

Virtual Town Council Meeting – April 26, 2021

Town of Onancock
Town Council – Virtual Meeting
April 26, 2021
7:00 p.m.

Call to Order and Roll Call:

Mayor Fosque called the virtual meeting to order at 7:00 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 joined at 7:05 p.m. All members were present, and a quorum was established.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Fosque shared with everyone that this virtual meeting was being conducted in accordance with State Code. If interested in which State Code, please contact Town Manager Matt Spuck for additional details.

Consideration and Approval of the Meeting Minutes from the March 22, 2021 Regular Town Council Meeting:

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

Councilmember Marino stated that on page three it should read USDA not USAD.

With no additional edits, Councilmember Burger made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Councilmember Bloxom seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Discussion of the Corner Bakery Meals Tax:

Mr. Spuck read the following statement aloud:

“No one likes taxes. No one. However, to enjoy our parks and receive services like police protection, they are necessary. To collect taxes and enforce ordinances is by far the least favorite part of my job, but it is a clear responsibility of mine and I try to do it well.

After my first 6-months on the job, I noticed that many tax accounts were in arrears, and so we wanted to make a concerted effort to collect unpaid taxes of all kinds before they became more of a problem. That is how this issue began.

Just after the Christmas holiday, we began to contact residents and businesses who had not paid their taxes. On January 22, 2021 the town sent a letter to the Corner Bakery to remind them they had not paid their meals tax since March 2020. In the reminder letter that we sent; we also reminded the Bakery that Town Council had suspended meals tax for April through June of 2020 to help restaurants lower their prices to customers during that period of the pandemic. For statistical and grant application purposes, we did require meals tax figures even though there was no tax that needed to be collected or remitted for those months.

We received no response from the Bakery as a result of the letter in January, so on February 19, 2021 at 9:55am, I called the Bakery. When I introduced myself to Connie Smith and shared the reason for my call, she transferred me to Ms. Karen Edwards, who does their books for them. When I shared with Ms. Edwards the reason for my call and my request, she indicated that we would be paid.

On February 22, we received payment from the Bakery for all unpaid taxes up through January 2021. Their remittance included a letter with the sales figures for April through June of 2020, when there was no tax collected. The sales figures for April – June of 2020 averaged \$23,500 monthly, but the average sales reported for meals tax over the last 3 years was \$7,350 monthly. This \$16,000 difference indicated to me that the bakery was only collecting meals tax on about a third of their sales. The difference in monthly sales prompted me to look at the Town ordinance for meals tax.

The ordinance for Meals Tax is in Section 16-340. All Town Code can be found online on our website and is searchable and printable. The pertinent portions of the ordinance, from my perspective, are:

The definition of Meals (16-340):

Meal means any prepared food and drink, including alcoholic beverages, offered or held out for sale by a restaurant or caterer for the purpose of being consumed by an individual or group of individuals at one time to satisfy the appetite. All such food and drink shall be included, whether intended to be consumed on the seller's Premises or elsewhere, whether designated as breakfast, lunch, dinner, supper or by some other name, and without regard to the manner, time or place of service. The term "meal" does not include groceries, food and beverages sold through vending machines and alcoholic beverages sold in sealed containers for off-premises consumption.

The tax levied (16-342):

In addition to all other taxes and fees of any kind imposed by law, an excise tax is hereby levied and imposed on the purchaser of every meal served, sold or delivered in the town by a restaurant or caterer. The rate of this tax shall be five percent of the amount paid for the meal. There shall be no tax if the total amount paid is \$0.50 or less. On larger amounts, a fractional cent of tax due shall be rounded up to the next highest cent.

Exemptions (16-343 (3))

Food sold in bulk. For the purpose of this subsection, the term "bulk sale" means the sale of any item that would exceed the normal, customary and usual portion sold for on-premises consumption (e.g., whole cake, a gallon ice cream). The term "bulk sale" does not include any food or beverage that is catered or delivered by a food establishment for off-premises consumption.

