

Town of Onancock
Town Council Meeting
December 16, 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, Ray Burger, Maphis Oswald and Matt Spuck were present. Councilmember Catherine Krause was absent. A majority of members were present, and a quorum was established.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Consideration and Approval of the Meeting Minutes from the November 25, 2019 Regular Town Council Meeting:

Mayor Fosque asked for any changes, corrections or additions to the meeting minutes as submitted.

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

Public Business:

- a. Onancock Main Street Initiative Update – Mrs. Janet Fosque: Mrs. Barbara Johnsen, President of the Onancock Main Street Initiative (OSMI), shared with council that there will be an annual report presented to them in the January meeting. Mrs. Johnsen expressed OSMI's appreciation of support for the FAB Friday's program. Mrs. Johnsen outlined the goal of the program along with the hope to grow it in future years. Mrs. Johnsen also shared that she will be presenting their strategic plan to council in the January meeting. Currently, OSMI is working on grant submissions for additional funding.
- b. Discussion of the St. Patrick's Parade – Mayor Fletcher Fosque: Councilmember Marino shared that a volunteer has stepped up to co-chair the parade, Claire Marie Smith.

Council discussion followed. Some items discussed were the parade financials, fund raising and the potential need for more direct town involvement.

Council decided to have staff continue what they have been doing for the parade.

Public Comment:

Mrs. Kathy Boyd, Market Street, shared that the town looks fabulous for the holidays. She thanked the town staff for all their hard work on the decorations and parade.

Planning Commission Report:

No meeting.

Waterfront Committee Report:

Councilmember Bloxom shared that on their December 10th meeting the committee discussed the possibility of the commercial oysterman renting slips in the off season. The committee also discussed the potential grant funding from the Virginia Port Authority to assist the town with repairing the boat ramp.

Personnel Committee Report:

Mayor Fosque shared that the committee discussed the possibility of a floating holiday but decided that at present it does not make sense. The committee also discussed the potential adoption of a new position in the personnel manual but that was tabled for a future meeting.

Sewer Transmission Line Steering Committee Report:

Councilmember Bloxom shared that they have an upcoming meeting on December 23rd which will be to meet with Mr. Ted Henifin, Hampton Road Sanitation District General Manager.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Fosque shared that the town looks great for the holidays. Mayor Fosque thanked the Sewer Transmission Line Steering Committee for their hard work. Mayor Fosque also shared that Northampton County voted to move forward with their petition to the courts to be added into the Hampton Roads Sanitation District's service area and that the petition did include the Town of Exmore. Accomack County is due to vote on the petition on December 18th.

Town Manger's Report:

Town Manager William Kerbin read his report aloud.

Taxes: Taxes were due on December 5. As of December 10, the town has collected 94.2% of real estate taxes and 99% of personal property taxes.

Christmas Parade: Town staff finalized preparations for the annual Christmas parade.

Town Code Review Update: Staff met on December 10, 2019 to confer on proposed changes to the Town Code. These changes will go to Municode for proofs and these changes should be finalized by February 29, 2020. The code will then go to Council for review and any proposed additions or changes. Mr. Kerbin estimates a 60-day review period.

VDOT Transfer of Streets: Parks Paving is continuing to make repairs to East and West Streets in order to transfer these streets over to VDOT. (Mr. Kerbin explained that it should be Waples Street not West Street)

Tree Grant Proposal: Mr. Kerbin is continuing to work with Bill Burnham on submitting a grant for tree plantings for the Outlaw building. The grant is due on January 8, 2020.

Town Audit: The town auditors, Robinson, Farmer & Cox & Associates, were here the week of December 2.

Mr. Kerbin also thanked the Public Works Department and Mrs. Lisa Fiege and Ms. Mariellen Mearsheimer for their hard work on the recent Christmas Parade.

Mr. Kerbin then mentioned that council seemed interested in reading the Code revisions prepared by staff prior to them being turned over to Municode, those will be sent to the council members for review.

Mr. Kerbin also shared that that Accomack County is planning on submitting a \$15,000 planning grant on our behalf.

Mayor Fosque asked about the status of the Civil War Trail sign. Mr. Kerbin said that it should ready by the next council meeting.

Financial Report:

No report.

Follow-up on Council Action Items:

Councilmember Marino verified that Mr. Kerbin would be giving council the revised street plan.

Council Comments:

Councilmember Oswald stated that the town looks wonderful for the holiday season.

Councilmember Marino mentioned that the Onancock Business and Civic Association has been discussing the creation of a dog park in town.

Closed Session, if needed:

None was needed.

Adjourn:

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.



Fletcher Fosque, Mayor



Lisa Fiege, Deputy Clerk