

**Town of Onancock
Town Council Meeting
Monday, April 22, 2024
7:00 PM**

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

2) **The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.**

Mayor Fosque announced three agenda changes. Public Presentations will move before the public hearing. The resolution for 20 Market Street is being removed from the agenda. A closed session is being added to the agenda after Councilmember comments.

3) **Approve minutes from the March 25, 2024, meeting** –Councilmember Holdren moved to approve the meeting minutes from the March 25, 2024, meeting. Councilmember Oswald seconded the motion. Councilmember Marino asked if the mosaic planned for the Welcome Center is part of the mural phase III. Councilmember Holdren responded yes. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

4) **Public Presentation:**

a. **Farmer’s Market** – Theresa Van Dessel gave a presentation on a winter farmer’s market. A winter market would run from December through April of the following year. Currently the plan is to move the summer market behind the Lilliston Building with hopes of building a structure to house the winter market at the same location. The town council encouraged Ms. Van Dessel to bring back a specific plan which should include the placement and size of the structure. As that time, the town council will decide to approve or not approve.

5) **Public Hearings:**

a. **2024- 2024 Budget** – The budget workshop is scheduled for Monday, May 13, 2024, at 6:00 PM. The Public Hearing opened at 7:17 PM. The following comments were recorded from the public.

i. **George Brown** – Mr. Brown asked the Town Council to consider funds to construct three pickleball courts in Onancock. The approximate cost is \$80,000.

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Currently, there are no public pickleball courts on the mid-shore. Pickleball players must travel to Chincoteague or Cape Charles.

- ii. **Patsy Goard** – Ms. Goard is the President of The North Street Playhouse. She asked the Town Council to consider \$10,000 to help with HVAC repairs to the building. The quote to install mini splits is \$51,700. The board plans to apply for grants and have fundraising events to help offset the costs.
- iii. **Kasey Grier** – Ms. Grier attended the most recent Onancock Economic Development Authority (OEDA) meeting where there was considerable conversation about providing OEDA with startup funds. Ms. Grier fully supports the funding of OEDA as it is a mandated organization. OEDA requested \$20,000.
- iv. **Donna Bozza** – Ms. Bozza is the executive director of Citizens for a Better Eastern Shore. The 31st annual Between the Water Bike Tour is being centered in Onancock. The event can bring up to 2,000 tourists in town for the weekend. Ms. Bozza asked for \$3,000 for a corporate sponsorship.
- v. **Dr. Greg Felthousen** – Dr. Felthousen spoke at the last planning commission meeting and brought up the topic of the upcoming comprehensive plan readoption. His suggestion was the town shift its focus to be more of an ecotourism town. He also proposed the electric vehicle (EV) charging stations be supported by solar panel regeneration which might also tie into North Street Playhouse’s heating and air conditioning systems. Dr. Felthousen supports the continuing of sidewalks throughout town.
- vi. **Rosemary Paparo** - At a past meeting, the Historic Onancock School (HOS), did an annual presentation. The lease agreement benchmarks were discussed, and it was reported all benchmarks are currently being fulfilled. There have been several requests for annual support ranging from \$25,000 - \$50,000 for HOS. Ms. Paparo asked for consideration of donating these funds to the Onancock Volunteer Fire Department. She also asked for funds for the Northeast playground. Her suggestions were to replace the wood mulch with rubberized mulch, refurbish the basketball courts and replace the picnic tables. Lastly, she asked for funds to retain a water engineer or hydrologists to consult on the possibility of supplying water to two residential neighborhoods developments outside town limits.
- vii. **Mark Sinclair** – Mr. Sinclair voiced his support for any funding for the HOS. The long history of improvements at HOS are enjoyed by all members of the community.
- viii. **Zorylu Diaz-Bonilla** – Ms. Bonilla is a board member at The North Street Playhouse. She asked town council for funds to help offset the cost of a new heating and cooling system for the building. During the high productivity

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summer months, the HVAC system struggles to keep up which makes it uncomfortable for volunteers, day campers and attendees to the shows.

The public hearing closed at 7:54 PM.

6) Council Action

- a. Resolution for 20 Market St. - this item was removed from the agenda.
- b. Resolution on U-Turns – Town Manager Spuck explained he has received feedback from residents on the safety of certain intersections. VDOT needs a resolution from the town council to prohibit U-turns at certain intersections. The resolution would prohibit U-turns at Market St./ North St., Market St. /Ames St. and King St. / North St. and a generic clause that says you cannot make a U-turn if you will drive in somebody's lawn. There will be a sign for enforcement. The police department is in favor of the resolution. Councilmember Nock moved to adopt the resolution as presented. There was no second to the motion. The motion failed. Councilmember Holdren moved to defer the resolution until the plan to install crosswalks is finalized. Councilmember Burger seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

7) Council Discussion:

