

ONANCOCK TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 18, 2009
7:00 P.M.

TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Maphis Oswald
Travis Bradley
George Miles

Kathyanne Runniger
Kris LaMontagne
Fletcher Fosque

OTHERS PRESENT:

Bruce Paone, Mayor
Sandy Manter, Town Mgr.
Bill Burnham
Mike Carpenter
Anthony & Nelda Lofaso
Theresa Parker
Jack Richardson

Karen Simpson, Admin. Asst.
David Rowan, Town Atty.
Bettie Savage
Bill & Linda Tweedie
Sharon Wills
Shirley Zamora

- I. After the meeting was called to order by Mayor Paone, the Pledge of Allegiance and invocation were recited.
- II. Consideration of April 27 and May 11, 2009 Minutes. *Councilman Fosque made the motion to waive the reading of the minutes, Councilwoman Oswald seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.* Councilman Bradley thought the sentence in Item XV of the April 27, 2009 minutes starting with “He requested that the budget include....” was misleading and should, therefore, be deleted. He also noted that David Rowan did not attend the May 11, 2009 meeting, therefore, his name as an attendee should be deleted. *Councilman Miles made the motion to approve the Town Council Minutes for the meetings dated April 27 and May 11, 2009, as amended, Councilwoman Runniger seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.*
- III. Public Comment. Jack Richardson presented a mock up of new 16 x 20 directional Town signs, which would be made out of heavy grade aluminum at a cost of \$85 per sign. Fourteen (14) signs would cost \$1,190.00. Discussion followed regarding which

light poles would be best for installing the signs. VDOT would have to be contacted for approval. After design is finalized, the Town Manager will e-mail it to Council members for approval in order to get the signs completed in short order. Harborfest profits will go toward the signage. Council consensus agreed to use the Town schooner at the top of the signs. Councilman Fosque made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to proceed with the sign project in the best manner she sees fit, with the signage not to exceed \$2,000, Councilman Miles seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- IV. Resolution for Commendation. Mayor Paone read Resolution 2009-3 into the record acknowledging the courageous actions of Janet Hotcaveg and Anthony LoFaso who recently came to the aid of a Town resident whose dog was viciously attacked. Anthony LoFaso was presented with the framed Resolution. William Tweedie expressed his appreciation for Janet and Anthony's actions.
- V. OBCA Ice Cream Social. Bill Burnham requested that OBCA be allowed use of the gazebo park for an ice cream social sponsored by OBCA for July 3, 2009 from 6:30 p.m. until sunset. He also requested use of the gazebo park for the SPCA for a Dog Walk fundraiser on October 3, 2009. Councilman Miles made the motion to approve both the OBCA Ice Cream Social and SPCA Dog Walk, Councilman LaMontagne seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.
- VI. Northeast Onancock Block Party. Bettie Savage requested the closure of Watson Street from Pine Street to 5 Watson Street for a block party on July 4, 2009 from 1:00 – 7:00 p.m. to raise money for donations to local charities, including the Onancock Fire Department. She is asking for a small donation if anyone would like a table. Rain date would be July 11, 2009. Parking will be available in the Armory lot and the lot behind Ms. Savage's house. The Town Manager will contact VDOT for street closure permission.
- VII. Tree Board Update. Sharon Wills remarked that the Tree Ordinance provides what the Tree Board can do. The Board advises Council how to protect, maintain, and prune plants. They have a list of desirable trees to plant in Town and are glad to educate Town residents about planting. They have a booth at Harborfest. The Board will survey the Town trees for a maintenance schedule and which particular trees to preserve. Advisors to the Board are Robbie Lewis and Eastern Shore Tree Care. The Board is applying for a grant to revitalize the Town parking lots. They would like to interface with the Planning Commission, especially regarding new subdivisions. The Tree Board normally meets on the third Tuesday of each month.
- VIII. FY 2009-2010 Town Budget Draft. Two corrected sheets were presented: "Law Enforcement Funds" was corrected to \$55,817 under the General Revenue Fund and \$20,282 was shifted into "Contingency" under the Draft Budget Summary.

