

REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
MARCH 23, 2009  
7:00 P.M.

TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Maphis Oswald  
George Miles  
Travis Bradley

Kathyanne Runninger  
Kris LaMontagne  
Fletcher Fosque

OTHERS PRESENT:

Bruce Paone, Mayor  
Sandy Manter, Interim Town Mgr.  
Miguel Bizotto  
Vera Bruton  
Mike Carpenter  
Cheryl Cashman  
Deborah Christie  
Lynne & Caleb Fowler  
Sandra Fox  
Valena Gibb  
Judith Grier  
Eula Johnson  
Barbara Schwank, A-NPDC

Karen Simpson, Admin. Asst.  
David Rowan, Town Atty.  
Lisa LaMontagne  
Charles Landis  
Greg Manter  
Patrick McGuire  
Anne Nock  
Vicki Pearsall  
Alan Silverman  
Clinton Strand  
Bill Tweedie  
Shirley Zamora

- I. Public Hearing. The Public Hearing Notice was read into the minutes by Mayor Paone. The Public Hearing is to solicit public input on local community development and housing needs in relation to Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for a project in our community. Barbara Schwank, of the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission, explained that the purpose of the hearing is to inform the public of the Town's intention to apply for funding from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, inform the public of all project types, solicit information from the public and inform the public of Onancock's past uses of CDBG funds, such as the Northeast neighborhood improvements and Pine Street development site work. The funding comes through HUD and the application must be in by April 13<sup>th</sup>. The Town can get \$10,000 for every low to mid-income job created, which must be documented.

The Community Development competitive grants are for projects including housing, sewer, broadband and business district revitalization. The Town should start the process for next year's grant at the end of March any given year. Ms. Schwank spoke of funding for broadband. The Virginia Employment Commission has to verify that the new job applicant pool is at least 51% low-moderate income (LMI), but you don't have to hire an LMI applicant for the job. Businesses have to register with the VEC. LMI is considered to be 80% of the median household income; Accomack County is \$47,400, therefore, LMI is \$37,920, based on a four-person household. A single person household is \$29,750, therefore, \$23,800 is low-moderate income. An irrevocable letter of credit for \$200,000 must be taken to cover twenty jobs that the Town commits to, but may never have to be used.

Mike Carpenter, of the Broadband Committee, offered information regarding broadband:  
a) Sixty-one businesses provided information for a survey sent out ; 88% said Broadband would be vital to their business and they would subscribe; 100% would use through the internet, 91% through the telephone, 40% through video conferencing, video delivery or distance learning. 76% thought that high speed broadband would open new possibilities for their company. So far, sixty-one residents have answered a similar survey, with 68% affirmative interest if affordable.

Mayor Paone closed the public hearing at 7:06 p.m.

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

III. Consideration of February 23, March 9 and March 19 Council Meeting Minutes.  
Councilman Fosque made a motion to waive the reading of all minutes, Councilwoman Runniger seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Councilwoman Oswald requested the words "This Resolution was published in the E.S. News, but" be omitted from Item VII of the February 23<sup>rd</sup> minutes, as this did not happen. "publication" will then be capitalized. Councilman LaMontagne requested that the words "revenue from" be inserted between the words "the" and "Town" near the beginning of the second line under Item II of the March 9<sup>th</sup> minutes. Councilman Miles made the motion to approve the Council Minutes, as corrected, for February 23, March 9 and March 19, Councilman Bradley seconded the motion, and it was unanimously passed.

IV. Public Comment. Charlie Landis asked Mayor Paone to explain to those people who want the previous Town Manager reinstated how it is and by what authority he and the previous Town Manager took over \$1,500 of taxpayers' money to pay an ex-employee in order essentially to get him to stay quiet and that the Town records do not show this accounting record. He also presented a printed letter to Council.

Shirley Zamora thanked Council for their open budget session. She would like every Town employee to understand that each taxpaying citizen supports them when they pay their taxes. She asked Council to consider during budget sessions that she thinks Town employees' salaries are much higher than County/State salary averages.

- V. Harborfest. Councilman Bradley broached the appointment of members to the Harborfest Committee. Councilman Bradley made a motion to appoint Travis Bradley, Fletcher Fosque, Bill Burnham, Jack Richardson, Greg Manter and Karen Simpson as Harborfest Committee members, Councilman Miles seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Councilman Bradley advised that he would ask Haydon Rochester if he was interested in being a member, that two at-large members would be named later, and he invited anyone else who is interested to contact him. All Harborfest Committee meetings are open to the public. Harborfest is scheduled for September 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> this year.

Interim Manager Manter has discovered a certificate of deposit for \$7,054.67, which she requested SunTrust Bank not to renew and deposit in a Town Account. This money will be used as Harborfest seed funds, as Harborfest is a Town function. Councilwoman Oswald made a motion that the Harborfest Committee members use the \$7,054.67 as funding for Harborfest, and that if any further funds are needed, the Harborfest Committee will request same from Town Council, Councilman Miles seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. The Committee can give Council an update on its activities each month.

