

Onancock Town Council – August 23, 2021

Town of Onancock
Town Council Meeting
August 23, 2021
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 Ray Burger, Joy Marino, Sarah Nock and Maphis Oswald were present. Councilmembers Robert Bloxom and Thelma Gillespie were absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Consideration and Approval of the Meeting Minutes from the July 26, 2021 Town Council Meeting:

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

Councilmember Marino pointed out a grammatical error on page one under public business, the line reads, "...that Council already this heard...", it should read, "heard this".

With no additional changes, Councilmember Nock made a motion to adopt the minutes as amended. Councilmember Oswald seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Public Business:

- a. Joint Public Hearing – Onancock Planning Commission and Town Council to Hear Public Comment Regarding the FY2022 Comprehensive Plan:

Mayor Fosque opened the public hearing at 7:02 p.m.

Chairwoman Judith Grier called the Onancock Planning Commission to order at 7:02 p.m. and roll was called. Chairman Grier and Commissioners Bill Bagwell, Brandon Brockmeier, T. Lee Byrd, Larry Frey, Scott Schreiber and Carol Tunstall were present. Commissioner Robert Bloxom was absent.

Chairwoman Grier thanked former Town Manager William Kerbin, Jim McGowan, Onancock Main Street and Town Manager Matt Spuck for helping them get through the Town's Comprehensive Plan update.

Mayor Fosque shared that this is strictly a public hearing on the proposed rewrite of the Town's Comprehensive Plan. Mayor Fosque shared a letter that was submitted by Town resident Michael Ward about the Comprehensive Plan (email attached).

With no additional public comment, Mayor Fosque closed the public hearing at 7:16 p.m.

Chairwoman Grier asked if any of the Commissioners had any comments. Chairwoman Grier shared that the Comprehensive Plan needs to be updated every five years.

With no additional comments, Commissioner Bagwell made a motion for the Planning Commission to adjourn. Commissioner Byrd seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

The Onancock Planning Commission meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Mayor Fosque asked for Council comments.

Councilmember Oswald stated that she has a lot of notes on language issues that need to be addressed in the Plan.

Mr. Spuck explained that he will take Council notes and public comments, fold them into the document and bring the edited document back before Council. Mr. Spuck shared that, to date, most of the changes were grammatical and not strategic.

Councilmember Nock shared that the Town's approach to dealing with flooding is in line with the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission and Accomack County's approach.

Council Discussion:

- a. Schedule ARPA Work Session – Mr. Spuck shared that he has taken suggestions from the Town Hall Meeting, Town Council and Staff to create the potential projects list for the ARPA funds for Council's review. Town Council decided to hold the Work Session on September 20, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.
- b. Capital Budget: Mr. Spuck reviewed his proposed five-year capital plan (see attached report).

Councilmember discussion followed.

- c. USDA Resolution for Capital Equipment: Mr. Spuck explained that USDA – Rural Development's fiscal year starts October 1st. His plan is to be the first municipality in line for grant/loan dollars from USDA to assist with the purchase of new public works vehicles/equipment. With Council's adoption of the proposed resolution, Mr. Spuck will be able to move forward with USDA applications as soon as they are available.

Councilmember Nock read the Resolution aloud and a motion to adopt the Resolution. Councilmember Marino seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Public Comment:

No additional comments were heard.

Committee Reports:

- HRSD, Robert Bloxom: Mr. Spuck shared that HRSD, and the Town, were still waiting to hear back from USDA regarding the Town's potential liability to pay them back the grant portion of the funds distributed to the Town for the wastewater plant upgrade. USDA also required the plant to be appraised to make sure that the Town would not lose or make money on the transfer of the plant

to HRSD. Mr. Spuck reported that the appraisal came back within 3%. Mr. Spuck shared that the hope to transfer the sewer plant employees to HRSD by the next payroll.

Mr. Glen Smith, Market Street, asked about the items the Town stores down at the wastewater treatment plant, once we lose access to that property where will those items be stored. Mr. Spuck explained that sheds have been purchased for the Department of Public Works lot, at the Water Tower, which is where those items will be relocated.

Mrs. Kathy Boyd, Market Street, asked about the beautification project that was supposed to take place at the wastewater treatment plant. Will it not be completed now? Councilmember Burger shared that the planting/buffer project was completed three years ago.

- Waterfront Committee, Robert Bloxom: Mr. Spuck shared that the ramp was being repaired. The contractor did not grade the ramp to the engineer's specifications which is an issue for people launching their boats. Mr. Spuck met with the engineer and contractor and it was decided to cut the ramp back six inches to help make the transition longer. Mr. Spuck stated that the repair will be completed this week. Mr. Spuck also shared that the courtesy car is being worked on and currently unavailable to our transient boating guests.
- Planning Commission, Robert Bloxom: Mr. Spuck shared that beside the Comprehensive Plan, the Planning Commission is working on drafting an update to the Town's homestay policy.

Mayor Fosque read a letter from resident, Claudia Bagwell, aloud which outlined her concerns about the proliferation of Airbnbs in Town.

- Personnel, Joy Marino: No meeting.

Mayor's Report:

No report.

Town Manager's Report:

Mr. Spuck shared the following items with Town Council:

- Once the sewer department goes away Town Council will need to update the Town Code accordingly.
- The State of Emergency has been lifted and utility disconnections will start back up on August 29th. Town staff have been making every effort to contact those residents that are in arrears, so that they can get on payment plans.
- Mr. Spuck thanked Accomack-Northampton Electric Cooperative for their assistance with helping us install the new flag poles.

Council Comments:

Councilmember Marino thanked Mr. Spuck for the cash reserve report. Councilmember Marino asked Mr. Spuck to gather data about Airbnbs in other areas both positive and negative.

Closed Session, if needed:

None was needed.

Adjourn:

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Fletcher Fosque", written over a horizontal line.

Fletcher Fosque, Mayor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lisa Fiege", written over a horizontal line.

Lisa Fiege, Deputy Clerk