After reading each of these sections, it does not seem reasonable to me that cakes and packaged products make up nearly 70% of the Bakery's sales. I felt it warranted further clarification and thoughtful consideration. I contacted our Town Attorney, Rachel Kellam, via telephone during the last week of March and we agreed that because THE possibility for misunderstanding by raising the question in person, a letter was the best course of action. I requested that she review the letter before I send it to ensure it appropriately shared our concerns. On April 1, 2021, I received the following email from Ms. Kellam:

"Hey Matt. The letter is great. Was it sent to them yesterday? If so, please let me know their response, and whether you need me to step in. Hopefully, they'll comply properly. FINGERS CROSSED." My response later that evening was: "I didn't send it until I heard from you. Will mail tomorrow. Thanks." Rather than mailing the letter, I delivered it by hand.

On April 8, 2021 I received a thoughtful and respectful email response to my letter in which Pete Smith indicated that he would forward both his letter and mine to his attorney.

For a disagreement in ordinance interpretation, this is exactly what should happen; let two independent attorneys discuss and resolve to mutual satisfaction. I replied to the Smiths' response with the following email:

"Thank you for your response to my letter of April 6. I have attached my response to your letter. I am very hopeful and confident that we will navigate through this issue quickly and easily."

My letter was crafted with our Town Attorney over the telephone on April 13, 2021, and read:

Thank you for your response dated April 8, 2021. As your letter states, if you would like to meet with me in person regarding the Town's meals tax, I am available to discuss the matter at your convenience.

The Town supports the requirement that your bakery collect the pass-through meals tax as explained in my letter dated April 6, 2021. Our interpretation is supported by other towns on the Shore whose bakeries also pay meals tax on all non-factory packaged products. Due to your interpretation of the Town Code, please have your attorney respond by April 30, 2021.

Should no response be received by April 30th, starting May 1, 2021, the Town requires the Bakery to collect and remit meals tax for all sales that are not factory prepackaged as stated in the Town Code.

At this point, we have had a difference in interpretation of town ordinance that was in the hands of each of our attorney for review, discussion, and recommendation. My hope at this point is that the attorneys would craft a revision to the ordinance to remove any ambiguity. This revision would be presented to Town Council and we would all move forward from there.

On April 21, the Corner Bakery decided to share their interpretation of the Town ordinance on Facebook and request support from their followers. This is well within their rights and we encourage respectful public discourse. However, the Town has not, nor will it address the public comments on social media. And, I am sure that the Smiths would never encourage, condone or endorse the hurtful personal communications I have received in my private messaging and social media accounts from their followers who disagree with my and our Town Attorney's interpretation of the ordinance.

At this time, I stand behind my interpretation that the *intent* of the meals tax is to levy a 5% tax on the purchasers of food prepared on-site and sold for consumption by and individual or a group of individuals. By including text that defines what is reasonable consumption might be, we add a level of subjectivity to AN ordinance that is unreasonable to administer.

Examples include:

- Is it reasonable that one person consumes a large pizza they take out from Davinci's, is that bulk because it is more than one person should reasonably eat at one time?
- If I pick up two meals from Blarney for Kim and me, it is clearly more than one person would eat at one time, is that bulk?
- I was having lunch at Janet's and the person in front of me was picking up 7 sandwiches for the people they work with. It is clearly for a group of individuals.

In my opinion, this is what happens with a dozen donuts. People bring them home or to work to share with a group. "Being consumed by a group of individuals" is clearly stated in the Town ordinance. I contend that the *intent* of bulk sales is for food prepared for resale, and not for a subjective amount of food that someone thinks is unreasonable for one person to eat. The Corner Bakery's attorney thoughtfully presented a different interpretation.

I ask Town Council to review the ordinance and give thought to revising it to remove this ambiguity. Until that happens, my recommendation is that we ask the Corner Bakery to collect and remit meals taxes as they have in the past.

In the last email communication with the Town Attorney on this matter, in part she said, “It is up to [Town] Council to decide if the Town wants to fight the fight or amend the ordinance.”

I am not, was not, and would not look for a fight or even a negative exchange.

My hope is simple: through respectful communication with Onancock businesses and with Town Council, we remove any ambiguity from the ordinance to allow administration to equitably enforce the ordinance in place.

Enforcing Town ordinance is the job of the Town Manager. The Town Council did not charge me with this specific matter, and they never would as it is simply outside their purview. The job of Town Council is to adopt, amend, or redact town ordinance. It seems this is a perfect opportunity to remove the vagueness that exists in this ordinance.

