

**Town of Onancock
Town Council Meeting
Monday April 24, 2023
7:00 PM**

1) Call to order and Roll Call:

Mayor Fletcher Fosque called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and roll was called. Mayor Fletcher Fosque and Councilmembers Ray Burger, Joy Marino, Sarah Nock, and Maphis Oswald were present. Councilmembers Brandon Brockmeier and Cynthia Holdren were not present. A quorum was established. Town Manager Spuck and Town Clerk Debbie Caton were also present.

The roll was called for Planning Commission. Chairperson Scott Schreiber and Commissioners Bill Bagwell, T. Lee Byrd, Jake Dillon, Larry Frey, and Carol Tunstall were present. Commissioner Brandon Brockmeier was not present. A quorum was established.

2) The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3) Approve minutes from the March 27, 2023, meeting – Councilmember Oswald moved to approve the minutes. Councilmember Marino seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

4) Public Hearings

a) 16 Market St – Homestay – Mayor Fosque recused himself from the public hearing as he is the homeowner. Vice-Mayor Oswald opened the public hearing at 7:04 PM. The application was recommended for approval by the Planning Commission. The homestay application meets all necessary requirements. Town Manager Spuck distributed letters to contiguous property owners.

Public Comment:

- Priscilla Hart – 21 Market St – Ms. Hart read a letter in opposition to the application. Her concerns are the potential adverse impact on the neighborhood’s character, parking, and business interests or limited rights of residents.
- Brenda Smith – 12 Market St – Ms. Smith stated she is comfortable with the homestay application because the owner’s will be present during guest stays.

The public hearing closed at 7:20 PM. Councilmember Nock moved to approve the application. Councilmember Burger seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

b) 35 Meadville: Fence – Mayor Fosque opened the public hearing at 7:22 PM. John and Lisa Fiege applied for a special use permit for a 6’ tall fence. A special use permit is required for properties located on a corner lot. The application was recommended for approval by the Planning Commission. Town Manager Spuck notified the neighbors via certified mail.

**Town of Onancock
Town Council Meeting
Monday April 24, 2023
7:00 PM**

Public Comment: no public comments.

The public hearing closed at 7:24 PM.

Council Discussion: Councilmember Nock asked if the fence will be solid?

Councilmember Oswald moved to approve the application. Councilmember Burger seconded the motion. The following vote was recorded:

Councilmember Burger – yes
Councilmember Marino – yes
Councilmember Nock – no
Councilmember Oswald – yes

The motion passed with a 3-1 vote.

c)Article XI: Signage – Mayor Fosque opened the public hearing at 7:28 PM. Town Manager Spuck explained most changes affect the business districts. The ordinance gives more administrative support by outlining more specific requirements.

Public Comment:

- Sean Thomas – 145 Market St. – Mr. Thomas asked what could be done about other business' advertising or posting signs about your business?
- Paul Weitzel– 30 Meadville Dr – Mr. Weitzel asked if back-lit signs are not permitted how does the theatre keep their sign? Town Manager Spuck responded the theatre's sign is considered a marquee and this is allowed by right.
- Priscilla Hart – 21 Market St – Ms. Hart asked if murals are allowed in residential districts. Town Manager Spuck responded the sign ordinance does not exclude murals.

The public hearing closed at 7:36 PM. Councilmember Oswald moved to adopt the ordinance with an amendment to allow residential businesses to light a sign. Councilmember Nock seconded the motion. The motion passed with 4-0 vote.

d) 2024 Town Budget – Mayor Fosque opened the public hearing at 7:48 PM.

Public Comment: none

The public hearing closed at 7:50 PM. The FY 2024 proposed budget will be voted on by Town Council at the May 22, 2023, meeting.

**Town of Onancock
Town Council Meeting
Monday April 24, 2023
7:00 PM**

5) Public Presentation

a) Friends of Onancock School (FOS): Pavilion Operations – Haydon Rochester presented updates to the Town Council on pavilion operations. Mr. Rochester reported the following:

- FOS delivered to Town Council the “HOS Pavilion Operational Guidelines”
- FOS hosted five meetings with members of the nearby community and others to hear concerns about the pavilion.
- FOS has acted in good faith with required permits, on-site reviews, and approvals during the construction, and at no time did they attempt to deceive anyone or conceal the intentions of the pavilion.

6) Council Action

a) None scheduled.

7) Council discussion

a) None scheduled.

