

Virtual Town Council Meeting – March 22, 2021

Town of Onancock
Town Council – Virtual Meeting
March 22, 2021
7:00 p.m.

Call to Order and Roll Call:

Mayor Fosque called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and roll was called. Mayor Fletcher Fosque and Councilmembers Robert Bloxom, Joy Marino, Catherine Krause, Ray Burger and Thelma Gillespie were present. Councilmember Maphis Oswald was in attendance but asked to not be counted towards the quorum. A majority of members were present, and a quorum was established.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Fosque shared that the meeting was being held virtually in accordance with State Code and that the specific code could be shared with any individual upon request.

Consideration and Approval of the Meeting Minutes from Regular Town Council Meeting on February 22, 2021 and the Budget Work Session on March 15, 2021:

Mayor Fosque asked if there were any changes, additions or corrections to either set of the minutes as presented.

With none, Councilmember Bloxom made a motion to accept both sets of minutes as presented. Councilmember Gillespie seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Public Business:

- a. Public Hearing – N.E. Project Planning Grant – Application Specifics: Mayor Fosque opened the public hearing at 7:13 p.m. Mr. Eric Luchansky, ANPDC, shared Onancock’s history with the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), stating that the last grant was finished in 1989 which helped 23 homeowners in Town update/upgrade their homes. The Town is currently operating under the scope of a planning grant through CDBG to give maximum feasibility to projects that benefit low-to-moderate income families located in the Town. Mr. Luchansky shared with the public and Council the scope of the larger grant he is putting together on behalf of the Town. Some items to be included are; the demolition of six derelict structures in the project area, the rehabilitation of ten occupied substandard homes in the project area, the updating of luminaries in the project area, the cleaning of existing ditches, the installation of a new ditch as well as the installation of the new sidewalk in the project area. Mr. Luchansky asked the public and Council if they had any questions about his presentation.

Mayor Fosque shared that the budget summary for all of the projects outlined in the grant proposal total \$978,000.

With no questions, Mayor Fosque closed the public hearing at 7:19 p.m.

Mayor Fosque asked Mr. Luchansky what the timeline will be if the Town is awarded this grant. Mr. Luchansky shared that the grant application is due April 1, 2021, once submitted it will take up to five months before the Town learns of the award.

- b. Motion to Comply with DHCD Requirements: Mr. Spuck read the motion suggested to approve the CDBG Pre-Contract Activities aloud to Council:

“Mr. Mayor, I move that we approve the CDBG pre-contract activities included in tonight’s agenda for the application prepared by A-NPDC for the CDBG grant which will improve housing and neighborhood blight in the northeast neighborhood of Onancock. These activities include:

- Appendix 4 Section 3 Business and Employee Plan
- Appendix 5 Minority and Female Business
- Appendix 6 Non-Discrimination Policy
- Appendix 7 Section 504
- Appendix 8 Residential Displacement Plan
- Appendix 9 Fair Housing Certification
- Appendix 27 Certification of Signatures
- CDBG General Assurances and Certifications”

Councilmember Marino made a motion to approve the suggested motion. Councilmember Gillespie seconded the motion. Mayor Fosque asked for Council discussion. With none, a roll call vote was taken.

<i>Robert Bloxom</i>	<i>YES</i>	<i>Joy Marino</i>	<i>YES</i>
<i>Catherine Krause</i>	<i>YES</i>	<i>Ray Burger</i>	<i>YES</i>
<i>Maphis Oswald</i>	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Thelma Gillespie</i>	<i>YES</i>

- c. Resolution for USDA Loan (Police Cars & Equipment): Mr. Spuck explained that the Town has received approval from USDA for loan/grant funds for two new police vehicles. Town Council had previously granted permission for the Town Manager to apply to USDA for these funds. Part of the USDA requirement to finalize the loan/grant document with the Town is for Council to approve the Resolution which has been provided to them in the agenda packet.

Councilmember Marino made a motion to approve the USDA loan Resolution as properly prepared and approved by USDA subsequent to our approved Resolution of October 26, 2020 to purchase two police vehicles and associated equipment. Councilmember Bloxom seconded the motion. Mayor Fosque asked for any discussion on the motion.

Councilmember Marino asked about the amount of the funding. Mr. Spuck shared that the Town is borrowing \$66,000 and is being awarded \$33,000 in grant funds.