Councilman Miles made a motion to schedule a public hearing for the FY 2009-10 Town Budget for June 22, 2009 at the regular Town Council meeting, Councilwoman Oswald seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- IX. Close Out of Water System Improvements Grant. Rural Development has advised the Town of \$66,980.12 in unexpended grant funds left over from the water system improvements grant. The Town Manager suggested using these funds for the following: \$8,600 for new water/sewer billing software; \$5,627 for new meter reading/billing hardware; \$34,544 for two (2) trucks; \$13,669 for a Ford Ranger w/ extended cab; and \$4,000 for tool boxes and other accessories for the new trucks. After discussion, by consensus, Council approved allowing the Town Manager to follow through with the necessary purchases outlined above. As the electric bills at the water tower are extraordinarily high, Bryan Horton will meet with ANEC and testing will be initiated to run the pumps at different times to use less kilowatt hours.
- X. Credit Cards. In order to assist in the collection rate of taxes, water/sewer bills, etc., the acceptance of credit cards at the Town office has been suggested. On-line vs dial up would be less expensive and less time consuming. The higher the usage, the lower the fee rate. VISA and Mastercard are lower rates than American Express and Discover. Because we are a municipality, we can charge a flat convenience fee, which the Town Manager will research. After discussion, the Town Manager was instructed to check with other Towns and report back to Council in June.
- XI. Water/Sewer Ordinance Revisions. Councilwoman Oswald requested that the water and sewer ordinance amendments not be discussed by Council until the Water/Sewer Committee meets to discuss them. A public hearing regarding the raised water and sewer rates is scheduled for June 22, 2009.
- XII. Mayor's Report. Mayor Paone reported that the Baby Walk had a tremendous turnout despite the rain.
- XIII. Town Manager's Report. i. Wharf improvements progress: The ramp railing leading to the bathrooms has been replaced, the shower stalls have been scrubbed, new sinks and vanities have been installed, overhead lighting has been replaced, as well as some wallboard. Hopefully a couple of outdoor trashcans can be purchased with Litter Funds. The next step is adding WiFi access, DSL connection and an inexpensive laptop for the Harbormaster. A daily schedule is being developed for maintaining cleanliness in the bathrooms.
- ii. Onancock Landing update: Karen Smith, our VDOT project manager, agrees that starting the project this fall and finishing next spring is doable. VDOT needs to review the boardwalk plan. We need to update the costs from our designers. The VMRC permit needs to be extended. Our Army Corps of Engineers wetlands permit needs to

be extended. An eligibility criteria review must be completed for VDOT. VDOT will advise how much money is left for the project. The Town Manager will look into a special kayak launching dock.

iii. Correspondence: a. The rescheduled Stephen Key hearing will be held on July 22, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.; b. David Rowan letter to John Wise re Wise's Drug Store building with a deadline to answer by May 22nd. If Council has not heard from Wise by May 22nd, Council can either take Wise to court or fix/raze the building with a 30-day notice to the owner. Realistically, it would be 50-60 days from today before Council could do anything if don't hear from Wise. The Town Attorney advised the Town to take the owner to court. After discussion, Councilman Fosque made a motion that Council proceed with court action if it has not heard from Wise by May 22, 2009 and that Council hire a construction company to erect scaffolding over the sidewalk along the building, Councilman Miles seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Councilwoman Oswald mentioned that the 6 Church Street structure is in deplorable condition and in violation of the Town Ordinance. The Town Manager advised that she has toured the Town and made a list of properties that need maintenance. She will advise Council of any action taken.

XIV. Mayor and Town Council Comments. Councilman Miles was advised that funds have been set aside for the Kerr Street sidewalk. The Town Manager will look into the process for completing this project and how much money we have available.

Councilman Bradley reported that Harborfast plans are moving along. The next committee meeting is May 20th at 5:30 p.m.

Councilman LaMontagne noted that it was a pleasure working with Council.

Councilwoman Oswald suggested starting mosquito spraying as soon as possible. The Town Manager advised that the chemicals have been ordered. When received, the Town will be sprayed twice a week.

It was suggested that E.S. Tourism can possible help with sign funding if we put "It's in our nature" on the signage.

Councilman Miles made a motion to adjourn, Councilman Bradley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Sandy Manter
Town Manager

Bruce Paone
Mayor

Attachments:

Check Register
Plant Report
Police Report
Revenue and Expenditures