

**Town of Onancock
Town Council Meeting
Monday May 22, 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 Brandon Brockmeier, Ray Burger, Cynthia Holdren, Joy Marino, Sarah Nock, and Maphis Oswald were present. A quorum was established. Town Manager Spuck and Town Clerk Debbie Caton were also present.

2) The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3) Approve minutes from the April 24, 2023, meeting– Councilmember Oswald moved to approve the minutes. Councilmember Marino seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

4) Public Hearings

a) 102 Market St – Special Use Permit for Homestay – The public hearing was opened at 7:03 PM. The application was recommended for approval by the Planning Commission at the meeting held Monday, May 1, 2023. The homestay application meets all necessary requirements. Town Manager Spuck distributed letters to contiguous property owners.

Public Comments: no public comments.

The public hearing closed at 7:05 PM. Councilmember Oswald moved to approve the application. Councilmember Nock seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

b) 2 Waples St. – Special Use Permit for Homestay – The public hearing was opened at 7:07 PM. The application was recommended for approval by the Planning Commission at the meeting held Monday, May 1, 2023. The homestay application meets all necessary requirements. Town Manager Spuck distributed letters to contiguous property owners.

Public Comments: no public comments.

The public hearing closed at 7:08 PM. Councilmember Oswald moved to approve the application. Councilmember Marino seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

c) 7 Lake St. – Special Use Permit for Homestay – The public hearing was opened at 7:09 PM. The application was recommended for approval by the Planning Commission at the meeting held Monday, May 1, 2023. The homestay application meets all necessary requirements. Town Manager Spuck distributed letters to contiguous property owners. Town Manger Spuck also clarified that this special use permit can be considered because the special use permit at 12 Lake St. is no longer in effect because the property sold, and special use

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permits do not convey with the sale. Councilmember Marino requested the names of LLC to verify there is no duplicate ownership in town.

Public Comments: Town Manager Spuck read an emailed letter of opposition from Mr. Custis who lives across the street. The email read, "We are opposed for numerous reasons." The reasons were not specified. Town Manager Spuck sent a follow up email for the specific reasons. Mr. Custis did not respond.

The public hearing closed at 7:12 PM. Councilmember Oswald moved to approve the application. Councilmember Brockmeier seconded the motion. The vote passed with 4-2 vote.

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

d) 4 Market St. – Sale of Town Property – The public hearing opened at 7:14 PM. Town Manager Spuck stated Jeff and Carolyn Adler asked if the town council would consider selling a small parcel behind his house that is considered town property. The Adler's did get a survey and it showed 4700 square feet. The reason for the purchase will allow the Adler's to property to be "squared off" and not have town property in their backyard. The valuation was based on another piece of undeveloped property that is also on the creek. The assessed value is \$7,100. The Adler's offered \$7,100 for the parcel.

Public Comment:

- An audience member asked if the town could use the property? Mayor Fosque explained that currently the property is part of the kayak launch dock and park. The original plan was to add a bulkhead and a walkway with a fishing dock. The plan was not followed up on because of the lack of funds. Mayor Fosque thinks if the parcel is sold and the money is available, there is still enough space to complete the project.
- T. Lee Byrd – 38 Ames St – Mr. Byrd is chair of the Waterfront Committee and chair of the Accomack County wetlands. He does not see an upside to selling 1/10 of acre for a minimal price. Mr. Byrd asked the town council to do what they think is best.
- Rosemary Paparo – Ms. Paparo stated the assessment value and appraisal value are different. She suggested the town hire a real estate agent
- Janet Fosque – 16 Market St. – Mrs. Fosque spoke in favor of the sale of the property.

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- Peter Holt – 15 Meadville Dr – Mr. Holt asked if the town has a dinghy dock. Mayor Fosque responded the kayak dock is also a dinghy dock and there are signs stating this.
- Jeff Adler – 4 Market St – Mr. Adler was available to answer any questions about the sale of the parcel.

The public hearing closed at 7:28 PM. Town Council will go into a closed session to discuss the offer.

**5) Public Presentation:
None Scheduled**

6) Council Action

- a) **2024 Budget Resolution** – Town Manager Spuck reviewed the budget process for FY 2024. There was workshop in March where the Town Council discussed the proposed budget. A public hearing was held at the April 24, 2023, Town Council meeting. The proposed budget has no increase in taxation in any category. Water rates stayed the same except for the second tier. The budget has been balanced since the workshop in March.

Councilmember Holdren moved to pass the proposed budget. Councilmember Oswald seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Councilmember Brockmeier – yes
Councilmember Burger – yes
Councilmember Holdren – yes
Councilmember Marino – yes
Councilmember Nock – yes
Councilmember Oswald – yes

- b) **Onancock VA 250 Resolution** – The country’s semi quincentennial is July 4, 2026. The resolution will allow the town to apply for federal and state grant money for any events or celebrations for the semi quincentennial.

Councilmember Nock moved to sign the resolution. Councilmember Brockmeier seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

- c) **DHCD IRF Loan – 51 Market St** - Onancock Main Street will apply for the DHCD IRF loan on the behalf of the Town of Onancock.