- VI. Birding and Wildlife Festival. The OBCA will host a Kick-Off Event for the festival on Thursday, September 17, 2009, and request the use of the gazebo park from 1-6 p.m. Councilman Miles made a motion to approve use of the gazebo park for a kick-off event for the Birding and Wildlife Festival for September 17, 2009 from 1-6 p.m. and to designate the Gazebo Park as a "wildlife sensitive area" by restricting access to the park by dogs during the hours of 4-6 p.m. while raptor demonstrations are being held, Councilman Bradley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
- VII. Arbor Family Fun Day. Wendie Misuna, of Eastern Shore Tree Care, is working with various community organizations (Onancock Tree Board, E.S. Soil & Water Conservation District, Forestry Department) to host an Arbor Family Fun Day at the Onancock School grounds on April 26, 2009 from 12-5 p.m. She requests the Town's support and endorsement for the event, which includes games for children, face painting, live music by Johnnie Mo, clowns, food and drinks. Proceeds from the raffle and dunk booth will go towards "Project Playground", a playground to be situated on Onancock School grounds. The Town's official Arbor Day celebration will coincide.

VIII. Tangier Ferry Committee Report. Councilman LaMontagne reported that identifying reasons why the ferry service stopped and actions to create solutions were discussed at the last meeting. The long-term solution is to work with VDOT, the stimulus package and federal Ferry Discretionary Fund totaling \$120,000,000. \$2½-3 million are being spent by Tangierites in Maryland, which could be money spent here. \$35,000 from the U.S. Mail contract could come here. We can compete for FedEx and UPS contracts. We need to get a clause changed so “right of first refusal” can be eliminated. Seafood could be brought here rather than to Maryland. Virginia State services can be provided to Tangierites. A buying (personal shopper) service can help with shopping at Food Lion, pharmacies, and other stores. Parking is needed here for the 230-250 cars currently parked in Crisfield @ \$30-75 a month each. A Star Transit route from the Onancock Wharf to Onley can be established. Three boat owner operators are interested in bidding on the ferry job. A freight business could be opened. LIM jobs could be used for some of these ideas.

IX. Stephen Green Special Use Permit. *Councilman Fosque made a motion to advertise for a public hearing for the Steven W. & Juliann M. Green special use permit, Councilman Miles seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.* The public hearing will be held at the next Council meeting on April 27, 2009.

Councilman Fosque reported that the Planning Commission is still looking at the Town Plan.

X. Budget. A Council budget work session was scheduled for April 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. The auditor, Diane Smith, should have the audit presentation at that time.

XI. Mayor’s Report. As the scheduled May Council Meeting falls on Memorial Day, *Councilman Miles made a motion to hold the regular May Council Meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup>, Councilman Fosque seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.*

XII. Town Manager’s Report. a) The Interim Town Manager announced that the Town was awarded additional \$500,000 in STAG funds for the wastewater system to be applied either to the future septage receiving facility or the WWTP project already underway. She will look into how applying the funds straight to the debt service would work. b) John Wise is developing a plan to stabilize and renovate the Wise building. New permits have to be applied for and the sidewalk needs to be made passable and safe by mid-April. Discussion ensued. c) Permits have been submitted for Onancock Creek Subdivision on Jackson Street, and they are looking for approval of their subdivision plat. d) The developer interested in the carnival grounds is beginning his engineering and design work associated with the formal submittal of a subdivision plan. The Interim Town Manager will respond to Tom Ford’s Letter of Understanding with Landdesign,

Inc. as far as she can. e) Stamped approval should be coming re Onancock Landing, at which time the Interim Town Manager will contact VDOT. f) Correspondence: i) letter from Romano Contracting re possible unpermitted work being done on the Wise building; ii) letter from E.S. Termite Control, Inc. offering a mosquito control program to the Town; iii) e-mail from Gary Cochran against the return of Susan Scott as Town Manager.

XIII. Mayor and Town Council Comments. Councilwoman Oswald was advised that Judith Grier was the other person nominated to serve another term on the Tree Board. Councilman Miles made the motion to appoint Judith Grier to succeed herself to another term as a member of the Onancock Tree Board, Councilwoman Oswald seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. She thanked Sandy Manter for what she has been doing to acquire the stimulus funds. Councilwoman Oswald suggested that the Water/Sewer Committee meet within the next month with the Interim Town Manager, Plant Manager and Karen Simpson, then present findings to Town Council.

Councilwoman Runniger thanked the Interim Town Manager for her hard work.

Councilman Miles confirmed that stimulus funds have been asked for for the sidewalk project on East Kerr Street.

Councilman LaMontagne thanked the people in the audience and Mike Carpenter for being involved in committees, and invited more to volunteer. He reported that the Personnel Committee has had 35 applications for the Town Manager position, that they have whittled the group down to ten, who are all still interested. Councilman LaMontagne advised that a closed session was necessary to whittle the field down to 3-5 applicants. Councilman LaMontagne made a motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, for discussion and consideration of specific personnel matters regarding the selection of a Town Manager, Councilman Fosque seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Councilman LaMontagne made a motion to come out of Closed Session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia of 1950, s amended, that was for the discussion and consideration of specific personnel matters regarding the selection of the Town Manager, Councilman Miles seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Certification of Closed Session is appended to these minutes.

Mayor Paone recessed this Council Meeting until March 24, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at 8:25 p.m.

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Sandy Manter  
Interim Town Manager

Bruce Paone  
Mayor

Attachments:

Revenue and Expenditures/Check Register  
Police Report  
Plant Report