

Town of Onancock
Town Council Meeting
January 28, 2019
7:00 p.m.

Call to Order and Roll Call:

Mayor Fosque called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. and roll was called. Mayor Fletcher Fosque and Councilmembers Robert Bloxom, Catherine Krause, Joy Marino, Ray Burger, Joshua Bundick and Maphis Oswald were present. All members were present, and a quorum was established.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Consideration and Approval of the Meeting Minutes from the December 17, 2018 Regular Town Council Meeting and the January 14, 2019 Work Session Meeting:

Mayor Fosque asked if there were any changes, corrections or additions to the minutes that were submitted.

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

Public Business:

- a. Public Hearing; Text Amendments to Town Code Section 24-1 (New Definition of "Attached Structure" and Amendment to "Building, Accessory"): Mayor Fosque opened the public hearing at 7:06 p.m.

Mr. Kerbin read the proposed definitions aloud. Mr. Kerbin explained that these definitions came from the Planning Commission. Councilmember Bloxom, council representative for the Planning Commission, further explained that these definitions were created and/or amended to address the lack of clarity in the Town's current zoning ordinances relating to detached structures and accessory buildings. Mayor Fosque suggested that Council make the passage of these definitions contingent upon the Town Attorney's approval since there were some Council questions regarding the necessity of the new definition for attached structure and the amended definition for accessory building. Councilmember Oswald suggested that the Council wait on a vote for the time being.

Mayor Fosque closed the public hearing at 7:10 p.m.

Councilmember Oswald made a motion to table this item. Councilmember Bundick seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

- b. Update on Broadband Services: Councilmember Marino gave a brief update on the Eastern Shore Broadband Authority's migration into the incorporated towns on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Councilmember Marino explained that the Town of Onancock is on the bottom of the list to receive services. The target date for service in Onancock is January 2020. Councilmember Marino also shared what the cost will be for this service. Councilmember Marino mentioned that Mr. Bridgham with the Eastern Shore Broadband Authority shared that the Town is currently eligible to add a free hotspot, possibly at the gazebo. Mayor Fosque explained that

this item had been discussed previously and the general concern with putting a hotspot on the gazebo is that the roof could be damaged, and it is expensive to repair/replace. Councilmember Bundick asked Mr. Kerbin to follow up with Council on the hotspot.

- c. Resolution in Support of the Commonwealth of Virginia's Support for the Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution: Councilmember Marino read the Resolution allowed. The Resolution is in support of the Commonwealth of Virginia's passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Councilmember Marino made a motion to approve the Resolution. Councilmember Bundick seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

- d. Approval of Partnering with Accomack County to Utilize the Code Red System: Mayor Fosque explained that Mr. Pruitt, Accomack County Public Safety Director, gave Council a presentation in the January work session meeting regarding the Town partnering with the County and using their Code Red emergency notification system. Mr. Kerbin further explained that the Code Red system has all of the landlines already included in the system for notifications but that cellphones would need to be registered.

Councilmember Oswald made a motion that the Town of Onancock participate in the County emergency notification system, otherwise known as the Code Red system, and that the Onancock Town Council instruct the Town Manager along with the Police chief to coordinate with the Accomack County Director of Public Safety to establish a protocol for sending emergency messages. Councilmember Bloxom seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Mrs. Janet Fosque, Market Street, asked if the County would be responsible for signing people up for this program. Mayor Fosque stated that the Town would also work to get the word out about the notification system. Councilmember Bundick thanked the County for allowing the Town to utilize this system with them. Councilmember Oswald thanked Ms. Irene Lewin, Lewin & Carr Realtors, for bringing this need to Council's attention.

- e. Approval of the Town Council Meeting Schedule for Calendar Year 2019: Mr. Kerbin reviewed the proposed dates.

Councilmember Bloxom made a motion to approve the proposed dates for Calendar Year 2019 Town Council Meetings. Councilmember Oswald seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

- f. Discussion on Wharf Operations: Councilmember Bloxom explained to Council that Mr. TK Fitchett has resigned from his post with the Town as the Harbormaster. Councilmember Bloxom stressed the need to find his replacement quickly since the boating season is approaching. Mayor Fosque asked if Council wanted to keep the position full-time with the current pay scale. Councilmember Oswald asked when this position became full-time. Mayor Fosque explained that the position was just reclassified for the current fiscal year. Mayor Fosque also mentioned that the hiring of assistants at the marina is critical to help keep the over-time pay to the Harbormaster down.