I made every effort to keep this matter professional and private. I made sure to seek legal counsel at every step. This is a professional difference of opinion on a Town ordinance, and I am sorry it has become so much more than that.

My wife and I are small local business owners here in Onancock. We collect and remit taxes to the town as required. Even when our business was down 80% in 2020, we swallowed hard and wrote the check. We also thoroughly enjoy the Corner Bakery donuts and proudly send our customers to the bakery and we will continue to do so. With help from Town Council, this difference of interpretation can be resolved quickly and amicably. “

Councilmember Bloxom stated that he endorses Mr. Spuck approach to this matter, sharing that upon his reading of the ordinance he too noticed ambiguity. Councilmember Bloxom stated that he believes that the Smiths did their best to interpret the Code. Councilmember Bloxom shared that he feels that the Code needs to be reviewed and adjusted to diminish any ambiguity. This is a pass-through tax that does not hurt the business. Councilmember Bloxom also stated that it is important that the Code is applied to all businesses uniformly.

Councilmember Marino asked about the tax accounts that are in arrears. Will more issues such as this one be popping up? Mr. Spuck shared that at the time there for four businesses in arrears but currently there is only one.

Councilmember Oswald stated that since the Town has been accepting the Corner Bakery’s interpretation of the Town’s Code for many years, it seems like they can continue to collect and remit like always.

Councilmember Burger stated that there is one exemption listed to this Code and he feels that the Corner Bakery has interpreted correctly, stating they make bulk sales and they are exempt.

Mayor Fosque stated that the ordinance is vague. Upon his review of Cape Charles’ ordinance, he noticed, that they do list exemptions to the meal’s tax. Mayor Fosque shared that he feels that Town Council should allow the Corner Bakery to continue has they have done for many years.

Councilmember Bloxom shared that this might be a good time to review this Code section and that researching other Town's may be a helpful guide in making changes.

Councilmember Oswald stated that does not matter what other towns do, Onancock can do its own thing.

Mayor Fosque stated that this item will be deferred to Code review and that for now Corner Bakery will continue to operate as before.

Public Business:

- a. Public Hearing, Special Use Permit at 22 Johnson Street: Mr. Spuck explained that this property was already operating as a homestay but since the property has changed hands the new owner is required to get Town Council approval. Mayor Fosque asked if Council had any questions.

With none, Councilmember Oswald made a motion to approve SUP 04:21 with the following requirements:

- *All guests must park in the off-street spaces provided;*
- *The owner agrees with the Transient Occupancy Tax code as detailed in Sections 16-72 through 16-81;*
- *The owner agrees to pay al water, sewer, and garbage bills within 30 days of the bill date and understands that service will be disconnected immediately thereafter, and reconnection fees apply.*

Councilmember Marino seconded the motion.

Mayor Fosque opened the public hearing at 7:25 pm and asked for public comment. With none, he closed the public hearing at 7:25 pm and a roll call vote was taken.

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

The motion passed six to zero.

- b. Public Hearing, Town Budget for FY2022: Mayor Fosque opened the budget public hearing at 7:26 p.m. Mr. Spuck explained that this public hearing was advertised in accordance with State Code. This proposed budget was already heard by Town Council in March. Mr. Spuck shared the highlights of the proposed budget: no tax increases; elimination of Town stickers; removal of the gross sales receipts requirement for business license renewals; lower water rates for low and high volume users; the Town will absorb the credit card fee; and, this proposed budget does not include the cost of the sewer treatment plant.

Councilmember Marino asked about the projected increase in the transient occupancy tax revenue. Mr. Spuck stated that it had been reduced in the current year's budget because of the pandemic, stating that it should return to normal in the coming fiscal year.

Councilmember Oswald asked about the special fund listed for the grants. Mr. Spuck stated that the fund is only for grants secured by the Town and that the breakdown of the grants has been provided on page 44.

With no further council or public comment, Mayor Fosque closed the public hearing at 7:33 p.m. Mayor Fosque shared that the budget would be adopted at the May 2021 Town Council meeting.

