

Town of Onancock  
Town Council Meeting – AS AMENDED  
July 25, 2019  
7:00 p.m.

Call to Order and Roll Call:

Mayor Fosque called the meeting to order and roll was called. Mayor Fletcher Fosque and Councilmembers Robert Bloxom, Joy Marino, Ray Burger, Maphis Oswald and Matt Spuck were present. Councilmember Catherine Krause was absent, and a quorum was established.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Consideration and Approval of the Meeting Minutes from the June 24, 2019 Regular Town Council Meeting: Mayor Fosque asked if there were any changes, corrections or additions to the minutes as submitted.

Councilmember Bloxom asked that the Accomack County Sewer Amended Agreement vote be corrected to say that Councilmember Bloxom made the motion and Councilmember Burger seconded it instead of the reverse.

Councilmember Spuck asked that under "Council Comments" on page five the word "negations" be corrected to say "negotiations".

*Councilmember Bloxom made a motion to approve the June 24, 2019 meeting minutes as corrected. Councilmember Burger seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.*

Public Business:

- a. Discussion of the Amended Sewer Agreement with Accomack County – Town Manager William Kerbin: Mr. Kerbin explained that the amended sewer agreement with Accomack County was passed in the June meeting, but that council added a pretreatment condition to the agreement. Mr. John Custis, Town Attorney, was present to discuss removing the pretreatment condition to the agreement. Mr. Custis explained that the amended agreement without the pretreatment condition addendum had already addressed some items the initial agreement was lacking. All new additions to the agreement were in the town's favor. Mr. Custis asked that council remove the pretreatment condition, for now, from the agreement. Mr. Custis shared that it is an issue that Accomack County also wants to work towards but would like to be done correctly which will take more time.

Council discussion followed.

*Councilmember Bloxom made a motion to approve the amended agreement as presented. Discussion followed. Councilmember Bloxom then amended his initial motion to approve the agreement as presented to council tonight but with the effort on both parties to have the conversation to negotiate the pretreatment standards as quickly as possible. Councilmember Spuck seconded the motion. Mr. Custis asked that the motion state "effective immediately". Councilmember Bloxom confirmed that approval would be as of tonight with the effort to negotiate pretreatment standards as quickly as possible. Councilmember Spuck seconded the*

*motion. Councilmembers Bloxom, Marino, Burger and Spuck were in favor. Councilmember Oswald abstained. The motion passed.*

- b. FY2020 Budget Amendment – Town Manager William Kerbin: Mr. Kerbin explained that when the budget was passed in the May Town Council Meeting the water and sewer expenses were out of balance with its revenues. Expenses exceeded revenues by \$2,631.70. Mr. Kerbin suggested that two line items on the general fund side could be comfortably reduced so that the general fund could transfer funds into the proprietary fund to cover its projected expenses. The two line items recommended were the Mosquito Sprayer Contract expenditure and the Weed Control Contract expenditure.

Councilmembers Burger and Oswald asked if the town was allowed to do that since our loan documents state that the proprietary fund needs to be self-supported and not balanced by general fund dollars. Mayor Fosque said that the town could legally transfer into the proprietary fund.

Councilmember Spuck expressed his concern that an out of balance budget was passed in the first place and asked that better processes be in place for future budget cycles.

*Councilmember Bloxom made a motion that the Town of Onancock approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$2,631.70 and approve the transfer of \$2,631.70 from the general fund to the water/sewer fund. Councilmember Spuck seconded it. Councilmembers Bloxom, Marino, Burger and Spuck were in favor of the motion. Councilmember Oswald was opposed. The motion passed four to one.*

- c. Approval of the Alternative Location of the Civil War Trail Sign – Town Manager William Kerbin: Mr. Kerbin explained that he and Ms. Cara Burton, Eastern Shore Library, looked at Town Square and have decided that location would work for this project. Mr. Kerbin shared that he did approach the Onancock Postmaster about placing the sign on their property but that it was a no go.

Ms. Burton came before council to ask for an easement so that the project could start moving forward. Ms. Burton shared that the Onancock Business and Civic Association (OBCA) has appropriated the grant funds necessary to fund this project. The idea behind this project is to promote historic tourism. Ms. Burton shared some highlights of the project with council, such as: the sign in Parksley would point to Onancock, the Eastern Shore's participation would bridge the gap between the Delaware, North Carolina & Maryland trails; and, that this program has a national reputation for this type of tourism.

Council discussion followed.

*Councilmember Spuck made a motion that the Town of Onancock approve the location of Town Square for a Civil War Trail sign and authorize the Town Manager to sign an easement granting permission to Civil War Trails, Inc. to enter the referenced property stated below and install a historical marker as part of the Civil War Trails program contingent upon:*

- *A narrative for the sign is provided to Town Council prior to installation for review and approval.*

*Councilmember Bloxom seconded the motion. Councilmember Bloxom, Marino, Burger and Spuck were in favor of the motion. Councilmember Oswald was opposed. The motion passed four to one.*

- d. 5-Year Town Road Maintenance Plan – Town Manager William Kerbin: Mr. Kerbin shared his action plan with council, some items discussed were Jackson Street and the Town Hall Parking Lot.

