

Town of Onancock
Town Council Meeting
June 25, 2018
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, Catherine Krause, T. Lee Byrd, Ray Burger 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 Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes from the May 21, 2018 and the June 12, 2018 Special Meeting:

Mayor Jones asked if there was any additions, corrections, or changes to the meeting minutes as submitted for both the Regular Meeting held on May 21, 2018 and the Special Meeting held on June 12, 2018.

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

Public Business:

- a. Recognition of Mayor Russell A. Jones and Councilmember T. Lee Byrd – Mayor Elect, Fletcher Fosque: Mayor-Elect Fletcher Fosque shared that about six-years ago when the sitting Mayor, Bruce Paone, died suddenly Mayor Russell Jones was thrust into a job he did not ask for but was obviously the best choice. Over those six years Mayor Russell Jones has done a tremendous job for this Town. Mayor Jones has been instrumental in the renegotiation of the Accomack County Sewer Agreement, Wharf improvements, and working on the utility billing changes and rates. On behalf of the Onancock Town Council, Thank You Mayor Jones.

Mayor-Elect Fletcher Fosque also spoke to the retirement of Councilmember T. Lee Byrd. Councilmember Byrd has been a huge driving force for all the positive changes down at the Town Wharf.

Mayor Jones and Councilmember Byrd were presented with gifts from the Town for their years of service.

- b. Swearing in Ceremony for Mayor Elect, Fletcher Fosque, Re-Elected Councilmembers Joshua Bundick and Catherine Krause, as well as the Newly Elected Councilmembers Joy Marino and Maphis Oswald: Mrs. Donna Belote, with the Accomack County Clerk of Court's Office, filled in for Mr. Samuel Cooper. Mrs. Belote swore in Mayor-Elect Fletcher Fosque and Councilmembers Catherine Krause, Joy Marino and Maphis Oswald.

Due to Councilmember Bundick's absence, he will need to make an appointment with the Clerk of Court to do his swearing in separately.

- c. Town of Parksley Railway Museum 30th Anniversary Celebration – Dr. Julie Nash, Town of Parksley Town Councilmember: Dr. Julie Nash, Parksley Town Council Member, shared with Council that the Town of Parksley will be having a festival in October, which will be the first of many, to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Railroad. Dr. Nash explained that the railroad station in Parksley will be closing and will no longer be maintained. This celebration will commemorate that event. Dr. Nash explained that she is attempting to get other Eastern Shore Towns involved in the festival. She is encouraging them to have a booth at the festival which will promote their Town and events. Dr. Nash also suggested that the Towns come up with a game so that people can visit the booth and play a game while there. The suggested prize should be inexpensive and railroad themed. Dr. Nash also asked if Council would consider marketing this event on the Town’s website.

Mayor Jones suggested that Dr. Nash contact Kerry Allison, Eastern Shore Tourism Commission, so that they can help promote the event.

- d. Referral of the Tower Text Amendment to Planning Commission – Town Manager William Kerbin: Mr. Kerbin shared that the Verizon representatives were here to answer any questions about this Text Amendment and/or the construction of the 220 foot tower. Mr. Kerbin explained that the Text Amendment proposed here needs to be approved so that Verizon can move forward with the construction of the tower. Currently, the Town Code does not allow towers in this zone. Mr. Kerbin clarified that this amendment, needs to be sent to Planning Commission so that they can make the appropriate recommendations to Town Council. Mr. Romine further explained the process; once the text amendment is adopted, Verizon will then need to apply for a special use permit.

Councilmember Krause thanked Verizon for stepping up to address the lack of service in Onancock. Councilmember Krause asked what the geographic range will be once constructed. Mr. Romine stated that it will be about three miles. Mr. Bickings explained that the projected build date will be in 2019. Councilmember Krause asked Council to do all it can to speed this process up so that Verizon can start construction.

Councilmember Fosque suggested that the Town hold a Joint Public Hearing with the Planning Commission and Town Council.