- c. Approval of Town Wharf Ordinance 21:01: Mr. Spuck explained that Town Staff was waiting for Accomack County to approve their language for administering the parking fees for the County ramps. Mr. Spuck explained that all Accomack County residents that have a boat listed on the property tax roll will receive a decal to place on their vehicle which will grant them free parking while using the County boat ramps. Mr. Spuck explained that the Town’s proposed language mimics the County’s, anyone displaying that sticker will also get free parking in Town while using the Town’s boat ramp.

Mr. Spuck read the recommended motion aloud, “An ordinance repealing the fee for public ramp use in Sections 36-25 through 36-29 and adding parking controls for vehicles, boats, trailers on town-owned property or public streets in Section 3623. This ordinance also amends the use of unreserved floating docks to allow use for up to four hours at no charge to the boater.”

Councilmember Oswald stated, so moved. Councilmember Bloxom seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

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

The motion passed six to zero.

Council Discussion:

- a. American Rescue Plan of 2021: Mr. Spuck shared that since the Town is not a Department of Housing & Community Development Town, the funds from the American Rescue Plan Act will be distributed to the Town directly. Mr. Spuck stated that tonight’s goal was to get input from Town Council on how they feel the funds should be spent under the guidelines of the Act.

Mayor Fosque stated that he felt that the community should have the opportunity to weigh in on how the Town spends the funds, possibly create a committee to review suggestions for its uses. Councilmember Oswald stated that they should have a community forum so that all residents could weigh in. Town Council asked Mr. Spuck for details on what can and cannot be done with the funds.

- b. Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) Grant – Bike and Pedestrian Path: Mr. Spuck explained that he has reviewed the potential for the Town to apply for a TAP grant for a bike/pedestrian trail in Town. Mr. Spuck stated that he was looking for Council approval for him

to continue forward in the grant process. Mr. Spuck explained that the Road Diet application was denied by VDOT and that this project could step into the Road Diet’s place. Mr. Spuck reviewed the phases of the TAP grant as well as the fact that the Town has enough reserve funds to meet the grant match requirement (20%).

Councilmember Oswald stated that the Town might be able to use the Historic Onancock School (HOS) trail as well, since bikers also use that path. Mr. Spuck explained that the TAP program requires that two roads be connected. Mr. Spuck also stated that HOS may not want their trail paved.

Councilmember Marino stated that she was in favor of Mr. Spuck applying to VDOT for this grant but asked to see a clearer map of the proposed bike trail.

Councilmember Krause asked if this project fits into where Onancock wants to go in the future. Is this a project that the Town wants to spend its reserve funds on?

Mayor Fosque asked what the timeframe is for the grant application. Mr. Spuck stated that the preliminary application is due in the summer. Mayor Fosque stated that he was unsure that this project is what the Town should spend its reserve funds on, especially with empty downtown buildings. Mayor Fosque stated that Town Council needs to create a priority list.

Councilmember Bloxom stated that he would like to authorize Mr. Spuck to move ahead with the preliminary TAP grant application.

Councilmember Bloxom made a motion to instruct the Town Manager to complete the application for funds. Councilmember Oswald seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

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

The motion passed five to one.

- c. Honoring Onancock Residents: Mr. Spuck shared that he was approached about honoring influential community members that are no longer with us. Mr. Spuck asked Council for their feedback on how best to celebrate these individuals, possibly through an event like a community picnic.

Councilmember Marino shared that some community members were already working on organizing a community picnic like there use to be at Ker Place, the last one was in 2007. Mrs. Hilary Hartnet-Wilson, Executive Director for the ES Historical Society, is already sponsoring an event in May so the committee is planning on having the picnic on September 12, 2021. Mayor Fosque asked if this event is a Town event or Historical Society event. Councilmember Marino stated that it is a Town event with the Historical Society working with the Town for a shared venue.

Mr. Spuck shared that event honoring Onancock residents was an idea that came from Mrs. Phyllis Ward and that he would like to be able to tell her how Council feels about the idea as well as the potential of blending the picnic event with this event. Councilmember Oswald stated that she sees an opportunity for a blending of the events which could be recurring. Mayor Fosque suggested that they get together with Mrs. Ward to iron out the details. Councilmember Bloxom asked if Mrs. Ward would be interested in volunteering to be on the committee. Councilmember Oswald stated that this would be a good opportunity to make sure the Town is maintaining volunteer hours for in-kind grant donations.

