

Town of Onancock
Town Council Meeting
October 22, 2018
7:00 PM

Call to Order and Roll Call:

Vice-Mayor Bloxom called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and roll was called. Vice-Mayor Robert Bloxom and Councilmembers Catherine Krause, Joy Marino, Ray Burger and Joshua Bundick were present. Mayor Fletcher Fosque and Councilmember Maphis Oswald were absent. A majority of members were present, and a quorum was established. Councilmember Maphis Oswald joined the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Consideration and Approval of the Regular Town Council Minutes from the September 24, 2018 Meeting:

Vice-Mayor Bloxom asked if there were any changes, additions or corrections to the minutes as submitted.

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

Public Business:

- a. Public Hearing - Condemnation Ordinance: Councilmember Krause asked that this item be postponed. All members were in agreement.
- b. Presentation by Robert Bridgham, Eastern Shore Broadband Authority: Mr. Bridgham shared with the Town Council Eastern Shore Broadband Authority's plan for expanding fiber links to residential customers on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. This will be done through a phased approach which should take about two-years to complete.

Council discussion followed.

Ms. Toni Nelson, Ames Street, shared that she feels loyal to her current broadband provider although she sees the need for expanded services.

Council shared their overall enthusiasm for the project and thanked Mr. Bridgham for the presentation.

- c. Procurement Policy Approval: Council decided to table this until the November 13, 2018 work session meeting.
- d. Resolution: Grant Approval Allowing the Town to Obtain Financial Assistance from the USDA-Rural Development for a New Police Vehicle: Mr. Kerbin explained that the United States Department of Agriculture-Rural Development (USDA) requires that Town Council adopt this Resolution which allows the Town to enter into a financial agreement with them for grant/loan funding for a new police vehicle.

Council discussion followed.

Council gave their verbal consent and asked if there were any additional steps required. Mr. Kerbin indicated that there was not, and Vice-Mayor Bloxom signed the Resolution.

- e. Update on Year-Round Bathroom Access at the Wharf: Mr. Kerbin gave a report on the pros and cons of keeping the restrooms open year-round.

Council discussion followed along with comments from the public.

Councilmember Oswald suggested that this item be discussed further at the November 13, 2018 work session meeting.

Public Comment:

Mr. Mike Onufry, Ames Street, asked that the residents be notified when brush and limb pickup will commence each month.

Ms. Ann Nock, Market Street, asked that there be additional brush and limb pickup when a terrible storm has been through Town.

Ms. Ann Nock, Market Street, thanked the Onancock Main Street Initiative group for all they have accomplished.

Planning Commission Report:

No meeting.

Waterfront Committee Report:

Vice-Mayor Bloxom shared that the wharf paving project was discussed along with the issue of the floating slip ramp which needs to be raised. Councilmember Bloxom also mentioned the Town was waiting for an updated proposal from Ed Weber for the wharf bathroom project.

Personnel Committee Report:

No meeting.

Holiday Committee Report:

No meeting.

Mayor's Report:

No report.

Town Manager's Report:

Town Manager William Kerbin read his report aloud.

ICMA Conference:

Mr. Kerbin attended the ICMA conference from September 23rd – 26th in Baltimore. The conference hosts city managers, county administrators, department heads and student interns from throughout the world. He attended sessions on succession planning, implementing successful regulations for airbnbs, business retention, and practices for selling your community to retailers.

Transfer of Streets to VDOT:

Shoreline surveyors will be surveying East and Waples Streets so that the town can transfer these streets to VDOT. Once the surveys are complete, Mr. Kerbin will reach back out to VDOT to determine: 1) the streets meet the criteria to be transferred; and if so, 2) the remaining requirements needed to transfer these streets over to VDOT.

Northeast Neighborhood Revitalization Project:

Mr. Kerbin is setting up a meeting with Clinton Strand and some other residents in the Northeast Section community to discuss the project and hope to hold this meeting in November.

Home and Garden Tour Preparations:

The Garden Tour Committee has been meeting to discuss goals to prepare for the Home and Garden Tour scheduled for May 4, 2019. The goals include improvements to the restrooms at Town Hall, plantings in gardens around Town including the Welcome Sign, Custis Park and Town Hall; and edging sidewalks and street sweeping on Market Street. VDOT is planning to edge sidewalks in Spring, 2019 along Market Street and also schedule street sweeping prior to the tour.

Wharf Interpretive Panel:

Mayor Fosque and Mr. Kerbin met with Shannon Alexander regarding the content for an interpretive panel to be installed at the wharf. The panel will include information on wildlife and history of Onancock as well as a map. A grant is funding the panel. The panel is planned to be installed in Spring, 2019.

VDOT Projects:

VDOT engineering is reviewing the Town's request to remove five parking spaces in front of the Charter building and to install crosswalks around Town. The parking spaces should be eliminated sometime in the Winter or Spring of 2019. The crosswalks for Jackson and Market Streets, and North and Market Streets are planned to be installed in the Summer of 2019; and the crosswalks for King and North Streets, and Ames and Market Streets are planned to be installed at a later date to be determined.

Also, Mr. Kerbin shared a letter that was sent to him in praise of the Onancock Police Department, shared his discussion with the Eastern Shore Car Cruisers about a possible event in Town as well as gave an update on the wharf parking lot paving project.

Council Comments:

Councilmember Krause visited Gloucester, another Virginia Main Street Town, and mentioned the unique cross walks with brick stamping. Councilmember Krause would like Town to discuss doing a project like that in coordination with the Main Street Initiative.

Councilmember Marino thanked Councilmember Oswald her hard work getting the Onancock photobooth ready for the Golden Spike Railroad Festival in Parksley. Councilmember Marino also thanked Mr. Rick Turner and others for their hard work cleaning up the Town's public restroom facilities.

Councilmember Krause thanked everyone for their participation in the Main Street Initiative surveys and meetings.

Councilmember Burger shared that the Tree Board has started planting trees for screening at the sewage plant. Councilmember explained that there were still a few more that needed to be planted and if anyone was interested in helping they should reach out to Mr. Bill Burnham.

Councilmember Oswald expressed her concerns over bushes and shrubs around Town that are creating visibility issues for drivers due to their location.

Closed Session, if needed:

None.

Adjourn:

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.



Robert Bloxom, Vice-Mayor



Lisa Fiege, Deputy Clerk