Ms. Ann Nock, Market Street, stressed that the Town should not lose sight of the importance of the marina and that classifying the position as full-time should help recruit better candidates.

Councilmember Krause stated that this is Council's time to decide how to proceed.

Mayor Fosque asked if Council wanted to keep the position full-time. Councilmember Bundick suggested that the Town look for possible candidates with a stronger marketing backgrounds. Council expressed their general consensus on keeping the position full-time.

Mrs. Kathy Boyd, Market Street, expressed her concern for the dismal appearance of the marina during the off-season.

Councilmember Bloxom shared that the slips have been offered for monthly rental during the off-season along with special deals during rock fish season but there has not been interest in renting during that time. Councilmember Bloxom suggested that the Waterfront Committee review the off-season slip pricing for 2020.

Mr. Kerbin shared that Branscome will be repairing the parking lot in Mid-March.

- g. Update of 2018 Goals and Objectives: Mr. Kerbin reviewed the 2018 chart of goals and objectives with Council. Councilmember Bundick shared that he has seen improvements in all of the areas listed.

Council also discussed the cleaning of the water tower.

- h. State of the Town Report: Mr. Kerbin reviewed the Town highlights of 2018. Some of the items mentioned were a possible sewer expansion project, construction of a new Verizon tower, the start of the Onancock Main Street Initiative, recodification of the Town Code, Garden Tour, upgraded software, interpretative panel for the marina fuel tank along with revitalization projects and marina grants.
- i. 2019 Goals and Objectives: Mr. Kerbin reviewed the Town staff's 2019 goals and objectives. Mr. Kerbin asked Council to review and add items as needed.

Council discussion followed.

Public Comment:

Ms. Ann Nock, Market Street, suggested that the Town Council keep apprised of the goings on around Town, entities such as the Watermen's Museum, Blacksmith Shop and Ker Place are groups that make Onancock a well-rounded destination. The water is a great asset but not the only asset. Ms. Nock asked Council to support their efforts.

Planning Commission Report:

No meeting.

Waterfront Committee Report:

Councilmember Bloxom shared that there was no meeting but informed Council that Ed Weber had begun working on the Harbormaster Shack floor repairs.

Personnel Committee Report:

No report.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Fosque shared the following items with Council:

- Mr. Kerbin and Mayor Fosque went to the Virginia Municipal League (VML)'s general assembly to listen to presentations as well as meet with Onancock's local representatives. The sewer expansion project was discussed.
- Governor Ralph Northam visited Ker Place recently to give an oral history of the Samuel Outlaw Blacksmith Shop.
- Mr. Kerbin and Mayor Fosque met with the new mayor of Onley along with their Town Manager, Jayme Salazar, to discuss a mutual aid agreement.
- Garden Tour planning is coming along well.
- Mayor Fosque also reminded Council that they have a mailbox located in the Town Hall and suggested that they check on it regularly.

Town Manager's Report:

Mr. Kerbin shared that he did not have a formal report for Council. Mr. Kerbin shared the list of the landscapers that were contacted asking them to bid on the project. Mr. Kerbin explained that Mr. Klinge and Thomas Gardens will be receiving their request for bid shortly.

Council Comments:

Councilmember Bundick shared that he and Councilmember Bloxom met with Accomack County and Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital to discuss Riverside Shore Memorial's procurement of two new grinders that will be installed in Town to address some technical issues that have arisen since the hospital has been online. Councilmember Bloxom stated that if this repair does not correct the problem then they would need to move onto the next steps.

Councilmember Oswald expressed her concern that the Town has not been using meals tax revenue for marketing. She suggested that Council review that revenue and decide how best to spend those funds. Mayor Fosque stated that the meals tax revenue is not designated for marketing purposes, the transient occupancy tax revenue was to be used for those efforts.

Mayor Fosque shared that there would not be any more work sessions until the budget workshop.

Councilmember Oswald suggested that the Town remove the trash charge from the water and sewer bills, citing that this service used to be free and was subsidized by tax revenue. Currently, residents do not see how their tax revenue to the Town helps them. This deduction would be a clear-cut example of their tax dollars working for them.

Councilmember Marino invited everyone to the St. Patrick's Parade event, sharing that the Council is number six in the lineup.

Closed Session, if needed:

None was needed.

Adjourn:

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.



Fletcher Fosque, Mayor


Lisa Fiege, Deputy Clerk