

TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION
AND CLOSED SESSION
JULY 16, 2007
6:30 P.M.

TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Maphis Oswald
Fletcher Fosque
Kay Wescott

Duke Shannahan
Kathyanne Runninger
George Miles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Bruce Paone, Mayor
Susan D. Scott, Town Manager
David Rowan, Town Attorney
Terry Swain

Karen R. Simpson, Admin. Asst.
Isaac Annis, Harbormaster
Cindy Downing
Eliza McBride
Shirley Zamora

Mayor Paone brought the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. and read the news release regarding this work session: The Mayor and Town Council have scheduled a work session and closed session pursuant to Virginia Code 2.2-3711(A)(3) on July 16, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. in the Town of Onancock Council Chambers. The purpose of the closed session is to discuss a lease agreement on the Onancock School. The council work session is scheduled to discuss improvements at the wharf and harbormaster's office, possibly utilizing a boating infrastructure grant. The council work session will be held immediately after the closed session.

Discussion followed regarding whether to hold the closed session before or after the work session. It was decided to hold the closed session first, whereby the residents attending moved into the Town Manager's office.

Councilman Miles moved that Council convene in closed session to discuss the proposed lease of the Onancock School property with the Town's legal counsel and receive legal advice on this matter, as allowed by Section 2.2-3711(A)(7) of the Virginia Code, Councilman Shannahan seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Councilman Miles made a motion to come out of the closed session allowed by Section 2.2-3711(A)(7), Councilman Shannahan seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

WHEREAS, the Council of the Town of Onancock has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by this Council that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Town of Onancock hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered.

"AYE" VOTES: 6

"NAY" VOTES: 0

The vote was unanimous.

A copy of the Certification of Closed Meeting is attached to these minutes.

If Council pleases, the Town Attorney will make the agreed upon changes to the Lease and forward it to FOS' attorney, Laura Lucas. Town Council can approve the finalized Lease at the regular meeting on October 23rd if there are no further changes from Ms. Lucas. **Councilman Fosque made a motion to give the Town Attorney the go ahead if there are no further changes from Attorney Lucas, Councilwoman Oswald seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.** The Town Attorney will then advertise for public hearing.

Hopefully the Lease can be finalized by the August Council meeting. The Town Attorney will provide a bid form to FOS as soon as the advertisement is published.

The Council Work Session resumed at 7:08 p.m. for discussion regarding the boating infrastructure.

Councilwoman Oswald felt that the Harbormaster's building faced the wrong way – that the office should face the water. A lot of grant money can be obtained for an observation (lookout) tower for scientific and educational purposes. Add a cupola and spiral staircase. Restroom can be installed on the backside of the building, which can be power hosed daily with disinfectant. The office needs to be enlarged. The building needs to be upgraded to an updated, downtown look. Councilman Shannahan suggested adding a second boat ramp. The Harbormaster suggested moving the building and ramp to a location by the bridge. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding this suggestion. Councilwoman Oswald said there are also monies available from Clean Vessel Act, Federal, Regional and Local Recreation Trail connections and science and educational grants. There are many different grants available to pay for different parts of the new structure and ramp. A storm water management demonstration area could garner \$100,000. Councilman Fosque felt the building design should be more historical in design, similar to Hopkins Bros. building. After further discussion, the Town Manager suggested handling this project like the White-Ingleside Park was handled; i.e., using a landscape architect and public participation sessions to choose the design. The improvements boaters want are computer access (wireless DSL), Laundromat, bathrooms with showers, larger office, storage room and green landscaping. A floating dock can be added at the ramp for boats waiting to be loaded on trailers. The Town Manager will ask Kat Edwards of A-NPDC if the grant being considered would pay for a consultant architect/engineer. We can apply for Tier 1 funds now and then go for Tier 2 funds next year.

Councilwoman Oswald strongly suggested acquiring a golf cart/gator for use by the Harbormaster to fuel boats from Bagwell's pumps and transport boaters up to the downtown area. The Town Manager felt that some of the golf cart ordinance rules need to be relaxed. It cost the Mayor approximately \$800 to outfit his golf cart according to the ordinance.

It was suggested that a pavilion be built at Onancock Landing for use in inclement weather.

Councilwoman Wescott made a motion to request Kat Edwards of A-NPDC to put in a Tier 1 grant for an architect/engineer for the wharf, Councilman Shannahan seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

The Mayor adjourned the work session at 7:45 p.m.

Susan D. Scott
Town Manager

Bruce Paone
Mayor