

Town of Onancock

Town Council Meeting

Monday, June 24, 2024

7:00 PM

1) Call to Order: Mayor Fosque called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and roll was called. Councilmembers Ray Burger, Cindy Holdren, Joy Marino, Sarah Nock, Maphis Oswald and Mayor Fosque were present. Town Manager Matt Spuck and Town Clerk Debbie Caton were also present. A quorum was established.

2) Pledge of Allegiance

3) Approve minutes from the May 20, 2024, meeting. – Councilmember Nock moved to approve the meeting minutes. Councilmember Oswald seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Fosque made the following announcements:

- Agenda Item #5 will be updated with a presentation about the winter Farmer's Market.
- A committee will be appointed to help with the design of the Queen Street parking lot.
- Because of the resignation of Brandon Brockmeier who was the Town Council representation to the Planning Commission, a commissioner needs to be appointed for the joint public hearing to have a quorum.

Councilmember Nock moved to approve the updated agenda items. Councilmember Holdren seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Councilmember Burger moved to appoint Mayor Fosque as the temporary commissioner to the Planning Commission. Councilmember Nock seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

4) Joint Public Hearings – Chairperson Schreiber called the Planning Commission meeting to order at 7:05 PM. Commissioners T. Lee Byrd, Larry Frey, Fletcher Fosque, and Chairperson Schreiber were present. Commissioners Bill Bagwell, Jake Dillon and Carol Tunstall were not present. A quorum was established.

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The public hearing opened at 7:06 PM

- a. Rezoning application 24 King St. from Commercial to Residential. –Town Manager Spuck explained 24 King Street is already surrounded by residential homes. The new owner would like to make the house a long-term rental. The Planning Commission agreed the rezoning was appropriate.

No public comments. The Public Hearing closed at 7:07 PM.

The Public hearing opened at 7:08 PM.

- b. Remove Article XII: Off-Street Parking from town ordinances. – Town Manager Spuck explained the original ordinance of Parking, Standing, and Stopping required each district to have designated off-street parking spots. Article XII does not fit Onancock and needs to be removed from the ordinance. The Planning Commission agreed the removal of Article XII was appropriate.

Public Comments

- Priscilla Hart – Ms. Hart agrees Article XII does not make sense.

The public hearing closed at 7:12 PM.

After the public hearings, the town council voted on the public hearing items.

- Councilmember Oswald moved to rezone 24 King St. Councilmember Nock seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.
- Councilmember Holdren moved to remove Article XII regarding off street from the Parking, Standing Stopping ordinance parking with the provision that the residential off street parking be added into the new ordinance. Councilmember Oswald seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-1 vote. The following votes were recorded:
 - Councilmember Burger – aye
 - Councilmember Holdren – aye
 - Councilmember Marino – nay
 - Councilmember Nock – aye
 - Councilmember Oswald – aye

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5) Public Presentation – Theresa Van Dessel from the Onancock Farmer’s Market gave a presentation with updates on the winter market. Town Council members were emailed the specifications for a new building for the winter market. (the renderings are attached.) There was a petition signed by over one hundred people to keep the farmers market in the downtown district by allowing space in the Queen Street parking lot. Many vendors use the market for their livelihood. The owners of Corner Bakery spoke discussing concerns about the layout of the Queen Street parking lot. The current design will limit access to the back door where deliveries are made. Councilmember Holdren moved to approve the plan as presented. Councilmember Nock seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 3-2 vote. The following votes were recorded:

- Councilmember Burger – aye
- Councilmember Holdren – aye
- Councilmember Marino – nay
- Councilmember Nock – aye
- Councilmember Oswald – nay

6) Police Presentation – Chief Eric Williams answered several questions from members of the Town Council.

- a. Mayor Fosque asked if the security cameras have been effective. Chief Williams answered there are four key locations with two cameras in each spot. A grant was awarded for the purchase of additional cameras. Currently, the cameras are set up law enforcement review only. All cameras are set up for street view.
- b. Councilmember Oswald asked how residents are being apprised of the incidents such as car break-ins. There is no public information. Chief Williams stated it is difficult to contact each resident.
- c. Councilmember Nock asked if the text message system or manager’s minutes would be a good avenue to contact residents? Town Manager Spuck responded that it does not cover everyone.
- d. Councilmember Holdren asked if a resident has their own camera footage, is it legally useful? Chief Williams answered yes.

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7) Council Action

- a. Approve 2025 Budget Resolution –Councilmember Nock moved to approve the FY25 budget. Councilmember Oswald seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-1 vote. The following votes were recorded:

- Councilmember Burger – aye
- Councilmember Holdren – aye
- Councilmember Marino – nay
- Councilmember Nock – aye
- Councilmember Oswald – aye

8) Council Discussion

- a. A meeting will be set within the next few weeks to discuss a conceptual design for the Queen Street parking lot. All stakeholders are encouraged to attend.