With no further discussion, a roll call vote was taken.

<i>Robert Bloxom</i>	<i>YES</i>	<i>Joy Marino</i>	<i>YES</i>
<i>Catherine Krause</i>	<i>YES</i>	<i>Ray Burger</i>	<i>YES</i>
<i>Maphis Oswald</i>	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Thelma Gillespie</i>	<i>YES</i>

- d. Adopt Onancock Logo as Presented by Onancock Main Street on March 15, 2021: (This item was heard first under the Public Business Section of the Agenda) – Ms. Karin Rush-Monroe shared that this presentation was heard by Town Council during the March 15, 2021 Budget Work Session Meeting. Ms. Rush-Monroe explained that through Onancock Main Street’s Marketing

Grant they were able to pull together foundational attributes of Onancock along with 27 others that were part of the marketing panel. Onancock Main Street commissioned Otto Design and Marketing out of Norfolk/Virginia Beach. Ms. Rush-Monroe explained the difference between the in and out of market logo designs.

Mayor Fosque asked when the logo will be available for use. Ms. Rush-Monroe shared that the Town, once the logo is approved by Council, will solidify its trademark before using.

Councilmember Marino made a motion to approve branding and logos as submitted by Onancock Main Street and attached hereto. Once adopted, the use of the materials is precluded from public use until such time as the Town secures proper trademark and/or copyright protection and an agreement for its use is submitted and approved by the interested parties. Guidelines for branding use will be made publicly. Councilmember Krause seconded the motion.

Mayor Fosque asked for Council discussion. Councilmember Krause shared her appreciation for all of the hard work that went into this project as well as her joy over the finished product.

Mr. Bill Burnham, OBCA Board Present and Owner of Burnham Guides, asked when the logo will be available for us as well as who will be allowed to use it. Mr. Spuck shared that others have asked similar questions and the that Town will be moving as quickly as possible to secure the trademark.

Mayor Fosque called the vote. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Council Discussion:

- a. American Rescue Plan of 2021: Mr. Spuck shared that part of President Biden’s stimulus package funds are being directly allocated to incorporated cities and towns. The restrictions on their use are broadly stated. Mr. Spuck shared that Onancock’s allocation will be \$1.1 million. Mr. Spuck stated that the Town needs to come up with a plan on how best to expend those funds prior to them being released to the Town. Mr. Spuck shared with Council a few of his initial tentative suggestions for the use of the funds which include another small business grant, and water infrastructure needs. Mr. Spuck asked Council to put some thoughts together as well. Mr. Spuck shared that the Town will be self-certifying how these federal dollars are being spent and the Town will receive 50% up front and then a year later the other 50% will be sent down to the Town.

Councilmember Marino asked if the Town could use these funds to help address street issues in Town. Mr. Spuck said that the Town may be able to address some street issues with these funds if the Town is upgrading water infrastructure issues under the streets.

Councilmember Bloxom asked if the duckbill project at the Marina would qualify. Mr. Spuck stated that it would.

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Councilmember Marino asked if the Town could use the funds for the dog park. Mr. Spuck stated that he is unsure how that would be COVID-19 related but that maybe a restroom at the dog park would qualify.

Mr. Spuck also shared that the Town may be able to use some of the funds to help with lost tax revenue due to COVID-19.

Councilmember Krause suggested that the Town meet with local businesses to see if the funds could be used to help with their infrastructure needs.

Mr. Spuck shared that we are looking for projects that help rejuvenate the economy and tourism. Public restrooms, kiosks, picnic tables and the like would be good projects. Mr. Spuck shared that the monies will need to be spent by 2024.

Councilmember Marino stated that \$1 million is a large infusion of cash into the Town. She shared that these projects should be something that residents can point to in Town with pride.

Mr. Bill Burnham, OBCA Board President and Owner of Burnham Guides, shared that another business grant seems overwhelming as a business owner. Mr. Burnham feels that a round table discussion with local businesses on their infrastructure needs may be a better use of the funds.

Mayor Fosque shared that he would love to have a meeting with the local businesses.

Public Comment:

None was heard.

