

Town of Onancock
Town Council Meeting
September 23, 2019
7:00 p.m.

Call to Order and Roll Call:

Mayor Fosque called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and roll was called. Mayor Fletcher Fosque and Councilmembers Robert Bloxom, Joy Marino, Catherine Krause, Maphis Oswald and Matt Spuck were present. A majority of members were present, and a quorum was established. Councilmember Ray Burger arrived at 7:01 p.m.

Consideration and Approval of the Meeting Minutes from the August 26, 2019 Regular Town Council Meeting and the September 3, 2019 Work Session Meeting:

Mayor Fosque asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes as submitted.

Councilmember Oswald asked that the August 26th minutes to be changed from “called a steering committee” to “asked if it would be a steering committee” on page 2.

Councilmember Spuck made a motion to the approve the minutes as amended. Councilmember Bloxom seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Public Business:

- a. General Update from the Onancock Volunteer Fire Department – Adam James, Chief: Mr. James updated council on the Fire Department’s operations, items such as number of calls and the need to purchase new equipment were discussed. Mr. James also expressed his displeasure with a letter that was sent from Town Manager, William Kerbin, regarding future rules for having events at the town’s marina. Mr. James’s concerns were specific to the content and timing of the letter.

Council discussion followed. Council decided that the town property rental policy needs further review.

- b. Road Maintenance Plan Budget – Town Manager William Kerbin: Mr. Kerbin explained that this is a follow-up from the July meeting. The chart in the agenda packet lays out the street repairs needed/cost associated with those repairs and the streets that will be turned over to Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT).

Council discussion followed.

- c. King Street Parking Lot – Mayor Fletcher Fosque: Mayor Fosque explained that there is a vacant lot that Mr. Bill Bagwell owns on King Street and he has asked if the town would be interested in renting it as overflow marina parking. Mayor Fosque asked if council would be interested in granting permission for Mr. Kerbin to discuss the potential rental with Mr. Bagwell. Mayor Fosque added that this rental would help get parked trailers off Market and King Streets.

Council discussion followed. All council members confirmed that they would be interested in having Mr. Kerbin discuss this potential rental with Mr. Bagwell.

- d. Vacant Property at 8 Watson Street – Town Manager William Kerbin: Mr. Kerbin explained that there is a burned-out property on Watson Street that has been up for tax sale twice. Both time the bids were not enough to cover attorney fees, county and town taxes. The town could bid on the property and then take the structure down.

Council discussion followed. Mayor Fosque asked that council concerns be addressed at the next council meeting.

- e. Councilmember Maphis Oswald’s Appointment to the Personnel Committee – Mayor Fletcher Fosque: Mayor Fosque explained that Councilmember Oswald requested to be appointed to the Personnel Committee to fill the vacant seat left behind by Mr. Joshua Bundick.

Councilmember Marino made a motion that Councilmember Oswald be appointed to the Personnel Committee. Councilmember Bloxom seconded the motion. The passed by unanimous voice vote.

- Mayor Fosque then explained that Mr. Byrd’s name was let off the initial motion to appoint the members of the Sewer Transmission Line Steering Committee.

Councilmember Bloxom made a motion to appoint Mr. T. Lee Byrd to the Sewer Transmission Line Steering Committee. Councilmember Marino seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Public Comment:

Mr. Matthew Yoder, Holly Street, asked if the new cellular tower would be 5g. Mayor Fosque explained that it would not be 5g. Mr. Yoder expressed his concerns over the potential health risk of 5g, especially in homes with small children.

Ms. Janet Turner, Candidate for the Accomack County School Board, shared that the Town of Onancock would be in her district, if elected. Ms. Turner shared that we have good schools in our district which makes a strong healthy community. Ms. Turner also shared her credentials.

Ms. Karen Gravelle, Division Street, asked which streets were up to be transferred to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). Mr. Kerbin read the list aloud.