Mr. Brian Keiser, Parker's Creek, shared that he has been working with Mrs. Ward on this matter since his friend Willie Crockett died. Mr. Keiser stated that he felt that this event could be an economic engine for the Town. Mr. Keiser shared that the North Street Playhouse is allowing them to do a Willie Crockett poetry reading and the that the venue is available September 10, 2021. Mayor Fosque asked how the Town could get involved. Mr. Keiser shared that the idea of the Town celebrating individuals such as Willie Crockett, Ann Nock and Mr. Outlaw will be a good catalyst to bring people into Town, stating that history is a great selling point.

Mayor Fosque stated that a committee should get together to review some ideas. Councilmember Gillespie stated that this would be a great opportunity for a two-day event.

- d. Council Member Terms and Elections: Mr. Spuck shared with Council their terms, explaining that three Council members and the Mayor are up for reelection in 2022. Mr. Spuck also reminded Council the State Law has been changed and Town Council is now required to hold its election in November. Mr. Spuck stated that Mrs. Lisa Fiege has reviewed the Town's ordinance and identified the changes that will need to be made to comply with the State Code.

Public Comment:

Mrs. Kathy Boyd, Market Street, stated that she was disappointed to hear about the TAP grant, sharing that she did not feel that the bike trail would offer her enough safety and therefore would not be a good idea.

Ms. Maegan Smith, Co-Owner of the Corner Bakery, stated that they feel that they are in compliance with the Town Code for collecting and remitting the meals tax. Ms. Smith also stated they are extremely disappointed in how this matter was handled, why involve legal action before first attempting to dialogue with them?

Mr. John Holdren, Mt. Prospect Avenue, thanked Town Council for eliminating the Town sticker requirement. Mr. Holdren also thanked Town Manager, Matt Spuck, for holding two community meetings regarding the various potential fixes to Warren Street, it was nice to be included in the conversation.

Sarah Nock, Market Street, asked for clarity on the parking ordinance that was passed. Mr. Spuck explained that the restrictions are only for trailer parking.

Committee Reports:

- a. HRSD, Robert Bloxom: Councilmember Bloxom stated that he would defer to Mr. Spuck.

- b. Waterfront Committee, Robert Bloxom: Councilmember Bloxom shared that the Committee met on April 13th and the Harbormaster, Craig Tanner, shared that he was currently in the process of interviewing for seasonal help. Summer reservations were going well and were already exceeding last year's numbers. Councilmember Bloxom shared that the Committee wants to encourage boaters to park in the overflow parking lot on King Street. Councilmember Bloxom also shared that this season a courtesy car and golf carts will be onsite for rent by our transient boating guests by May 1st.

Councilmember Oswald asked how the courtesy car rental will work. Mr. Spuck explained that a transient guest may use the car free of charge for up to four-hours, any time after that they will be charged on a per hour basis.

- c. Planning Committee, Robert Bloxom: Councilmember Bloxom shared that the Commission discussed the potential rezoning of a house on Hill Street, a group is asking to place a group home there. The Commission also finished reviewing the Comprehensive Plan rewrite.
- d. Personnel Committee, Catherine Krause: No meeting.
- e. Strategic Planning, Fletcher Fosque: No meeting.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Fosque thanked everyone who reached out to Town Council on behalf of the Corner Bakery, the correspondences were thoughtful.

Town Manager's Report:

Mr. Spuck read the follow report aloud:

- Town Hall will be back open to the public May 3, 2021. Administrative Staff will be two-weeks out from their last vaccination. Town staff that opted to not receive the vaccination will be required to continue to wear face coverings.
- The Town will be going Live with its new online payment processor, Invoice Cloud. Mr. Spuck also shared that the Town will be absorbing the credit card fees for all users.
- The Town has paid out \$62,000 in Small Business Recovery Assistance grants to local businesses. Three more businesses have been submitted to CDBG for grant assistance in the amount of \$28,000. An additional five applications are currently being prepared to submit to CDBG in the next remittance.
- Equipment for the ramp project is being staged currently for an imminent weather-dependent start. The cofferdam will be constructed in the next few days.
- The Town's American Rescue Plan Act allocation is \$1.1 million which will be distributed in two equal parts a year. Mr. Spuck is surveying other towns throughout the Country, State and County to learn how they plan on using their allotments. Since the Town is not a DHCD entitled community, the Town's distribution will be passed through the State.