Council discussion followed. Council asked Mr. Kerbin to bring a more detailed plan to the August Council Meeting.

- e. FY2020 Budget Carry-Forward: Town Recodification Funding – Town Manager William Kerbin: Mr. Kerbin explained that this project is still ongoing and the unspent funds from FY19 need to come forward to FY20.

Council discussion followed.

*Councilmember Bloxom made a motion to carry forward funds from FY2019 to FY2020 in the amount of \$12,010.00 to complete the Town Code codification. Councilmember Oswald seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.*

Public Comment:

Mr. Jeffrey Barrett, North Street, shared his interest in the Civil War Trail Sign project. Mr. Barrett suggested that the Historic Cokesbury Church may help explain the split political beliefs during that campaign.

Planning Commission Report:

No meeting.

Waterfront Committee Report:

No meeting.

Personnel Committee Report:

No meeting.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Fosque shared that the Central Accomack Little League (CALL) Senior Boys team was going to the world series. Their game will be televised Saturday at 10:00 a.m.

Mayor Fosque also shared that the Onancock Main Street Initiative group went to a meeting in Lynchburg which was an incredible learning experience for the group.

Mayor Fosque shared that there will be a public information session held in August for the regional sewer transmission line.

Town Manager's Report:

Mr. Kerbin read his report aloud.

Wharf Interpretive Panel: The installation of the wharf interpretive panel is scheduled for July 19, 2019. Mr. Kerbin have discussed the idea of having a ribbon cutting with Shannon Alexander from the Accomack Northampton Planning District Commission once this is installed.

Sewer Grinder Pump: Bob Bloxom, Bryan Horton and Mr. Kerbin will meet with county and hospital staff to discuss a proposed solution to the hospital rags affecting the town pump station.

Onancock at Welcome Center: Businesses are encouraged to participate in Onancock Day at the Welcome Center on Saturday August 3 at the Welcome Center at the Bay Bridge Tunnel. The Tourism Commission is allowing businesses to set up tables in the patio area out front. The Welcome Center is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. but business owners who are participating are encouraged to set up their tables and tents by 10:00 a.m. The town has tents and tables for business owners who may need them to sign out and take with them to the event. This will be an excellent opportunity for the businesses and the town to market itself. Thank you to Christy Betz at the Tourism Commission for this wonderful opportunity!

Transfer of Streets to VDOT: Mr. Kerbin is working on a few administrative items to finalize the transfer of East and Waples Streets to VDOT. East Street will require an approximate 10' right of way since the current right of way does not include all of the sidewalk and parking area. Mr. Kerbin is also awaiting another utility provider to submit a right of way permit to VDOT.

The town is also able to include Lee Street to be transferred to VDOT but this street has not been scheduled for a survey at this point.

Business Licenses: The Town still has 15 businesses who have not applied for a FY 2020 business license. We have sent out another reminder to these businesses to apply for a license by August 13 or the business will be turned over to the Town Attorney.

Oak Tree in Town Square: The Oak Tree in Town Square will be removed due to disease. This will occur within the next couple of weeks. West Street may need to be closed and portions of the park as well. An appropriate tree will be planted in its place.

Sensitivity/Equity and Inclusion Training: Staff participated in sensitivity/equity and inclusion training on July 18.

Mr. Kerbin also added:

- The Verizon cell tower will be in place Friday, July 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Public Information Sessions for the Regional Sewer Transmission line is scheduled for August 14<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the Onley Town Center as well as August 15<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at Exmore's Town Hall.
- Mr. Kerbin is also looking into scheduling a Robert's Rules of Order training for council as well as a Board Governance training class.
- Mr. Curtis Smith will be at the August Town Council meeting to discuss the Community Development Block Grant with council.

Financial Report:

Mr. Kerbin shared his report aloud. Mr. Kerbin highlighted that the general fund had a surplus at year end FY19 and that water/sewer had a deficit.

Councilmember Spuck asked that the report be more quantitative in the future.

Mayor Fosque shared that the VML Annual Meeting is this coming October and that it will be held in Roanoke. Mayor Fosque asked that interested council members contact Mr. Kerbin so that he can schedule the meeting for them.

Follow-up on Council Action Items:

No discussion.

Council Comments:

Councilmember Oswald asked about possible resolutions to the consumption of alcohol at the wharf issue. Mr. Kerbin shared that he was still working on that item.

Councilmember Oswald also asked that council start using the word marina in lieu of wharf at future meetings.

Councilmember Oswald also asked about the interpretive panel and why it was not covering the gas tank. Mayor Fosque asked that the Waterfront Committee review this issue.

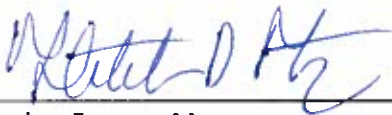
Closed Session, if needed:

None.

Adjourn:

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.



Fletcher Fosque, Mayor



Lisa Fiege, Deputy Clerk