

Town of Onancock  
Town Council  
July 25, 2016  
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 Robert Bloxom, Ray Burger, Joshua Bundick and Fletcher Fosque were present. Councilmembers Catherine Krause and John Morgan were absent. A majority of members were present and a quorum was established.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Welcome to New Town Manager:

Mayor Jones welcomed William H. Kerbin, Jr to the Town of Onancock. Mayor Jones shared that he has been working with Mr. Kerbin to get him acclimated to the pending needs of the town.

Mayor Jones also welcomed the two new councilmembers, Mr. Robert Bloxom and Mr. Ray Burger.

Mayor Jones explained that Councilmember Morgan has not been able to attend council recently due to health reasons.

Consideration and Approval of the Minutes from the Regular Meeting on June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016:

Mayor Jones asked if there were any changes, corrections, or additions to the meeting minutes as submitted.

Mrs. Shirley Zamora, North Street, was concerned about the wording used to explain the new utility billing structure. The minutes state that there is no rate change but in fact there is a change in the minimum consumption amount as well as the fee for those minimums.

Mayor Jones stated that they would look into it but that to his knowledge the rates have not changed.

*Councilmember Bundick made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Councilmember Fosque seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.*

Public Business:

- a. Tree Board Presentation: Postponed.
- b. Historical Society Request for Funds for an Exhibit at Hopkins Brother's Store: Councilmember Fosque presented the proposal from the Historical Society of the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Councilmember Fosque started with some background on the proposed project, the Historical Society of the Eastern Shore of Virginia was awarded some monies from the Onancock Business Civic Association (OBCA) from last year's Christmas Homes Tour proceeds. The Historical Society is looking to do an exhibit at the Hopkins Brother's Store highlighting Onancock's vast mercantile history. Unfortunately, the award from OBCA is not enough to fund the project. The Historical Society is asking the town to give them the left over Jamestown funds, totaling \$4,500.00, to assist with completing the exhibit. The Jamestown monies had been given to the

town on December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2007. The monies were left over from the Jamestown 2007 event. The suggestion was that the town use those dollars to educate visitors on Onancock's rich history.

Mr. Caleb Fowler, President of the Historical Society of the Eastern Shore of Virginia's Board, spoke about the vision of the project. The Historical Society would like to create a mini-museum down stairs at the Hopkins Brothers Store. The exhibit will have huge displays, visual montages, artifacts as well as a history of Onancock. It is estimated that about 20,000 people visit Mallard's at the Wharf each year. Mr. Fowler shared that they have a captive audience and believes that this exhibit will be well received and a huge benefit to the town in the way of tourism.

Mayor Jones asked what the timeframe was to start work on the project. Mr. Fowler said they are ready to begin immediately.

*Councilmember Fosque made a motion to appropriate \$4,500.00 to the Historical Society of the Eastern Shore of Virginia from the left over proceeds from the Jamestown 2007 event. Councilmember Burger seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.*

**Public Comment:**

None.

**Planning Commission Report:**

Councilmember Fosque shared that the Planning Commission reviewed the timeline for the revisions to the Comprehensive Plan as well as possible regulations to Airbnbs. The new Town Manager, Mr. Kerbin, was in attendance.

The Virginia General Assembly reviewed legislation last session that would restrict what localities can regulate pertaining to Airbnbs. The Virginia Municipal League (VML) heavily opposed the legislation, feeling that localities should be able to regulate these issues on their own without state intervention. Currently, the bill was tabled and has an approval date of 2017. The state is reviewing the subject matter via a study which will review possible rules governing how localities can proceed with regulating Airbnbs. Councilmember Fosque shared that VML is encouraging localities to adopt regulations before the state can pass this legislation proving that localities can handle this issue on their own without state intervention. Councilmember Fosque shared that they discussed requiring Airbnbs to obtain a Special Use Permit prior to operating as an Airbnb as well possibly only allowing them to have no more than six people renting the home that is owner occupied.

Mayor Jones asked about those individuals who have summer homes in Onancock and rent their homes out at other times, how would this affect them. Councilmember Fosque shared that the goal is not to outlaw them but to restrict them.

Mayor Jones asked when Council can expect to have a proposal from the Planning Commission. Councilmember Fosque said within sixty days.

Councilmember Fosque explained that he wanted to take a preemptive stance on this issue as oppose to reacting to problems that may arise in the future.

Mayor Jones shared that there has been an effort to get feet on the street and those that vacation in town shop and dine here as well. Also, empty homes with for sale signs are not as appealing. Councilmember Fosque stated that people in residential districts deserve to have their rights protected.

Personnel Committee Report:

None.

Harbormaster's Report:

Mr. Kerbin shared Harbormaster Melcher's report with council. Gas sales are up as is transient slip rentals. The additional security cameras have arrived and town staff will be installing them shortly. The wharf staff have also been changing the door code regularly to cut down on non-slip renter usage of the facilities.

Mayor Jones shared that the wharf is getting great reviews on the web.

Holiday Committee Report:

Councilmember Krause was absent so Councilmember Fosque shared that there was no meeting but that the additional holiday banners came in and Mrs. Fosque is in the process of making sure they are all correct.

Councilmember Burger asked if there was any update on the historical banners that will go up after the holiday banners come down. Councilmember Fosque shared that the artist is still working on the design.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Jones shared that Mr. Lawton and family were in town over the weekend to drop the girls off at Camp Occohannock. Mr. Lawton's health has substantially improved since the transplants. He is still weak but definitely on the mend.

Mayor Jones also shared that Councilmember Morgan has been having reoccurring liver problems which run in his family. Currently, the family is looking into liver transplant options. Mayor Jones continued to share that Councilmember Morgan has yet to swear in for his new council term and he suspects that council will need to look at potential candidates to fill Councilmember Morgan's post.

Town Manager's Report:

Mr. Kerbin thanked everyone for the opportunity to be part of the Onancock team. Mr. Kerbin shared that staff has done a great job during his transition and he looks forward to working with council and the public as well.

Mayor and Council Comments:

Councilmember Fosque shared that he was glad to have Mr. Kerbin on board.

Councilmember Bloxom shared that the wharf has greatly improved its customer service this years. Staff is doing an excellent job.

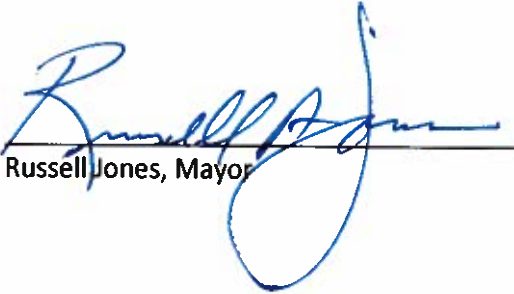
Closed Session, if needed:

None.

Adjourn:

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.



Russell Jones, Mayor



Lisa Fiege, Deputy Clerk