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Councilmember Marino moved to sign the resolution. Councilmember Brockmeier seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

7) Council discussion

a) **Economic Development Authority (EDA) - Town of Onancock** – Town Manager Spuck spoke with the town attorney about the development of an Economic Development Authority. The board will require (7) members of which (3) can be town council members. The purpose of the EDA is to process the transactions for economic development that cannot legally be done by the town. Lending money is considered one of those transactions. For example, if the Town receives the DHCD IRF loan the EDA will write the check to the developer. Town Manager Spuck will advertise for a specific talent pool inside and outside of town limits for board members. At the June meeting, a public hearing will be held to adopt the ordinance and announce the board members.

b) **Speed limit change** – Town Manager Spuck proposed an ordinance to change the speed limit to give all businesses an opportunity to be supported by golf cart traffic. Currently, there are four streets with speed limits above 25 MPH. The state sets a default speed of 25 MPH for residential and business districts. Because of how the map works golf carts cannot visit B1 district which includes Four Corners, OBS, Maurice and Market Street Grill. The ordinance will propose 25 MPH. A public hearing will be scheduled for the June 2023 meeting.

8)Public Comment –

- Mark Sinclair – 19142 Greenway Circle – Mr. Sinclair stated the town council bore the sole responsibility to communicate to the residents about the construction of the performance pavilion. The Friends of Historic Onancock School (FOS) was next in line. He thinks the Onancock Resident Group (ORG) has many valid points and the FOS guidelines are inadequate. He hopes the town can budget a way to support the school and the cost of maintenance.
- Patsy Felthousen – 5 Ames St – Mrs. Felthousen thinks the entire community has an opportunity to create something beautiful with the performance pavilion. She discussed the schedule, security, and cost of performances for “Music on the Half Shell.” This is a music pavilion in the Town of Kilmarnock.
- Dr. Greg Felthousen – 5 Ames St – Dr. Felthousen provided update information of ORG’s website. This information was requested by Councilmember Holdren.

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9) Committee Reports

- a) Personnel – Councilmember Holdren reported the personnel draft is ready and needs to be reviewed by Town Council. She would like to see an agenda item on June 24, 2023, meeting for council discussion.
- b) Planning Commission – Councilmember Brockmeier reported the commission reviewed the new homestay special use permits. The commission also reviewed the residential zoning ordinances to make sure they are streamlined.
- c) Waterfront – T. Lee Byrd reported the committee met Tuesday, May 9, 2023. The slip dredging is moving along. Positive reports have come in on the harbor master and staff.

10) Mayor’s Report –Mayor Fosque thanked the public and town council for participating in the two-day study with Hill Studios. The garden tour tickets being sponsored by Friends of Onancock are on sale.

11) Town Manager’s Report –

- The street repairs are on the list will be completed when asphalt is available in Pocomoke.
- VA Tourism Grant – Town Manager Spuck is working with Shirley Deeds to publish a general map to assist in all functions needed to tour the town. He is also working with “Visit Widget” to create an app for tourism.
- VDOT “Ready Set Go” is allowing the town to apply for transportation alternatives at the end of King Street.
- Website Project – VisionEFX was hired as the website consultant. The development will start soon.
- PD renovation – construction documents are completed.

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12) Town Council Comments –

- Councilmember Brockmeier – Councilmember Brockmeier enjoyed the Hill Studio visit and thanked all who participated.
- Councilmember Burger – no comment.
- Councilmember Marino – Councilmember Marino stated the meeting was productive and she thanked everyone for attending.
- Councilmember Nock – Councilmember Nock reminded the audience of the event at Ker Place as well as the garden tour held by Friends of Historic Onancock School in June.
- Councilmember Oswald – Councilmember Oswald asked if any decisions were made about the leftover money for the Commercial Façade Improvement Grant that was not awarded. Councilmember Nock responded the consensus was to return the money to the main ARPA fund.

13) Closed Session – Councilmember Nock moved to discuss real estate matters as allowed per Section 2.2-3711 (A)(3). Councilmember Oswald seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 6-0 vote. Closed session opened at 9:00 PM.

Councilmember Nock moved to exit closed session at 9:55 PM.

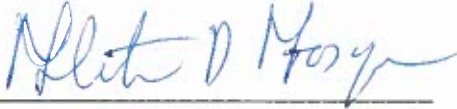
A roll call vote was taken to verify the only issue discussed was real estate matters.

Councilmember Brockmeier – yes
Councilmember Burger – yes
Councilmember Holdren – yes
Councilmember Marino – yes
Councilmember Nock – yes
Councilmember Oswald – yes
Mayor Fosque – yes


The Town Council agreed to get an appraisal to find the reasonable value of the property. Town Manager Spuck will contact appraisers.

14) Adjourn - Councilmember Marino moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Nock seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 6-0 vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:57 PM.

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Mayor, Fletcher Fosque



Town Clerk, Debbie Caton