Committee Reports:

- HRSD, Robert Bloxom: Councilmember Bloxom shared that they have not met and that he will defer to Mr. Spuck's Town Manager's Report.
- Waterfront Committee, Robert Bloxom: The Committee met on March 9th. The Marina officially opened for the season on March 15th. Councilmember Bloxom shared that the Marina was starting to book reservations for June. Golf carts will be on site soon for the Marina guests to rent. Councilmember Bloxom also shared that the ramp project will be beginning shortly and should be completed in the second week of May. Councilmember Bloxom also shared that per Town Council's wishes, the lease has been renewed on King Street for the parking lot owned by Mr. Bill Bagwell.
- Planning Commission, Robert Bloxom: Councilmember Bloxom shared that the Commission met on March 16th. Councilmember Bloxom thanked Town Manager, Matt Spuck, for taking the lead on helping to get the Town's Comprehensive Plan completed for Council review in June. The Comprehensive Plan is comprised of 22 goals encompassing a myriad of areas in the Plan. The Commission has gone through approximately half of them. Each goal has multiple action items associated with it. Councilmember Bloxom explained to Council the importance of this document, stating that this will dovetail into a lot of planning for the Town's future.

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Councilmember Bloxom encouraged public and Council participation at the next Planning Commission meeting.

- Personnel Committee, Catherine Krause: No meeting.
- Strategic Planning, Fletcher Fosque: No meeting.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Fosque shared that the Virginia Legislature recently changed when local elections can be held. Town elections will now take place in November and at Nandua Middle School along with the other State and Federal elections.

Mayor Fosque also shared that Mr. Willie Crockett recently passed away and that Town Council should consider doing something to recognize his contribution to Onancock.

Town Manager's Report: Mr. Spuck read his report aloud.

Office Health and Wellness:

- The office is open by appointment to facilitate physical distancing. We will be sending this information out in our next newsletter.
- Town employees who have elected to receive their vaccinations have received them. I am investigating an appropriate employment policy to implement for those who elected to bypass the vaccine.

Budget 2022:

- The minor changes suggested by Council at the 3/15 workshop have been reflected in the preliminary budget. Mr. Spuck also shared his proposed Public Hearing notice with Town Council.

CDBG Grant:

- We have paid \$45,000 in Small Business Recovery Assistance grants!
- 2 more have submitted for \$19,200 with 7 being prepared for the next remittance.

Boat Ramp

- The pre-construction meeting with Salm Engineering and Murtech.

ARA (American Rescue Act of 2021)

- The allocation of funds is being sent directly to separately incorporated towns like Onancock (as opposed to going through the County as previous Cares Act funds were distributed).
- The final allocation for Onancock is \$1,100,589. 50% distributed after all certifications are received by US Treasury. The remaining 50% is distributed 12-months later.
- Onancock is beginning to craft a list of projects that adhere to the requirements and intent of the funds.

HRSD

- Internal reorganization is complete awaiting transfer to HRSD.

Job Openings

- We hired a new police officer. Chris Hargas will be introduced to Council at the earliest opportunity
- We hired for our Grounds and Landscaping opening. Walter Vasquez started work today.

Council Comments:

Councilmember Marino shared that as we move into post COVID-19 times, people appear to be out later walking around our Town and it is nice to know they feel comfortable doing so, thanks to the Onancock Police Department.

Councilmember Gillespie also shared that there has been a lot of strangers walking by her house which has given her cause for concern while watching her grandchildren.

Councilmember Burger shared that he is excited to hear that the ramp project will begin soon.

Councilmember Bloxom shared his excitement over the progress of the Comprehensive Plan.

Closed Session, if needed:

Councilmember Bloxom made a motion that Town Council convene a Closed Meeting for the purposes of holding a discussion, of the personnel, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1) and for the purposes of discussing real property, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(3) of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended. Councilmember Marino seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken.

Robert Bloxom



Ray Burger



Joy Marino



Thelma Gillespie



Catherine Krause



Maphis Oswald

Absent

Closed session began at 8:10 p.m.

Councilmember Bloxom made a motion that Town Council reconvene in Open Meeting, and that a roll vote be taken and recorded on this motion so that each member who votes in favor shall, thereby, certify compliance with all of the matters identified in Section 2.2-3712 (D) of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended. Councilmember Krause seconded the motion and a roll call was taken.

Robert Bloxom



Ray Burger



Joy Marino



Thelma Gillespie



Catherine Krause



Maphis Oswald

Absent

Open session reconvened at 8:32 p.m.

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Adjourn:

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.



Fletcher Fosque, Mayor



Lisa Fiege, Deputy Clerk