

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**JANUARY 28, 2008**  
**7:00 P.M.**

**TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**Kathyanne Runniger**  
**Duke Shannahan**  
**Fletcher Fosque**

**Kay Wescott**  
**George Miles**  
**Maphis Oswald**

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

**Bruce Paone, Mayor**  
**David Rowan, Town Attorney**  
**Harry Brough**  
**Vera Bruton**  
**Helen Bunch**  
**Mike Carpenter**  
**Valena Gibb**  
**Laura Belle Gordy**

**Karen Simpson, Adm. Asst.**  
**Dean Carroll, Police Sgt.**  
**Eula Johnson**  
**Kris LaMontagne**  
**Anne Nock**  
**Clinton Strand**  
**Shirley Zamora**

- I. Mayor Paone called the Town Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., after which the Pledge of Allegiance and invocation were recited.
- II. Consideration of December 17, 2007 and January 15, 2008 Minutes. Councilwoman Wescott noted that the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph on pg. 4 of the December 17<sup>th</sup> minutes should clarify that Rena Davis is not selling or getting the purple martin houses. Councilwoman Oswald took exception to the word “shrine” being used in the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph on pg. 4. In actuality, Chuck Wheat used the term “tourist-oriented information shrine”. Councilman Miles made the motion to approve the December 17, 2007 minutes, as corrected, and to approve the January 15, 2008 minutes, Councilman Shannahan seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
- III. Public Comment. Kris LaMontagne reported on the broadband team meeting, including himself, Duke Shannahan, Harry Brough, Mike Carpenter, Harry Rush, Deborah Christie and Tom Wilkins. Jill Campbell, project engineer at ANPDC was invited to attend. A project manager position has been advertised

in the newspaper, which manager will work with both counties, the engineering

company and representatives from the active localities of Onancock, Cape, Chincoteague, Nassawadox, Exmore and Parksley. This group will work on the best way to distribute broadband from the main stem to the active localities once it has reached the area of each locality. Volt Telecommunications Group won the engineering bid at \$3,145,000. An arbitrary point for the spur to end will be at the intersection of Holly and Market Streets. A bid modification will have to be done to move it to the Onancock water tower. Todd Christensen is frustrated that grant funding has not yet been applied for. Steve Miner has since gotten the ball rolling. The next team meeting is in two weeks. A discussion ensued regarding threading fiber optic cable through piping on the Shore.

Helen Bunch of 26 King Street is concerned about the traffic on King Street - cars parking on both sides of the street making travel extremely difficult, if not impossible at times. Post Office trucks, business delivery trucks and larger vehicles at times have trouble negotiating driveways. The Mayor will discuss this with the Town Manager. VDOT can be asked to only allow parking on one side of the street.

- IV. Rural Development Notice of Intent – Public Comment. Sargeant Dean Carroll explained that the Town has applied for a USDA, Rural Development grant to purchase police vehicles for the Police Department. The current police vehicles either have problems or high mileage. Shirley Zamora offered positive feedback, which is required for the grant. Turnkey cars are being requested.
- V. Mutual Aid Agreement. The Town Attorney offered a draft of a mutual aid agreement supplied by Cela Berge, which will allow Onley and Onancock to request each other to send law enforcement officers into each other's jurisdiction on the basis of special needs or emergencies. The Virginia Code controls a lot of the agreement. The purpose of the agreement is to clarify that each party is a willing participant. He would like to make some changes regarding "indemnification" – each municipality should be responsible for the actions of their own law enforcement officers -- and to clarify the subject of not waiving any sovereignty – retaining the right not to be randomly sued. Mr. Rowan will make the changes and then circulate the revised agreement to Council members.

VI. Planning Commission Report. a. **Golf Cart Ordinance:** Councilman Fosque reported that the golf cart ordinance was changed regarding eliminating a “windshield” as a requirement and the annual inspection provision. The State requires only an initial inspection. Minor misspellings, word changes and number changes were also done. Councilman Miles made a motion to go out to public

hearing for the Golf Cart Ordinance changes on February 25, 2007, Councilwoman Runniger seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

b. **Single-Family Language:** The Town Attorney drew up a statement of intent for proposed additions to the zoning ordinance and a proposed change to the ordinance stating the owner has to live in the residence in which they intend to rent out an apartment, meaning someone could not buy a house and carve it up into two (2) rentable apartments. We are trying to eliminate absentee landowners. Councilwoman Oswald felt this promoted two-family homes. Councilman Fosque attempted to explain that this change is making the ordinance tighter, not looser. Councilman Miles made a motion to go out to public hearing for the zoning ordinance change on February 25, 2007, Councilman Shannahan seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Councilman Fosque also advised that the Planning Commission will be reviewing the Town Plan through the fall of 2008.

