

Town of Onancock  
Town Council Meeting  
October 29, 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 Jones and Councilmembers T. Lee Byrd, Catherine Krause, John Morgan, Joshua Bundick, and Fletcher Fosque were present. Councilmember Sandra Fox was absent. A majority of members were present and a quorum was established.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Consideration and Approval of the Meeting Minutes from the August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015:

Mayor Jones asked if there were any corrections, changes or additions to the meeting minutes from the August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015 meeting.

*With none, Councilmember Byrd made a motion to approve the minutes submitted. Councilmember ~~Bunkdick-Bundick~~ seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.*

Public Business:

A. Parking Regulations, Eric Williams, Police Chief:

Chief Eric Williams explained that most of the signs posted around town, mostly at the wharf, that limit to two hours parking are wrong. Most of the signs say 1 ½ hour parking, which make it almost impossible to enforce. He explains that every spot needs a sign. Chief Williams request that the town get rid of the signs with parking time limits completely or cut back on spots to save money to replace the signs with new ones, containing to correct information. Each parking spot would need a new sign, and each post placed in concrete. The town officers are currently trying to enforce the parking on North Street and Market Street. Chief Williams explains that many of the employees from North Street and Market Street park on these roads for the duration of the day, ignoring the 2 Hour Limit signs. Town Manager Lawton expresses that we can only hope to have these employees begin parking in the town parking lots, found on Queen Street and King Street. Councilmember Bryd has attempted to talk to these business owners about having their employees use the town parking lots, but they still seem to be using the street parking. Councilmember Bryd agrees with Chief Williams, that new signs need to be purchased and there needs to be signs pointing out the town parking lots on Queen Street and King Street. Councilmember Fosque then points out that there needs a shorter time limit in front of the post office on Market Street to help keep more spots open for people making quick stops just to check their mail. Councilmember Bryd also agrees with this change. Chief Williams also suggest a handy cap parking spot be added in front of the post office, there is already a ramp there. All councilmembers agree on this change. The next subject discussed was long term parking, vehicles, trailers or campers. Chief Williams explains, that as of now the town does not

have an ordinance to enforce this issue, He then suggest making an ordinance for 48 hours for vehicle parking, and 24 for trailer parking. The town will have an ordinance written up by Mr. Custis, In this situation, Chief Williams will be in control of contacting the owner, before a ticket is written. Chief Williams then began to talk about the parking ticket fees, They would normally range between \$15-\$25. Councilmember Fosque request them be changed to the same amount, \$25. Councilmember Morgan asks if there is a fee for parking in the handy cap spot, if you do not have a sticker, Chief Williams explains that the fee has to be between \$100-\$500, Councilmembers agree on \$250 fine if parked illegally in a handy cap spot. If the person is found parking in a handy cap spot again, the fee will then double to \$500. Resident Haydon Rochester comments and says that each sign and painted side walk need to be up to code in order for the town to prosecute. Mrs. Janet Fosque asks how often the Onancock Police Department checks identification for someone claiming to be handy cap, Chief Williams explains that it is very hard to prove someone guilty in this situation. As far as "dead cars" go, Chief Williams has obtained other towns ordinances for the situation, Onancock will be coming up with an ordinance regarding the matter which he will present in the next meeting. A car graveyard is considered 5 or more "dead cars." The two car dealerships on Market Street will have exemptions of the ordinance. The wharf parking lot will be re-done in the future, eliminating two spots, adjusting the angles of the spots and trailer parking time limits will be 6AM-6PM. This will open the spots to non-trailer vehicles after 6PM. Councilmember Fosque request that the signs be kept to a minimum, to keep the town looking friendly, every other spot will have a sign.

**B. BZA Appointment:**

The BZA board is currently looking for its 5<sup>th</sup> member after Tom Reinerth has stepped down. Councilmember Fosque volunteers to contact the suggested people for this board.

**C. Supplemental Appropriation:**

- I. Highway Safety Funds: \$5,628 is used to pay officers for traffic stops, fuel and maintenance is the town's responsibility. Councilmember Morgan makes a motion to pass this, Councilmember Bundick seconds the motion, motion passes. All in Favor.
- II. DCJS Grant Funds: \$1,341 grant used for equipment, ammo, and locks for the equipment while they are stored in the vehicles. Councilmember Morgan makes a motion to pass, Councilmember Fosque seconds the motion, all in favor.

**D. Auxiliary Police Officers:**

Chief Williams explained this would be a program for citizens to help volunteer in the community. This is not a state program, but comes with the states blessings. There would be three levels, the highest being certified, second would be trained, and the third would be no experience at all. The town would need to insure the volunteer, but no training, no life insurance, health insurance and no workman's comp. Chief Williams would get to decide who is qualified for this program. No guns will be provided to the volunteer, only uniforms that would cost around \$150. Resident Haydon Rochester asks a question concerning the applications the

volunteers would fill out, and how often they would be needed. Chief explains that they would be needed for special events, and to be seen around town in their uniform.

E. Unison Proposal:

Unison has approached the town to buy out AT&T's rights to the water tower rental. The town currently makes around \$30,000 from AT&T each year. \$274,000 for a 40 year lease and \$250,000 for a 30 year lease. If Unison was to buy them out, the funds would be added to cash on hand account for future projects. Currently AT&T wants to reduce the length of their lease by 10 years again. Mayor Jones is in favor of the change. Councilmember Morgan suggest having the towns attorney, Mr. Custis review the contracts.

5. Public Comment:

No comment.

6. Planning Commission:

Fletcher Fosque says there is no meeting scheduled at this time. When the meeting is scheduled on topic will be signs around town.

7. Marketing Commission:

No meeting.

8. Personnel Committee:

No meeting.

9. Waterfront Committee:

Mr. Byrd reports from the October 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. A filter or cover is needed for the gas tank. Councilmember Byrd and the Harbor Master discussed possibly providing fuel spill training for next season's employees. Winter rates and hours were discussed, 1 week is \$6 a foot, 1 month is \$8.50 a foot. Mr. Byrd makes a motion to approve the winter rates, Councilmember Morgan seconds the change. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote..

10. Christmas Committee:

Janet Fosque reports that everything is going as planned people are showing support by attending the workshops she has set up, she also compliments Bruce and Victors help. Lights are set to be turned on November 21<sup>st</sup>, and Janet has invited everyone to come to a pot luck that night to celebrate all their hard work. Workshops are held above the old house of deal's building every Tuesday nights 5pm-7pm and Saturdays 1pm-3pm.

11. Mayor's Report:

No report.

12. Town Manager's Report:

Town Manager Lawton is happy to announce that the sewer agreement with Accomack County has now been signed. The contract is for 40 years. He also comments on the trees surrounding the town hall, cleanup is under way, and new plants will be going in place of the old. The Town Manager then explains that starting November, the Harbor will only be opened Thursday through Saturdays and will be shutting down in December.

13. Mayor and Town Council Comments:

Councilmember Morgan makes a comment concerning non town residence on town committees; this will be discussed next meeting.

14. Closed Session

15. Adjourn:

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM.



Russell Jones, Mayor



Allison Hart, Deputy Clerk