- a. **Project change orders** – Town Manager Spuck presented a list of change orders for the construction at the Welcome Center and the Police Department. There are eight proposed change orders for the Welcome Center totaling \$84,922. There are three proposed change orders for the Police Department totaling \$5078. (The breakdown of cost is available in the packet.) Councilmember Holdren moved to accept the change orders as presented with the understanding that Town Manager Spuck will try to reduce the prices where possible. Councilmember Oswald seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.
- b. **OEDA support** – Councilmember Marino reported all the necessary documentation has been signed for the IRF loan. There is a request of \$20,000 for startup funds. Most of the funds are needed to hire an attorney. OEDA has been advised by VML to have a different attorney than Hefty, Wiley and Gore (the town's attorney.) Councilmember Holdren addressed the issue of town staff support and the length of time before OEDA is independent. Town Manager Spuck stated it will take 6-8 months. She personally understood the town would provide seed money and that the OEDA would become independent of the town and not require staff time which is more expensive than the \$20,000. Councilmember Holdren moved to approve the

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OEDA request for \$20,000. Councilmember Marino seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-1 vote. Councilmember Oswald opposed the motion.

8) Committee Reports

- Personnel (Cindy Holdren) –Councilmember Holdren reported the next meeting will be held in June.
- Onancock Main Street (OMS) (Cindy Holdren) – Councilmember Holdren reported OMS is in the process of wrapping up the Virginia Tourism marketing leverage program. The town voted to fund a \$20,000 match for that grant.
- Historic Onancock School (Sarah Nock) –Councilmember Nock reported the following upcoming events:
 - Field Day Fiesta – Saturday, May 4, 2024, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.
 - 2nd Annual Blooms and Brushes – Saturday, June 8, 2024, from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM.
 - Wine Wednesdays each month.

Pavilion construction is ongoing with concrete work in the crawlspace is complete. The floor is installed. One of the two wings has been framed and sheathed. Several performers have expressed interest in collaborating with the school. Fundraising is underway.

- Planning Commission (Brandon Brockmeier) – In Councilmember Brockmeier’s absence, Town Manager Spuck reported the Planning Commission finalized the parking ordinance.
- Waterfront (Fletcher Fosque) –Town Manager Spuck reported the committee discussed the full time opening of the marina on April 1, 2024. All staffing requirements have been fulfilled with returning staff from last summer.
- Onancock Economic Development Authority (OEDA) (Joy Marino) – Councilmember Marino reported the committee is looking for more projects to make improvements in the town.

9) **Public Comments** – no public comments.

10) **Mayor’s Report** – no report.

11) **Town Manager’s Report** – Town Manager Spuck reported the following:

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- The trip hazard at the Wharf has been repaired. DPW staff worked diligently to get this project completed.
- The Ready, Set, Go grant has been received with the consideration of installing ten crosswalks throughout town. The grant pays for all engineering cost so that we would know what funds to apply for if we apply for the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant.
- Eastern Shore Community College wood shop class built a doghouse for the dog park.

12) Town Councilmember comments –

- Councilmember Brockmeier – not present.
- Councilmember Burger – no comments.
- Councilmember Holdren – Governor Youngkin vetoed the budget bills for the state. The Governor and a small group are working out a budget that will be revealed publicly on May 13, 2024. One discussion item was an internet sales tax on streaming services. Any service such as videos, audio books, or software upgrades bought on the internet would be subject to a 6% or 7% sales tax which is not very business friendly. Councilmember Holdren suggested if you have an opinion on this to contact your state representative or the governor.
- Councilmember Marino – Councilmember Marino followed up with the Blarney Stone to host an event for the public to meet with Town Council. It was determined that meeting with two or more councilmembers is considered a FOIA violation. Councilmember Marino would like to see a few more sidewalks installed. Her last comment was about the inconsistency with the video and audio equipment properly recording the meetings. Town Clerk Debbie Caton responded that several of the issues have been addressed and there is a plan to troubleshoot other issues as they present themselves.
- Councilmember Nock – The wayfinding committee has met twice and are close to a designation of what we would like to see on the signs and where to place them. They are working with VDOT about the numbers of characters and spacing. The committee is making good progress.
- Councilmember Oswald – Councilmember Oswald asked if the \$3,000 sponsorship for the bike tour would fall under the advertising budget. Town Manager Spuck responded yes. She encouraged any resident to call, email or stop by her work to discuss any issues.

13) Closed Session – Councilmember Oswald moved to enter closed session to discuss personnel matters as allowed by state code 2.2-37111 (A) (1) Councilmember Nock seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. Closed session began at 8:59 PM.


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Councilmember Oswald moved to reenter public session and with a roll call vote to certify that no matter was discussed other than that mentioned in the motion to enter closed session. Councilmember Nock seconded the motion.

Councilmember Brockmeier – not present
Councilmember Burger – yes
Councilmember Holdren – yes
Councilmember Marino – yes
Councilmember Nock – yes
Councilmember Oswald – yes

Closed session ended at 9:12 PM.

14) Adjourn – Councilmember Nock moved to adjourn. Councilmember Oswald seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:13 PM.



Fletcher Fosque, Mayor



Debbie Caton, Town Clerk