VIII. Mayor’s Report. The Mayor commented how great the barbeque at Onancock School looked. Councilman Shannahan thought the Scout group building the barbeque should be recognized. Terry Swain and Cindy Downing have a master naturalist working along the creek bank on the walkway. They have also secured some rentals for the School property. Regarding the previously discussed “cultural district” change in the ordinance, the Planning Commission will discuss this subject.

IX. Town Manager’s Report. As the Town Manager was absent, the Mayor addressed her items on the agenda. i. **Correspondence:** a) letter to Hunter McCardle requesting that all documents for Onancock Landing be presented to VDOT by the end of January 2008; b) correspondence with ANPDC and E.S. of VA Ground Water Committee minutes re the Town’s WWTP expansion/upgrade.

ii. A Personnel Committee meeting was scheduled for February 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

iii. Schedule of wharf improvements input public meetings was not addressed.

- iv. Regarding a public hearing on the BB&T property, Councilman Miles made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to advertise for a public hearing on the BB&T property for February 25, 2008 at 6:00 p.m., Councilman Shannahan seconded the motion, and it passed by a majority vote. Councilwoman Runninger recused herself from the vote.
- v. STAG funds allocated \$641,000 for Onancock River dredging and \$300,000 for the wastewater treatment plant upgrades. Only the hot spots will be dredged to ease passage of the barges into Onancock wharf. Councilman Shannahan explained that dumping at least one load on the spoil site will hold the lease for an extended time.

- vi. Terms of office expiration dates: Planning Commission – Buck Walters and Bill Bagwell. Councilman Miles nominated Mr. Walters and Mr. Bagwell to succeed themselves as Commissioners. Councilman Shannahan suggested advertising in the newspaper for possible replacement candidates.  
Tree Board – Tony Kluis, Anne Nock and Virginia Milliner’s terms are expiring. A newspaper ad for these seats should also be published.

**IX. Mayor and Council Comments. Councilwoman Wescott thinks that letters should be sent to businesses for purple martin house donations, and that a newspaper plea should be published.**

Councilman Shannahan reported that Kirk Mariner owns a 27’x45’x30’ building in New Church, which might be moved to Town property – probably at great expense. He hoped Onancock Landing could be completed by June. Chuck Wheat’s daughter would like to plan a ceremony between June 17<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> at Cokesbury Church, then using the Onancock flotilla to spread his ashes in the Creek, leaving from Onancock Landing. He would also like a 4”x8” plaque put at Onancock Landing on a tree memorializing Mr. Wheat, which Councilman Shannahan will pay for. Mr. Wheat paid for a large plaque and stone, which is being held by Williams Funeral Home awaiting instructions on installation at Onancock Landing. Councilman Shannahan also commented on creating a museum/tourist center at the wharf, whether part of Hopkins Bros. store be used or redesigning the current harbormaster’s building. Hopefully Council can establish a task force with the OBCA and other interested parties to look for a place for a tourism center using the \$4,500 from the Friends of Onancock School. Kris LaMontagne advised that volunteers were asked for at their last meeting for just this type of project.

Councilwoman Oswald expressed her opinion regarding December 20<sup>th</sup> being chosen for the 2008 Christmas parade as the worst possible date regarding downtown merchants, to which there was no consensus of other Council members. She doesn't think that a "bookkeeper" is the level of expertise that the auditor was directing Council to hire.

Councilman Fosque requested that Council spend more time this year on the budgeting process – start earlier in the year and look deeper into it compared to the past few years. The Mayor will ask the Town Manager if Council should meet on the budget even before she presents a preliminary budget to them.

The Mayor reminded Council to please think about allowing the police officers to carry the police vehicles home during long shifts.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

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Susan D. Scott  
Town Manager

Bruce Paone  
Mayor

**Attachments:**

**December Financial Report/Check Register**

**Wastewater Report**

**Police Report**

**Updated 2008 Calendar of Events**

**"Most Festival Town Square" Award**