- Most of the major components of the draft agreement between the HRSD and Town have been accepted. The use of public funds to install wastewater collection for the new homes on Jefferson which required a letter from us to HRSD has been approved. HRSD's Commission has authorized their Executive Director to negotiate the remaining items.
- A new Police Officer has been hired, Dalton Wood. He will be introduced at the next Town Council meeting. Mr. Wood was previously employed at the Accomack County Sheriff's Department, working in the jail. He will need to attend the Police Academy to obtain his certification. The other applicants for the last Police Department position open, will also need to be certified. Management is going to structure it so both new hires train together.
- Warren Street, Waples/Jackson Street extension are scheduled to be tar & chipped in the next few weeks. Mr. Spuck held two community meetings to discuss potential road repair resolutions for Warren Street. The leak under Jackson Street has been repaired and Mr. Spuck is contacting paving contractors for solutions on how best to care for the street.
- Mr. Spuck is currently researching best practices for fund balances and reserve policies for Councils review.
- With the pending move of the wastewater treatment plant to HRSD, Mr. Spuck has split the Department of Public Works (DPW) away from the wastewater treatment plant. The DPW staff reports to Mr. Spuck directly and is made up of water, streets, and landscaping. Mr. Spuck shared the reason for operating this way prior to the plant moving away from the Town, is to see what works, what resources are needed and what communication works best.
- The sale of the Justis Street property has been finalized and the proceeds have been used to purchase sheds for the DPW yard by the water tower. These sheds will house tools, vehicles and parts which are currently being stored at the wastewater treatment plant.
- The Department of Public Works also has a new email address, dpw@onancock.com, which residents can use to report issues around Town. This email address is being monitored by Ms. Mariellen Mearsheimer who will then share the content with the appropriate staff member. Mr. Spuck also urged residents to send emails about things that make them happy about the Town as well.
- The Dog Park has been cut and staff are planning the lay out of the area. Mr. Spuck is working with contractors for quotes on fencing.
- Mr. Walter Vasquez, DPW- Landscaping, is busy chipping, weeding, and will begin mulching shortly.
- Mr. Terry Sargent, DPW – Buildings/Roads, is spending a lot of time with Mr. Vasquez as well as working on cleaning curbs. Staff is rotating one street per neighborhood to help spread around the attention.
- Mr. Victor Talbot, DPW – Water, is focused on meter readings as well as working on his professional development so that he can get his water license. He is also working on organizing water parts and inventory in the new space.
- The Town is finally under contract with BIG (Boating Infrastructure Grant), so the new pedestals, security system, air conditioning, walk boards, and advertising campaign can begin.
- "Welcome to Onancock" packets are being prepared for all transient boaters.

Virtual Town Council Meeting – April 26, 2021

- The Police Department is still understaffed. Overtime hours are taking a toll on the officers and even with that, they continue to serve Onancock and provide support to our neighboring communities.
- The new police vehicles have been ordered.
- Mr. Spuck also shared that the Town will be performing hydrant flushes in May.

Ms. Sarah Nock, Market Street, asked what happens with the hydrant flushing. Mr. Spuck explained that it gets the sediment that has settled out of the bottom of the line.

Council Comments:

Councilmember Marino asked for clarity on the wharf parking, stating that the Town will still issue stickers to be placed on those vehicles to park. Mr. Spuck shared that the Town will no longer be selling stickers of any kind. A parking pass will be issued to those without the Accomack County decal.

Councilmember Oswald shared her excitement over the new online payment vendor as well as the coming flat fee for business licenses. Councilmember Oswald also thanked the public for their comments about the Corner Bakery.

Closed Session, if needed:

None was needed.


Adjourn:

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.



Fletcher Fosque, Mayor



Lisa Fiege, Deputy Clerk