

Town of Onancock
Town Council Meeting
September 27, 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, Thelma Gillespie, Joy Marino, Sarah Nock and Maphis Oswald were present. Councilmember Robert Bloxom 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:

- August 23, 2021 – Mayor Fosque asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes as submitted.

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

- September 20, 2021 - Mayor Fosque asked for any changes or corrections to the minutes as submitted.

Councilmember Marino asked that her cost estimate for the track around the little league field be amended to say a cost estimate between \$6,000 and \$13,000.

Mayor Fosque asked Mrs. Fosque for her suggested clarification to the minutes. Mrs. Fosque stated that she did share with Town Council that Onancock Main Street requested \$100,000 be appropriated for businesses for façade improvements.

With no additional edits, Councilmember Oswald made a motion to adopt the minutes as amended. Councilmember Gillespie seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Public Business:

- a. Motion to Adopt Comprehensive Plan: Mayor Fosque shared that Town Council is scheduled to adopt the Plan which they have had time to review. Mayor Fosque then went around the table and asked all members to comment on the Plan before adoption.

Several Council members shared that they were not comfortable adopting the Plan at this time, asking for additional time to submit comments and concerns to the Town Manager. Mayor Fosque suggested that Town Council prepare and submit their comments to the Town Manager in two weeks.

No additional action was taken at this time.

Council Discussion:

- a. Follow-Up Conversation from the September 20, 2021 ARPA Work Session: Mr. Spuck shared that the proposal in front of Town Council is the amended ARPA spending plan. Mr. Spuck asked Town Council to approve the ARPA budget so that he can prepare and submit the final Recovery Plan for State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds for 2021.

Council discussion followed.

Councilmember Nock made a motion to adopt this plan and consider it appropriation as well as approval so that we can proceed. Councilmember Oswald seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

- b. 5-Year Financial Plan, Discuss Purpose and Process: Mr. Spuck shared with Town Council his plan to create a five-year plan. Council recently adopted Financial Policies for the Town and Town Council will eventually adopt the Comprehensive Plan and has seen the proposed five-year capital budget. Mr. Spuck's suggested plan does not commit Council to anything it is just a guideline for how to proceed with projects.
- c. Trash Can Allowance Per Contract: Mr. Spuck explained that per the Town's contract with Davis Disposal each customer gets one tote. Recently, Davis Disposal removed extra totes from a business in Town. The business was unhappy about this situation which has prompted us to look into best practices for our trash removal service. Some residences are in duplexes and only get one can because our current policy says one water meter one can. In our conversations with Davis, we are working to standardize the situation by saying one tote per business and one tote per residence (not meter) and they will be charged as such. We have also determined that those businesses that require more than one tote, pay separately for additional services.

Town Council discussion followed.

Public Comment:

Mr. Glen Smith, Market Street, asked a clarifying question, if you do not have a water meter you do not pay for trash pick-up? Mr. Spuck stated that is another aspect of the trash removal discussion for Town Council to consider.

Mr. Smith then asked why Mr. Spuck has been assisting the Department of Public Works with chipping for the past several months, stating that he is paid too much for that duty. Mr. Spuck explained the reasoning behind his assisting with chipping. Depending on how our new water operator performs in the near future the Town may need to hire two additional Public Works employees which will cost more, so currently the Town is in money saving mode while we wait and see what the future holds. We want to make sure our employees are successful.

Committee Reports:

- HRSD, Robert Bloxom: Mr. Spuck shared that the Town is currently waiting on the Department of Environmental Quality and the United States Department of Agriculture to write letters releasing the grant portions of their loans for the wastewater treatment plant upgrades. Once the releases from those departments are done, the Town will be three days away from closing on the property.

- Waterfront Committee, Robert Bloxom: Mr. Spuck shared Chairman T. Lee Byrd's report with Town Council. (Please see the attached report)
- Planning Commission, Robert Bloxom: Mr. Spuck shared the Planning Commission's homestay ordinance update which will be ready for Town Council reviewing in the coming months. The moratorium is still in effect.
- Personnel Committee, Joy Marino: No meeting.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Fosque shared that the Governor was in Town over the weekend for the Historical Onancock School's Love Sign ribbon cutting event. Mayor Fosque also shared that Onancock Main Street is holding a workshop on October 20th and RSVP's are due as soon as possible.

Town Manager's Report:

Mr. Spuck read his report aloud. (Please see Mr. Spuck's attached report)

Council Comments:

Councilmember Marino shared her concern over a dead fox in her yard along with the process for removal of dead animals.

Councilmember Oswald suggested that the Eastern Shore Coalition Against Domestic Violence be billed for their water consumption at a non-profit rate similar to the Friends of Onancock School.

Councilmember Nock asked about the progress of the Northeast Project Grant for assistance from the Department of Housing and Community Development. Councilmember Marino shared her recent conversation with Mr. Eric Luchansky at the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission, the Town still needs 35-50 more qualifying surveys returned to the Town before the application will become viable.

Councilmember Burger asked if the Town was still planning on holding the Christmas parade this December. Mr. Spuck stated that the parade is still on. Mr. Spuck also stated that since Halloween falls on a Sunday this year, the Trick-o-Treaters will be celebrating on Saturday instead.

Closed Session, if needed:

None was needed.

Adjourn:

Councilmember Oswald made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Marino seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Mayor Fosque briefly shared with the group that Councilmember Robert Bloxom has resigned for Town Council effective December 31, 2021.



 Fletcher Fosque, Mayor



 Lisa Fiege, Deputy Clerk