

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 22, 2007
7:00 P.M.

TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Fletcher Fosque
Duke Shannahan
Kathyanne Runninger

George Miles
Kay Wescott
Maphis Oswald

OTHERS PRESENT

Bruce Paone, Mayor
Susan D. Scott, Town Mgr.
David Rowan, Town Atty.
Shelton Askew
Jeff Barrett
Harry Brough
Mike Carpenter
Joe Colona
Andy Dize
Joani Donohoe
Janet Fosque

Karen Simpson, Admin. Asst.
Bryon Heaster, Police Chief
Valena Gibb
Nancy James
Eula Johnson
Terris Kennedy
Kris LaMontagne
Anne Nock
Haydon Rochester
Clinton Strand
Shirley Zamora

I. Mayor Paone read the Notice of Public Hearing announcing a public hearing to consider the leasing of certain real property owned by the Town of Onancock to the Central Accomack Little League to be held at 7:00 p.m. on October 22, 2007. As there was no public comment, the Public Hearing was closed at 7:04 p.m.

II. Mayor Paone called the regular Town Council meeting to order, after which the Pledge of Allegiance and invocation were recited.

III. Disposition of Little League Lease. Town Attorney Rowan advised that the Lease contains all of the elements that Town Council required to be included. Councilwoman Wescott made a motion to accept the Lease

with Central Accomack Little League as approved, and to authorize the Mayor to sign the

Lease on behalf of the Town of Onancock, Councilman Miles seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- IV. Consideration of Town Council Minutes of September 24, 2007. At Councilman Fosque's requested that the statement, "He also asked for the status of the water tower project." be added after the first sentence in the second paragraph of item VII. He also requested the following changes in larger print in the same paragraph:

The Town Manager advised that "The water tower is in the process of being installed" and that "It will be painted blue with black "Town of Onancock" lettering, which logo is included in the \$879,000 tower cost."

Councilman Miles made the motion to accept the minutes as corrected, Councilwoman Wescott seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- V. Public Comment. Janet Fosque thanked Town Council for what they have accomplished and brought to the Town - well done! She asked Council to address several non-compliance issues of the Town's sign ordinance - specifically the off-site mobile sign on the corner of Hall and Market Streets, the off-premise Crockett Realty sign on Market Street near Peppers, the "Open" neon sign at Flamenco Restaurant being in non-compliance by having moving lights, and realtors' signs, which need to be more consistent in structure and content and need to be compliant.

Andy Dize informed the gathering that his business, Shore Electronics, had been broken into and items stolen twice in one week, and that Corner Mart had been broken into twice in the past month. He felt that if Town Police had been on duty after 1:00 a.m., the thefts possibly might not have occurred. He requested that the Town expand the nighttime hours of the police. The Town Manager advised that the police schedule has been modified to expand police coverage. Chief Heaster reminded Council that currently there are only three (3) police. We are in the process of looking for another policeman. If a non-

certified applicant is hired, the last 16-week class starts Nov. 11th. It would cost the Town minimal room/board, gas and tolls. After that, the classes will be 20 weeks long. Mayor Paone suggested Council consider allowing the Town Police be allowed to use the Town police cars to commute back and forth from home to the Town Office. Councilman Fosque thought Council might look at upping the police salaries and Councilwoman Wescott suggested the Town might pay them mileage. Discussion followed regarding salary adjustments, car usage and retirement for

the police in FY 08-09. Council will look into various ways to compensate the officers, and the Town Manager suggested that the Personnel Committee meet in January or February to discuss raising salaries.

Kris LaMontagne, OBCA President, commented that the OBCA supports the downtown businesses and is concerned about police coverage between 1:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. He requested the police schedule be adjusted.

Joani Donohoe agreed with Mr. LaMontagne. She was told that six (6) officers were needed for 24 hour coverage, including small gaps for vacations, sick leave, etc.

Mike Carpenter felt that the public should be made aware that only two (2) Accomack County patrol deputies are working at any given time in the County.

Harry Brough advised that if broadband wireless is close by, surveillance cameras can be utilized downtown. Mayor Paone suggested resurrecting the Neighborhood Crimewatch group. There is a broadband meeting October 18th. Mr. Brough announced that the mainline cable will be started in early December and completed by late spring/early summer. A committee will be formed soon to coordinate planning and implementation projects.

VI. Planning Commission Report. Councilman Fosque reported that the Commission looked over the golf cart ordinance. They felt that an initial inspection should replace annual inspections, that windshields were not

necessary, and that lights and strobe light should be eliminated unless the cart was operated at night. The list of suggestions would be written and delivered to Council. Regarding the rezoning of the Onancock School property, we need to find out what FOS wants to do and get together regarding a decision. Council agreed for the Planning Commission to meet with FOS to craft an ordinance for this property.