Councilmember Bloxom made a motion that the Onancock Town Council refer the attached proposed text amendment to permit the construction of the towers in Parks and Open Spaces Zoning District, with a special use permit, to the Town of Onancock Planning Commission for a public hearing on this matter, and to request that the Planning Commission provide appropriate changes and recommendations for the Town Council. Councilmember Byrd seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

- e. Resolution of Support for Regional Wastewater Extension Project - Town Manager William Kerbin: Mr. Kerbin explained that infrastructure needs on the Eastern Shore of Virginia were recently identified at an Infrastructure Summit. The item that topped the list is a regional sewer project. Several key individuals are now discussing the potential of that project. The included resolution is for the Onancock Town Council to acknowledge its support of such a project. Mr. Kerbin clarified that there is currently no money required from the Town.

Mayor Jones shared that the current proposal is to extend a feeder line down to the Town of Exmore. The Town of Exmore is currently facing a \$10 million sewer upgrade to keep their discharge permit with the Department of Environmental Quality. Mayor Jones further shared that this project could have a potential fiscal impact on Onancock of about \$650,000.00 in additional revenue, annually. The money for the expansion would come from the Federal Government. Mayor Jones stressed that this project would be a dramatic turnaround in the Town's current financial situation.

The Onancock Town Council agreed to the passage of the resolution which was then passed around for Council signatures.

- f. Discussion of Subcontracting with a Title Company to Research Town Street Plats – Councilmember Robert Bloxom: Councilmember Bloxom shared that he has been attempting to locate plats of the streets the Town owns. That way they could eventually be turned over to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). Currently, VDOT accepted a quarter-mile a year. There is a master plat somewhere unfortunately Councilmember Bloxom has been unable to locate it. Councilmember Bloxom recommends the Town hire a Title Company to do the research for the Town.

Councilmember Fosque asked what the cost will be to hire an outside company. Councilmember Bloxom stated that he has not yet looked in to that aspect of this request. Mr. John Custis, Town Attorney, stated that it should cost a few hundred dollars.

Councilmember Bloxom made a motion that the Onancock Town Council subcontract with a title company to conduct research of plats as part of the plan to transfer certain Town streets to VDOT. Councilmember Krause seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

- g. Appointment of the Vice-Mayor – Mayor Elect, Fletcher Fosque: Mayor-Elect Fosque explained that currently he is the Vice-Mayor therefore a new council member will need to take his place.

Councilmember Fosque made a motion to make Councilmember Robert Bloxom the new Vice-Mayor. Councilmember Byrd seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote. Councilmember Bloxom abstained from the vote.

Mr. Kerbin shared that the Town Code does not address this process and therefore will need to be updated for future scenarios.

- h. Appointment of New Member to Planning Commission – Fletcher Fosque, Planning Commission Chair: Councilmember Fosque shared that the Planning Commission has been short a member and will also need a council member representative in July since he will no longer be on Town Council. Councilmember Bloxom asked if there was a summary of credentials for those possible members listed in the agenda packet since he is unfamiliar with a few names. Councilmember Fosque explained that it is not crucial to name a new member today. Councilmember Fosque asked if there were any council members interested in the council representative spot. Mayor Jones suggested that the appointments be done correctly even if that means no vote happens tonight. Councilmember Fosque explained that the Text Amendment can still be passed without the last member being appointed.

The vote was tabled for a future council meeting.

Public Comment:

Ms. Joani Donohoe, Friends of Onancock School, shared that the Historic Onancock School is kicking off its campaign to upgrade its playground facility. Prior to the Ice Cream Social which is scheduled for July 3, 2018 at 6:30 PM, the Friends of Onancock School will be hosting an event where local children can enter a drawing contest where they are asked to draw what they think the playground should look like. This is an opportunity for the community to share their input with us.

Mr. Glenn Smith, Market Street, shared some safety concerns he has with the stones that get tossed from the T&W Block trucks when they are on Market Street. He has contacted the Virginia Department of Transportation about this issue but it takes them too long to respond. Is there something that the Town can do to fix this issue when it arises? Mayor-Elect asked that Mr. Kerbin send T&W Block a letter about this issue. Mr. Smith continued with another concern he has about the speed in which motorists are traveling on Market Street. Mr. Smith shares that the Police Department does an excellent job of catching speeders on their way into Town but that once those motorists get past them they increase their speed. Mr. Smith also shared that every Sunday morning between 11 AM and noon someone is parking in the middle of East Street by the Town Gazebo which is blocking all traffic. Mr. Smith asked that the Police start patrolling Market Street on Sunday morning from SunTrust down to the Wharf. Lastly, Mr. Smith shared his concern about the lack of etiquette individuals are using while working with their drones. Recently, his wife was in the backyard sunbathing a drone was hovering over which was no higher than his roof, approximately 35 feet. Mr. Smith feels that this is an invasion of privacy. Councilmember Krause shared that drones are regulated by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and cannot be regulated by the Town. Mr. Smith suggested that the Town at least come up with some rules of etiquette for those individuals.

