

Town of Onancock
Town Council Meeting
Monday, February 26, 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 present via Zoom. Town Manager Matt Spuck and Town Clerk Debbie Caton were also present. A quorum was established.
- 2) **The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.**
- 3) **Approve minutes from the January 22, 2024, meeting** – Councilmember Oswald moved to approve the minutes. Councilmember Nock seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 6-0 vote.
- 4) **Public Hearings**
 - a. **Article II: Stopping, Standing, and Parking** – The public hearing opened at 7:03 PM and roll was called for the Planning Commission. Commissioners Bill Bagwell, T. Lee Byrd, Larry Frey, and Chairperson Scott Schreiber were present. Commissioner Brandon Brockmeier was present via Zoom. Commissioners Jake Dillon and Carol Tunstall were not present. A quorum was established.

Public Comments:

1. Mary Clements – Ms. Clements read a letter expressing her concerns about parking.
2. Priscilla Hart – 21 Market St – Ms. Hart is in favor of the new parking regulations but understands the concerns. She suggested the parking restrictions (2-hour parking) on North and Market Street last until 5:00 PM. This will deter people from parking their car on the street all day. The new ordinance includes the entire business district but that may not be necessary. Most often cars monopolize the spaces on North and Market Street.

The public hearing closed at 7:11 PM.

Commissioner Byrd moved to recommend the parking ordinance to town council for approval. Commissioner Frey seconded the motion. After more discussion, the motion failed and was withdrawn.

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Mayor Fosque suggested to allow for council discussion at this time which is agenda item # 6 Council Action.

Councilmember comments are as follows:

- Councilmember Burger thinks the scope of all streets in the business district is too large. He does not think it is necessary to include King Street. And he suggested it might only be necessary for a few spots on Market Street be marked 2-hour parking.
- Councilmember Marino directed her questions to Chief Williams.
- Councilmember Holdren agrees with Councilmember Burger and that the definition of the downtown area is too large. She would like to see a smaller district and time limits only during normal business hours.
- Councilmember Oswald thinks the two-hour parking restriction would be a deterrent for tourists.
- Councilmember Nock thinks the two-hour parking restrictions after 5:00 PM is not necessary. This would make it difficult for patrons to have dinner and see a movie or play without having to move their car. She also thinks the guidelines for overnight parking should be different for hotel guest and permanent residents.
- Councilmember Brockmeier was happy to hear the productive discussions. The planning commission reviewed the ordinance without suggestions.

Commissioner Bagwell moved to adjourn the planning commission meeting.

Commissioner Frey seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:37 PM.

5) Public Presentation:

- a. A-NPDC presentation and discussion about Downtown Improvement Grant – Anne Doyle, Director of Planning for Accomack and Northampton County Planning District gave a presentation. Ms. Doyle's presentation discussed community development block grants.
- b. Friends of Onancock annual presentation – Joani Donohoe, Director of Historic Onancock School, presented the town council with updates about the status of the school to include occupancy, maintenance improvements and upcoming events.

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7) Council discussion:

- a. Codes of Ethics – Councilmember Holdren and Councilmember Marino formed a subcommittee to develop a Code of Ethics and Civility policy for town council members. Councilmember Marino moved to adopt the Code of Ethics policy with amendments. Councilmember Holdren seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion passed with a 6-0 vote.
- b. Onancock Civility Pledge – Councilmember Holdren moved to adopt the Civility Pledge. Councilmember Marino seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion passed with a 6-0 vote.
- c. Prioritized list of capital projects. - Town Manager Spuck reviewed the list of projects, expenditures and remaining ARPA projects and the estimated funds required. Councilmembers asked questions about specific projects.

8) Committee Reports

- a. Personnel (Cindy Holdren) – holiday – did not meet.
- b. Onancock Main Street (OMS) (Cindy Holdren) – Councilmember Holdren reported the Valentine’s Day promotion ran from February 1, 2024 – February 18, 2024. The businesses said they needed help with promotion during the shoulder season. OMS helped with radio and digital ads. The town square was decorated for the Valentine’s Day promotion.
- c. Historic Onancock School (HOS) (Sarah Nock) – HOS updates were covered in Joanie Donohoe’s presentation.
- d. Planning Commission (Brandon Brockmeier) – Councilmember Brockmeier reported the planning commission discussed parking.
- e. Waterfront (Fletcher Fosque) – offseason – did not meet.
- f. Economic Development Authority (Joy Marino) – Councilmember Marino reported the executive committee signed a customer information agreement sheet with Taylor Bank to open a new checking account. The Performance Agreement was in review by ANPDC and Town Attorney and has not been signed by Chairperson.

9) Public Comments

- a. Rosemary Paparo – Ms. Paparo asked if the ARPA money will be fully encumbered by the end of 2024. Town Manager Spuck confirmed the funds will be fully encumbered.

10) Mayor’s Report

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Mayor Fosque attended the Tourism summit. He enjoyed the motivational speaker.

11) Town Manager's Report –

- a. Town Manager Spuck updated the following projects:
 - i. HRSD meter replacement project will start soon. Once each meter is switched out the billing will be monthly instead of bi-monthly per town council approval. All new bills will come from HRSD.
 - ii. The wharf concrete project is ongoing.
 - iii. The spill site for the dredging has been approved.

- b. Financial report – see attached report in packet.

12) Town Councilmember comments

- a. Councilmember Brockmeier – no comments
- b. Councilmember Nock – no comments
- c. Councilmember Oswald – no comments.
- d. Councilmember Holdren – no comments.
- e. Councilmember Marino asked for any updates on the proposed speed limit changes. Town Manager Spuck responded that the request was denied.
- f. Councilmember Burger asked if the road diet is still coming. Town Manager Spuck responded the money is still in the state budget, but a few local supervisors were not fans of the project.

13) Closed Session.

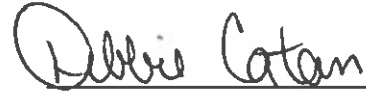
- a. None scheduled.

- 14) Adjourn –** Councilmember Oswald moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Nock seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 6-0 vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:19 PM.

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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Fletcher Fosque", written over a horizontal line.

Fletcher Fosque, Mayor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Debbie Caton", written over a horizontal line.

Debbie Caton, Town Clerk