9) Committee Reports

- a. Personnel (Cindy Holdren) – Councilmember Holdren reported the personnel committee met in June to create new reporting forms for the police department.
- b. Onancock Main Street (Cindy Holdren) – Councilmember Holdren reported there will be a presentation in July by Lisa Fiege.
- c. Historic Onancock School (Sarah Nock) – Councilmember Nock reported the HOS was added to several travel/tourism apps. The Blooms and Brushes tour was well attended with over one hundred tickets sold. Wine Wednesday and the Ice Cream Social are both scheduled for Wednesday, July 3, 2024. The pavilion construction is still ongoing.
- d. Planning Commission (Matt Spuck) – Town Manager Spuck reported the planning commission discussed the two topics in tonight’s public hearings.
- e. Waterfront (Fletcher Fosque) – Mayor Fosque reported the committee discussed revenue. Charles Perry repaired the pump out as opposed to replacing it.
- f. Economic Development Authority (Joy Marino) –Councilmember Marino reported the EDA did not meet.

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10) Public Comment

- a. Rosemary Paparo –Ms. Paparo has serious questions about the town’s ability to provide water to a new development called Coastal Squares approved by Accomack County. She would like the town to hire a water engineer or hydrologist. Cape Charles already has issues with saltwater intrusion.
- b. Kasey Grier –Ms. Grier agrees with Ms. Paparo’s concerns about supplying water to an outside neighborhood. Ms. Grier proposed that each year during the budget cycle the Town Council require the town manager to put together and present an overview of the proposed town budget and the town’s financial position including existing bond debt and assets and encumbered grant funds. This would be an initiative towards transparency.
- c. Hermana Matthews – Ms. Matthews asked for a security camera at the end of Bundick Street. Town Manager Spuck will update Chief Williams with the concerns.
- d. Jay Miller – Mr. Miller and his wife also have concerns about the outside new development approved by Accomack County. He was surprised to see that the town is rolling over and have no details how it will impact the town. There seems to be no concerns about the traffic, water, and sewer.

11) Mayor’s Report – Mayor Fosque attended the public hearing at Accomack County for the new development. At this hearing, not one person spoke against it. Mayor Fosque clarified the new development is in the County and we do not have any input in the approval process.

12) Town Manager’s Report

- a. Manager’s Report – DEQ solicited for a public hearing about the application for increase of groundwater withdrawal. Only eight people responded but there is a minimum requirement of twenty-five to hold a hearing. The new permit has been issued. The developer is working on the application for out-of-town subdivisions. Upon completion, the application will be brought to Town Council for approval. The developer is responsible for all hook-ups and tie in. There will be an increased rate for out-of-town water users. The only way to reduce cost for Onancock residents is to have more volume.
 - IRF for Lilliston – The second reimbursement was submitted to DHCD.
 - Sunset Patio – the pavers were selected. An RFP (Request for Price) was posted on the website for bid solicitations.

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- Welcome Center renovation updates – The floors and bathroom tile have been installed. The walls are painted. A mid-August to early September completion date is expected.
 - Police Department renovations updates – The contractor has the electrical permit. Sheetrock and furring strips are being installed.
 - Councilmember Holdren thinks we need a professional to clean up the new website and keep it maintained. There are also ADA compliance issues.
 - Town Manager Spuck would like a policy from the Town Council about mosquito spraying and exceptions to not spraying.
 - Councilmember Nock asked if the basketball court tree root issue has been resolved. Town Manager Spuck is working with DPW and the concrete contractor to produce a solution.
- b. Financial Report – see attached report.

13) Town Councilmember comments

- a. Councilmember Burger – Councilmember Burger asked if the basketball courts could be moved because of the tree root issues under the existing courts.
- b. Councilmember Marino – Councilmember Marino thanked Councilmember Nock for bringing up the basketball court resurfacing issues. She also agrees with Councilmember Holdren to spend the ARPA money for the downtown visual improvements. Councilmember Marino reiterated the need for a strategic plan with input from the businesses and residents.
- c. Councilmember Holdren – no comments.
- d. Councilmember Oswald – Councilmember Oswald asked about the cannon from the Historic Onancock School. Mayor Fosque responded that Terry Malarkey has the cannon in his yard. HOS will investigate getting it back on their property.
- e. Councilmember Nock – Councilmember Nock reminded everyone of the ice cream social scheduled for Wednesday, July 3, 2024.
- f. Mayor Fosque announced the election sign-up is closed. We have six candidates running for three open town council seats. Early voting starts in September.

14) Closed session

- a. None scheduled.

- 15) Adjourn – Councilmember Oswald moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Nock seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:59 PM.

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Fletcher Fosque, Mayor



Debbie Caton, Town Clerk