Mr. Haydon Rochester, King Street, congratulated the new Mayor and Councilmembers and thanked outgoing Mayor Jones and Councilmember Byrd for their years of service. Mr. Rochester stated that he has never seen the Town look as good as it as over the past few years.

Planning Commission Report:

No meeting.

Waterfront Committee Report:

Councilmember Byrd shared that the committee discussed the upcoming summer events and possible schedule improvements. With the exception of the spring weather the Wharf is off to a great start. Several renovations are underway and some are scheduled for this winter. These projects also have financial support through the Virginia Port Authority grant and the Boating Infrastructure Grant. Councilmember Byrd thanked Mrs. Lisa Fiege for her assistance with securing the Boating Infrastructure Grant for the bathhouse floor replacement project. Councilmember Byrd also thanked the Wharf staff for their hard work. Councilmember Byrd shared that there have had a few incidents recently that have involved people jumping from their boats onto our docks which has resulted in injuries. To correct this issue, the Town will be purchasing steel cables along with specific signage asking that people disembark their watercraft appropriately. Councilmember Byrd shared that Mayor Jones will be joining the Waterfront Committee in July.

Personnel Committee Report:

Councilmember Krause shared that there was no meeting but that there will be one coming up shortly.

Holiday Committee Report:

No meeting.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Jones thanked the members of Town Council and Town Staff for all their assistance over the last six years. Mayor Jones shared that with everyone's time and assistance the Town has been able to get a lot done over those years.

Town Manager's Report:

Town Manager Kerbin shared the following:

- Town Hall staff will be going Live with the new billing software June 26, 2018. Staff will continue to input data entry through the month of July.
- Public Works staff assisted with the preparations for the Le Tour de Shore bike race and the Shore Made Music Festival which was held on June 16, 2018.
- The Town has hired a new Public Works staff member, Eric Nock.
- The Police Department has been awarded approximately \$38,000 from the Department of Criminal Justice Services (599 Funds) for general police operations.
- The Police Department will be switching to First Net Responder telephones. These telephones will allow the Department priority access over the airwaves during a disaster.
- Several Town staff members attended a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) training on June 20, 2018.
- Mr. Kerbin attended the Virginia Local Government Management Association (VLGMA) conference on June 21, 2018. The conference included Town Managers, City Managers, and County Administrators across the state.

Council Comments:

Councilmember Byrd thanked everyone for their assistance during his time on Council.

Councilmember Krause thanked Mayor Jones and Councilmember Byrd for all of their hard work during their time on Council. Councilmember Krause stressed what wonderful mentors they were to her when she was starting out. Councilmember Krause also shared that the Onancock Main Street community survey would be coming out soon and that if anyone who does not receive the email would like to participate, that they please email the group at onancockmainstreet@gmail.com.

Closed Session, if needed:

Councilmember Bloxom made a motion that Town Council convene a Closed Meeting for the purposes of holding a consultation with the Town Attorney pertaining to a specific legal matter requiring the provision of legal advice by such Counsel, pursuant to Section 2.2-2711(A)(7) of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended. Councilmember Krause seconded the motion.

Closed session convened at 8:15 PM.

Councilmember Bloxom made a motion that Town Council reconvene in Open Meeting, and that a roll call vote be taken and recorded on this motion so that each member who votes in favor shall, thereby, certify compliance with all of the matters in Section 2.2-3712(D) of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended. Councilmember seconded the motion.

Roll call called:

Robert Bloxom	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	Ray Burger	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Catherine Krause	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	Joshua Bundick	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> Absent
T. Lee Byrd	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	Fletcher Fosque	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No

Open meeting reconvened at 8:41 PM.

Adjourn:

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 PM.



Russell Jones, Mayor



Lisa Flege, Deputy Clerk