VII. Mayor's Report. The VML meeting he attended was very interesting. They toured a desalinization plant, which processed 5,000,000 gal. a day and which had a ½ million gallon water holding tank. He also remarked about a new town that was built around a sports complex with no parking lots.

VIII. Town Manager's Report. i. Correspondence: Memo to Accomack County Board of Supervisors from Tri-County Appraisals, Inc. regarding the reassessment

schedule and procedures; Councilman Fosque felt that an explanation is due the public that the tax rate might not increase – in fact it might be lowered.

ii. Memo re the BB&T Bank property reporting the loan closing for the bank purchase by the Town for \$893,200, that the property closing is scheduled for the week of October 22nd, and set out the options available for selling the bank and drive-thru property. Attorney Rowan stated that Council would have to decide how much real estate is to be sold. The drive-thru is on a separate lot from the bank. Plat of Survey by George E. Walters dated 5/27/05 was presented. After discussion, Councilman Miles made a motion that the Town complete the purchase of the BB&T property pursuant to the terms of the contract between the Town and BB&T Bank, and that the Mayor and Town Manager be authorized and directed to take such action as may be necessary to finalize the transaction, Councilman Fosque seconded the motion, and it passed by a majority of the vote.

"AYES": Councilmen Shannahan, Fosque and Miles and Councilwomen Wescott and Oswald.

"ABSTAINED": Councilwoman Runniger.

A Town Council Work Session to discuss the BB&T property was set for November 5th at 6:00 p.m. after Attorney Rowan gives the Town

Manager the correct information regarding the "Colburn Dize" lot and the 20 ft. easement.

- iii. Memo re FOS Board of Directors providing in their By-Laws that the Town shall designate a Council member and the Mayor to serve on the Board. Councilman Shannahan made a motion to appoint Kathyanne Runniger to serve on the FOS Board of Directors, Councilman Miles seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
- iv. Councilman Miles had requested additional information on the cost of hiring an additional police officer, which is a total cost of \$39,815 at this time. The Town Manager read the entire memorandum. (See attached)
- v. Regarding wastewater issues, the County Administrator advised that a Blue Ribbon Committee, consisting of Henry Custis, Carter Davis, George McMath and Berran Rogers, was created by the Board of Supervisors to look for a path towards equitable and affordable solutions to County water/sewer service needs. Councilman Shannahan has requested to serve on the committee, to which Council members had no objection. The Town Manager will try to attend all of the meetings. Regarding the report from McKim & Creed, it is only supposed to be a summary of events and engineering reports over past decades and observations and recommendations based on past reports and current interviews with

individuals and government entities. The Town Manager does not think it is an action plan as it was titled.

- vi. November activities: Nov. 5th – 6 pm – Town Council Work Session.
Nov. 20th – 7 pm – tentative Planning
Commission meeting.
Nov. 22nd & 23rd – Town Office closed.
Nov. 26th – 7 pm – Town Council meeting.

- IX. Mayor and Town Council Comments. Councilwoman Wescott asked about the Capt. Eulice ferry. The Town Manager advised that she will contact the owner regarding what their intentions are, as well as contacting John Verrill. The current lease runs out in December 2007. Mike Carpenter interjected that the Historical Society Board has

instructed John Verrill to look at the lease and to add a clause that the slip needs to be used for service to Tangier or the lease is null and void.

Councilman Miles asked if new microphones for the Council are included in the budget. The Town Manager advised affirmatively, and has contacted someone in this field already.

Councilman Shannahan is very impressed and pleased that broadband might be coming to Onancock, but he thinks a letter under the Mayor's signature should be sent to Delegate Lewis advising of Onancock's support of broadband and that we are making space available on our new water tower for broadband antennas.

Councilman Fosque asked about the progress on Onancock Landing. The Town Manager advised that one-third of the environmental is completed, and she is awaiting final bid specs from Hunter McCardle according to VDOT standards.

Chief Heaster has received a letter from Accomack County regarding the two AED's we received through the Heart Association. The guidelines have changed re CPR and compression. The County advises that the AED's need to be reprogrammed at the cost of \$280 each and need to be ordered by December 31st. The AED's can also be reprogrammed at no cost through the Phillips representative; however, reprogramming will not change the voice prompts regarding the CPR breaths. After some discussion, Council consensus was to reprogram the AED's at no cost by the Phillips representative.

Councilman Miles made the motion to adjourn, Councilman Shannahan seconded the motion, and all approved.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Susan D. Scott
Town Manager

Bruce Paone
Mayor

ATT: Collection System Report
Police Report
Check Register
Wharf Dockage Report
19th Annual Virginia Water & Wastewater Rate Report