

Town of Onancock
Town Council
April 27, 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 and Fletcher Fosque were present. Councilmember Joshua Bundick was absent. A majority of members were present and a quorum was established.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Consideration and Approval of the Minutes from the Regular March 23rd, 2015 and from the Special Meeting on April 15th, 2015:

Mayor Jones asked if there were any corrections, changes or additions to the March 23rd, 2015 meeting minutes.

With none, Councilmember Fosque made a motion to approve the March 23rd, 2015 meeting minutes as submitted. Councilmember Byrd seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Mayor Jones asked if there any corrections, changes or additions to the April 15th, 2015 meeting minutes as submitted.

With none, Councilmember Krause made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Councilmember Morgan seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Public Business:

a. Budget Supplement – appropriation of USDA Grant Funds for Equipment:

Town Manager Lawton explained that the town has grant monies left over from the USDA-Rural Development from the Septage Receiving Facility Project. The town was able to negotiate with USDA to expend the left over monies. USDA agreed to allow the town to use the remaining funds for equipment and paint to fix up the town's sewage treatment plant. The new equipment has been purchased and town staff will do the required painting. Mr. Lawton explained that the town has already received the funds from USDA.

Mayor Jones asked if council had any questions or comments on this issue.

With none, Councilmember Morgan made a motion to approve a supplemental appropriation to the FY15 Budget to Fund 51 Revenue – Miscellaneous Revenue and Fund 510 Expense – Equipment, both in the amount of \$38,890.00. Councilmember Byrd seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

b. FY 16 Budget:

Mr. Lawton shared that he has received no additional comments regarding the FY16 Budget proposal since the March 23rd, 2015 council meeting. Mr. Lawton explained that a special Public

Hearing could be scheduled to discuss the budget in May if council wished. Mr. Lawton shared that he is confident that the proposed FY16 Budget is good. Mayor Jones reminded council that at the previous council meeting it was the consensus to do the Public Hearing at an already scheduled upcoming council meeting. Mr. Lawton shared the proposed new sewer rates with council and explained that it would also need to be discussed during the Public Hearing for the budget.

Councilmember Fosque made a motion to hold the Public Hearing on the budget at the regularly scheduled May council meeting. Councilmember Fox seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

c. Proposed Sewer Agreement with Accomack County:

Mr. Lawton shared that on Friday, April 24th, 2015, council was sent a copy of the town's edits to the sewer proposal from Accomack County. Mr. Lawton asked council if they would like to enter into closed session to further discuss the revisions. Mr. Lawton also shared that he would like to return the agreed upon proposal to Accomack County tomorrow, April 28th, 2015, since Accomack County had asked for a response to the proposal no later than April 30th, 2015.

Councilmember Byrd stated that he did not see the need to go into closed session.

Mr. Lawton stated that council chose the proposal titled "Lowest Town Rate". This proposal would give Accomack County the same rates that town residents would be charged. Mr. Lawton shared that the edits to the original county proposal were approved by the town attorney, John Custis, and that the revision mostly addressed environmental issues with certain flow requirements that the county would be required to maintain. Another edit would guarantee that the contract would be good for 40years. Mr. Lawton recommended that council approve the revised proposal and have it forwarded to the Accomack County tomorrow, April 28th, 2015.

Mayor Jones asked council if they had any comments about this issue.

With none, Councilmember Krause made a motion to approve the proposed Sewer Agreement between the Town and Accomack County. Councilmember Byrd seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Public Comment:

Mr. Eric Dodge, Meadville Drive, asked council what the "Lowest Town Rate" proposal meant. Mayor Jones explained that this particular proposal did not address any specific numbers for rates, just that the county will be changed whatever rates the town residents are charged for the same amount of flow.

Jay Davenport, Popular Cove, asked when the town can expect a response from the county on the revised proposal. Mr. Lawton shared that there is no specific timeframe for that.

Planning Commission Report:

No Report.

Marketing Committee Report:

Councilmember Morgan explained that Ms. Nancy James, Marketing Committee Member, is here this evening to review the St. Patrick's Day Parade from March 15th, 2015. Ms. James shared that the parade was a huge success and that the parade was completely funded by sponsorship dollars. Also, a 5K walk

was added to the day's events in coordination with Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital. Ms. James thanked the town's staff for the efforts in helping to make the parade a success as well as the volunteers. Ms. James stressed that this event is made possible through cooperative relationships between the town, Onancock Marketing Committee members, volunteers and sponsors.

Personnel Committee Report:

No report.

Waterfront Committee Report:

Councilmember Byrd shared that the committee had a meeting on April 14th, 2015. The committee welcomed Councilmember Fosque to the group. The Wharf Fuel Tank was discussed. Mr. Lawton and Harbormaster Kelly have been working towards resolving the Stop Work Order that Accomack County issued.

Councilmember Byrd shared that the boat ramp has been repaired and is open for business. Councilmember Byrd reminded council that the ramp repair is only temporary and that a more permanent solution will need to be sought in the future.

Councilmember Byrd shared that Harbormaster Kelly has already made 107 reservations of slips at the wharf.

Mayor's Report:

No report.

Town Manager's Report:

1. Mr. Lawton shared that he met with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) recently and that with VDOT's help the town is coming up with a plan for town maintained roads to be brought up to a certain standard so that VDOT could take them over. Currently, VDOT can take-over a quarter mile of road a year. The town would need to make certain repairs to these roads prior to VDOT taking them over. The town would also have to guarantee them the right-of-way. VDOT came to the meeting with a list of town maintained roads that they could potentially make theirs.
2. Mr. Lawton explained that an engineer had to be hired to assist the town with getting into compliance with Accomack County's guidelines for allowing us to continue with the construction of the gas tank at the wharf. The estimate for the engineer's services is \$800 which is not too high and our grant from the Virginia Port Authority may be able to cover the additional cost for the project.
3. Mr. Lawton shared with council that a new business has applied for their town business license, Loblolly Bakery.
4. Mr. Lawton shared a proposal that the Onancock Business Civic Association (OBCA) which was brought to the town today. OBCA would like some improvements done to the town gazebo. They are proposing that they donate \$1,500 to the town to improve the gazebo's roof. Town

staff will come up with some estimates for the repair along with a timeline to present to council. Mr. Lawton thanked OBCA for the offer and hopes to get them answer shortly.

Councilmember Fox asked Mr. Lawton what entity was currently paving some of the streets in town. Mr. Lawton explained that VDOT was the responsible party and that the paving was initially supposed to be done last year. Councilmember Fox asked whose response for sidewalk maintenance. Mr. Lawton stated that typically VDOT maintains sidewalks.

Councilmember Morgan asked if there has been any change in status regarding having Pep-Up put a mobile gas tank at the Wharf. Mr. Lawton shared that there has been some discussion regarding this issue but no final details to date.

Mayor and Town Council Comments:

Councilmember Byrd thanked Councilmember Krause for leading the Christmas Homes Tour Committee for this year.

Councilmember Krause and Fosque commented on the Christmas Decorations Committee, stating that they are working on getting some new items in place this year to build off of in the following years.

Councilmember Morgan thanked Nancy James again for her efforts during the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Closed Session (Contract Negotiations):

None.

Adjourn:

Councilmember Fosque made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Fox seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 PM.



Russell Jones, Mayor



Lisa Weeks, Deputy Clerk