8)Public Comment –

- Karyn Belknap – owner of Ten Good Sheep – Ms. Belknap is a resident artist at HOS. She spoke to how arts can have a positive effect on small communities. The HOS is one of the top three art galleries on the Eastern Shore. Her sentiment is that everything is “figure out able” which can apply to the performance pavilion.
- Rick Turner – 3 Onancock St. – Mr. Turner referenced the presentation by Hill Studios at the March 2023 town council meeting. Mr. Hill pointed out that music can help bring towns together.
- Brenda Smith – 12 Market St. – Ms. Smith has worked with several 501 C (an exempt status for non-profit organizations) which is the same exempt status of HOS. In her past involvement with these organizations, outside people did not tell the group how to run things. She cautioned everyone that some ideas are still in brainstorming phase and warned people not to get caught up in rumors.
- Bradley Hower – 33 Hill St. – Mr. Hower moved to Onancock because of the arts community. He does not understand why the performance pavilion is being questioned.
- Mary Clements – 59 Market St – Ms. Clements thanked the police department for the “No Parking” signs that were at Joynes/College during the St. Patrick’s

**Town of Onancock
Town Council Meeting
Monday April 24, 2023
7:00 PM**

Day parade. Her request to change the zoning at HOS has not moved forward. Lastly, she requested a draft document addressing the concerns of residents who live immediately around the school property.

- Greg Temple – 76 Market St – Mr. Temple asked if the DEQ will allow for mitigation to the RPA. Town Manager Spuck responded “yes.”
- Patsy Felthousen – 5 Ames St – Ms. Felthousen has concerns because a member of FOS took pictures of her back yard and home.
- Jeff Albrechtson – 6 Johnson St - Mr. Albrechtson does not think there are any issues with transparency of ORG members. During his earlier presentation, Haydon Rochester read the names of all members.
- Bill Burnham – 46 Kerr St – Mr. Burnham read a letter from OBCA Board of Directors. The board is in unanimous support of the music performance pavilion.
- Margie Labadie – Steppingstone Arts – Ms. Labadie spoke in favor of the performance pavilion and is disheartened about the division it has caused the residents. Ms. Labadie helped run a non-profit in Maryland that brought people together with music, arts, and community.
- Greg Felthousen – 5 Ames St. – Dr. Felthousen reiterated that no resident is against the pavilion. The scope is the issue.
- Clark Williams – 5 Johnson St. – Mr. Williams is hopeful that the HOS and ORG are moving forward. He commended the Town Council on scheduling a workshop to discuss the HOS operational guidelines while trying to listen to the community.
- Janet Fosque – 16 Market St – Mrs. Fosque thanked the town for embracing Seth Lubaton. Seth completed the mural on King St.

9) Committee Reports

- a) Personnel – Councilmember Holdren was not present to give updates.
- b) Planning Commission – Councilmember Brockmeier was not present to give updates.
- c) Waterfront – Mayor Fosque reported two new golf carts were delivered. The building is open despite maintenance issues.

10) Mayor’s Report

- Last month, Mayor Fosque and his wife attended the National Main Street Conference in Boston, MA.
- The deadline to file for the special election for a town council seat in November is June 20, 2023.

**Town of Onancock
Town Council Meeting
Monday April 24, 2023
7:00 PM**

11) Town Manager's Report –

- The Jefferson St. project was approved by HRSD. Installation of the sewer lines will start mid-summer.
- The Marshall St. project is complete.
- The Holly St. culvert job will be completed by the end this week. VDOT will put in storm ditches.
- The bid for demolition of six houses in the NE district went out last week.
- The town was awarded a Virginia Tourism grant that will help with design of walking maps and an app.
- The police staff met with architect and engineer to finalize construction documents for the police department.
- The installation of security cameras will start mid-May.

12) Town Council Comments –

- Councilmember Burger – no comment.
- Councilmember Marino – Councilmember Marino is happy to see good things going on around town with the mural projects and renovations to the Lilliston Building.
- Councilmember Nock – Councilmember Nock gave an update on the Façade Grant applications. Façade Improvement Grant award letters were mailed to applicants on April 18, 2023. There is a small amount of money left over, and the committee will have a meeting to determine how to manage this balance. Councilmember Nock complimented the town on clean-up ahead of time and having things looking good for the visitors that day.
- Councilmember Oswald – no comment.

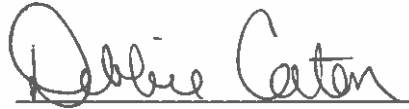
13) Closed Session – not necessary

14) Adjourn - Councilmember Marino moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Nock seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM.

**Town of Onancock
Town Council Meeting
Monday April 24, 2023
7:00 PM**



Mayor, Fletcher Fosque



Town Clerk, Debbie Caton