:

Councilmember Morgan made a motion to allow town council to go into closed session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(7) of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, for consultation of certain legal matters were discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating position of the public body. Councilmember Byrd seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Town council went into closed session at 7:34 PM.

Councilmember Byrd made a motion to allow town council to come out of closed session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, that was for discussion and consideration of certain legal matters. Councilmember Fox seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

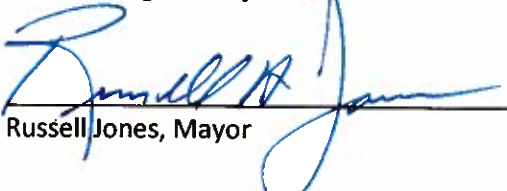
Councilmember Byrd	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Councilmember Krause	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Councilmember Morgan	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Councilmember Bundick	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Councilmember Fox	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Councilmember Fosque	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No

Town council was back in open session at 8:20 PM.

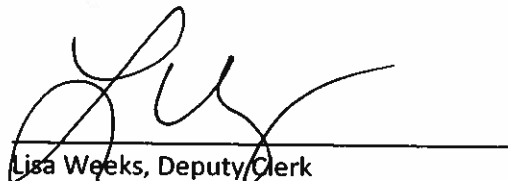
Adjourn:

Councilmember Byrd made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Morgan seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 PM.



Russell Jones, Mayor



Lisa Weeks, Deputy Clerk