

Town of Onancock
Town Council Meeting
Monday
September 26, 2022
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order and Roll Call:

Mayor Fletcher Fosque called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Mayor Fosque and Councilmembers Ray Burger, Thelma Gillespie, Cynthia Holdren, Joy Marino, Sarah Nock and Maphis Oswald were present. All members were in attendance and a quorum was established. Town Manager Matt Spuck, Police Chief Eric Williams and Deputy Clerk Mariellen Mearsheimer were also present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Consideration and Approval of the Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes from August 22, 2022:

Councilmember Joy Marino moved to approve the minutes. Councilmember Cynthia Holdren seconded. Discussion followed. Councilmembers unanimously agreed the Regular Town Council Meeting minutes from August 22, 2022 would be considered at a future time. Councilmember Joy Marino withdrew the motion.

Police Chief Report:

Police Chief Eric Williams gave the Police department's first quarter report covering the months June through August 31, 2022. Highlights included the hiring of a fifth Police officer, officer training in radar and taser, officer participation in forty on-line courses on various subjects and the coverage of some work and overtime hours with grant money. He stated officers responded to nine-thousand two-hundred events, which included sixty-three citizen complaints, four mental health events, five welfare checks, eighty-seven resident checks, twelve business complaints and three-thousand one-hundred special patrols. Chief Williams also stated one hundred summonses were issued which included fifty-two for speeding, fourteen for seat belts and child seats, and seven for hands free, relating to cell phone use. Lastly, he reported fifty-three incident reports which included seven breaking and entering (B&E), five assaults, thirteen trespassing and five domestics. Discussion followed.

Public Hearings:

None scheduled.

Council Discussion:

- a) "Save Our School" campaign discussion

Town of Accomac resident and Council member Tommy Hines made a plea to the Town of Onancock for a letter of support for the renovation of the Accomac School. Discussion followed.

Councilmember Cynthia Holdren moved to send a letter of support. Councilmember Thelma Gillespie seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

b) Grants for which Onancock can apply (VDOT, BRIC)

Town Manager Matt Spuck presented Council with two grant opportunities for the Town: VDOT's Transportation Alternative Program and the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program. Discussion followed. Council agreed to move forward with the grant process. See agenda for additional information about the grants.

c) Town Attorney

Town Manager Spuck introduced Eric Gregory an attorney with Hefty Wiley and Gore, P.C. a firm from Richmond Virginia who joined the meeting via Zoom. Mr. Spuck stated the firm specialized in municipal law and offered fixed pricing (two-thousand dollars a month, twenty-four thousand for the year) so the Town will know exactly what to budget. Mr. Gregory gave a brief overview of his firm and described their business model and fee structure. Discussion followed.

Councilmember Cynthia Holdren moved to hire attorney Eric Gregory. Councilmember Sarah Nock seconded. An individual voice vote was held. Councilmember Ray Burger voted yes, Councilmember Thelma Gillespie voted yes, Councilmember Cynthia Holdren voted yes, Councilmember Joy Marino voted yes, Councilmember Sarah Nock voted yes and Councilmember Maphis Oswald voted yes. The motion passed with six yes votes.

Mayor Fosque asked Councilmember Cynthia Holdren to serve on the Façade Grant Improvement Committee as a representative for the Town Council. Councilmember Holdren agreed.

Public Comment:

Town resident Priscilla Hart, 21 Market Street, had concerns about lighting and safety and wanted to know when these issues would be addressed. She hoped it would be by the end of the year. She also had concerns about parking and wanted to know if we were hiring a consultant. She was concerned the shopkeepers and workers were taking up parking meant for customers. Ms. Hart was also concerned about the cat population in Town. She sent her concerns to the Councilmembers in an e-mail.

Marie Spangler, North Accomack Community Cats, spoke of the need to neuter feral cats in Onancock before the cat population gets out of hand. She provided an information packet to Councilmembers and stated she could bring the Neuter Scooter to Town for a cost of

two-thousand six-hundred dollars which would neuter about twenty-eight to thirty cats. The Town Council took no action on the matter.

Town Resident Brenda Smith, 12 Market Street, wanted to express her appreciation to the Town Council for supporting the Town of Accomac's efforts to save the Accomac School. She hoped that each Town on the Shore would support each other.

Added Agenda Item: Town Plan

Town Manager Spuck informed the Council there were four proposals for the Town Plan. Mayor Fosque had the Town Manager explain the RFP process. Mayor Fosque was disappointed there were not more proposals and wondered if the tight time frame may have eliminated some companies that were interested in bidding. Mr. Fosque wanted to know if it would help to try and get more bids. Mayor Fosque asked if the Council was interested in re-advertising since nothing pressing had to be done in the next month. He stated it could be a slower process. Discussion followed. Mayor Fosque suggested the Council set up a special meeting to continue the discussion after he gets back from the VML conference.

Committee Reports:

a) Personnel

Councilmember Joy Marino reported that the personnel committee had finished the review of the personnel policies, copies of which would be made available to the council for review.

b) Planning Commission

Mayor Fosque stated there was no meeting.

c) Waterfront

Town Manager Spuck reported the marina had a few more reservations for the month, the marina would be closing for the season on October 31, 2022 and after that date work on the bulkhead would begin.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Fosque reported he will be attending the Virginia Municipal League (VML) conference. He also reported that Frasier, the company working on our public bathroom project, will be delayed until the end of September 2022 due to a fire in the Town of Tappahannock.

Town Managers Report:

- a) Manager's report; See agenda
- b) Financial Report; See agenda

c) Project Updates; See agenda

Town Council Comments:

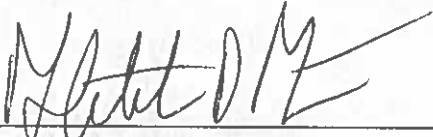
Joy Marino attended the Cokesbury reception at the Historic Onancock School and stated if you missed the juggler, she was sorry and that she then went to Foggy Place, it was a great day.

Sarah Nock asked about the building on King Street that was taken down and if someone needed a permit to take a building down. She also asked if there were any plans for the space. Town resident Glenn Smith, 12 Market Street, stated Accomack County does require a permit to take a building down. Town Manager Spuck did not know of any plans for the site.

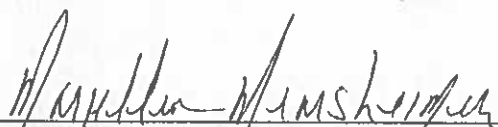
Adjourn:

Councilmember Maphis Oswald moved to adjourn. Councilmember Sarah Nock seconded. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 P.M.



Fletcher Fosque, Mayor



Mariellen Mearsheimer, Deputy Clerk