Ms. Thelma Gillespie, Watson Street, expressed her concern with the three burned out dilapidated structures located on Watson Street. Councilmember Marino asked if Ms. Gillespie would like to see the town purchase the property and clear it out. Ms. Gillespie indicated that she would.

Mr. James Lilliston, Candidate for the Accomack County Treasurer’s seat, introduced his wife and shared his credentials with council. Mr. Lilliston emphasized his experience with working in the Treasurer’s Office since 2005.

Planning Commission Report:

Councilmember Spuck explained that there was a public meeting at the Historic Onancock School to discuss what the public likes/dislikes about the town as well as what some potential goals for the town

might look like. Chairman Judith Grier and Mr. Jim McGowan are working on gathering all of the comments for the Planning Commission's review.

Waterfront Committee Report:

No meeting.

Personnel Committee Report:

No meeting.

Sewer Transmission Line Steering Committee Report:

Councilmember Bloxom shared that their first meeting will be September 26th at 10:00 a.m.

Mayor's Report:

County Supervisors and Town Councils will hold a meeting to discuss petitioning the Courts to be placed in Hampton Roads Sanitation District's service area on October 24th from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Fosque asked about planting a tree this Fall for Ms. Anne Nock instead of the Spring. Councilmember Burger explained that a different tree would need to be decided on since the currently decided upon tree must be planted in the Spring.

Councilmember Burger and Mayor Fosque were present at the Friends of Onancock School Board Meeting. They are making progress on room rentals, exterior painting and the LOVE sign.

Councilmember Marino shared that she was glad to see the water leak in front of the school had been repaired.

Town Manager's Report:

Mr. Kerbin read his report aloud.

- Replacement of Mt. Prospect Bridge Water Line: The Health Department has signed off on the replacement of the water line under Mt. Prospect Bridge and this line can now be operational again.
- Northeast Section Revitalization Project: The ANPDC is working on the planning grant for proposed community development improvements for the Northeast Section neighborhood. The grant is due on September 30.
- Business Revitalization Planning Grant: The town has requested assistance from the ANPDC for a business revitalization planning grant. The town is awaiting a response from ANPDC for approval of the assistance since other towns have also applied.
- Police Department: The police department has been awarded 2 grants recently: 1) \$5500 for a highway safety grant from the State of Virginia for police officer salaries, and 2) \$2,000 for traffic delineators and traffic cones from a VML insurance grant.
- Business Licenses: There are 3 businesses without 2019 business licenses and these 3 businesses will be referred to our attorney.
- Northeast Section Park Improvements: Mr. Kerbin attended a workshop hosted by the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth for potential funding for the Northeast Section park. This funding will need to be applied for next year since we need data from the Northeast Section Revitalization project.

Financial Report:

Mr. Kerbin asked if there were any questions. Councilmember Spuck shared that the year-to-date for the previous fiscal year was extremely helpful.

Follow-up on Council Action Items:

Councilmember Oswald asked that the sign for Little League include the accomplishment of both the senior boys' and girls' team. Mayor Fosque asked where the sign would be located, explaining that he just wanted a directional sign. Mayor Fosque suggested that Mr. Kerbin talk with Little League about where they would like the sign.

Council Comments:

Councilmember Bloxom expressed his concern over the plethora of mosquitos. Councilmember Krause mentioned that the mosquito sprayer is spraying at the wrong time. Councilmember Krause also expressed her concern about it being done at dusk since there are so many people out on the streets at that time.

Councilmember Marino and Krause thanked everyone for coming out for tonight's meeting.

Councilmember Burger mentioned that he attended the Onancock Harbor Challenge and that he hopes to see more people at it next year.

Councilmember Oswald shared that the Parksley Railroad Festival is coming up and that she is in need of volunteers.

Councilmember Spuck mentioned that he was looking forward to the steering committee beginning their work on Thursday.

Closed Session, if needed:

None.

Adjourn:

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.



Fletcher Fosque, Mayor



Lisa Fiege, Deputy Clerk