

**Town of Onancock
Town Council Meeting
Monday, March 28, 2022
7:00 PM**

1) Call to order and Roll Call:

Mayor Fletcher Fosque called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and roll was called. Mayor Fletcher Fosque and Councilmembers Ray Burger, Thelma Gillespie, Cynthia Holdren, Joy Marino, Sarah Nock and Maphis Oswald was present. A quorum was established. Town Manager Matt Spuck and Town Clerk Debbie Caton were also present.

2) The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3) Consideration and Approval of February 28, 2022 Meeting Minutes:

- a) Councilmember Oswald made a motion to approve the minutes with the noted changes. Councilmember Burger seconded the motion. The motion was passed with 6-0 vote.

Public Comments – Public comments addressing the loose dog issue were allowed at this time.

- a) Dog – about 6 weeks ago a loose dog roaming through town was brought to the attention of Town office. Police Chief Williams and team were advised. Matt Spuck updated that the owners were contacted and issued a summons by police. Court date is 04/15/2022. Chief Williams presented the current ordinance. After review and comparison of other municipality's ordinances, Chief Williams suggested changes to include increasing leash law fine for second and subsequent offenses. Ordinance changes will be discussed at Public Hearing on April 11, 2022.

4) Public Business

- a) Historic Onancock School Performance Pavilion – Rick King introduced the concept of a multi-purpose performance pavilion. The pavilion will help increase Town's economic stream as well as increase out of town visitors. The revenue generated will also help offset upcoming repair expenses to the school building. The pavilion will be located behind the school. The current lease requires Town Council's approval to move forward with construction.

Council member Gillespie made a motion to approve. Councilmember Holdren seconded. The motion was passed with 6-0 vote.

- b) Public Hearing – Homestay – 5 White St. – Mayor Fosque read three public comments in favor to approve Special Use Permit application submitted by owner's George & Linda Phillips.

Councilmember Holdren made a motion to approve. Councilmember Oswald seconded. The motion was passed with 6-0 vote.

**Town of Onancock
Town Council Meeting
Monday, March 28, 2022
7:00 PM**

c)Public Hearing – Homestay – 12 Joynes St. – Mayor Fosque read public comments in favor to approve Special Use Permit application submitted by owner Susan McQuire.

Councilmember Holdren made a motion to approve. Councilmember Nock seconded. The motion was passed with 6-0 vote.

5) Council Discussion

a) rezoning of pump stations is required for transfer to HRSD. Sec 38-43 was updated to add the nine pumpstations and renamed to Industrial, Utilities, District (I-U). Ordinance changes will be discussed at Public Hearing scheduled on April 11, 2022.

b) Budget – Matt Spuck presented the changes to the base budget suggested by Town Council at the March 15, 2022 budget workshop. Mr. Spuck also presented a new tiered sewer/water rate structure.

6)Public Comment

a) Don Ruthig – 8 Creekwood Lane – Mr. Ruthig spoke to the “egregious difference” in updated Real Estate assessment from Accomack County. He explained neighbors across the creek saw their assessed property value increase between 1% - 5%; while residents with-in town limits average increase is up 26%. Mr. Ruthig thinks it is incumbent upon Town Council to appeal the assessment.

b) Kathy Boyd – 5 Market St. – Ms. Boyd expressed deep concerns about Chaney expanding operations to transfer grain for Purdue. The operation will be very noisy and dirty. She continued to explain the possibility of 60 semi-trucks traveling down Market St will create another set of safety and traffic issues. Ms. Boyd would like Council to review the “loose B-W (business wharf)” zoning.

c)Priscilla Hart – 21 Market St – Ms. Hart urged Town Council to work with Chaney for a reasonable plan for grain transfer operation. She requested a copy of drinking water quality report. Matt to email most recent report. Ms. Hart also spoke with Animal Control about the cat population.

d) Joani Donohoe – 18 Meadville – Ms. Donohoe reported the Historic Onancock School was vandalized. She extended gratitude to police department for immediate response and the continued patrol help. She also expressed gratitude for immediate response to the loose dog. Ms. Donohoe announced a Meet/Greet picnic for Town of Onancock residents. The scheduled date is Sunday, May 1,2022.

In regard to the public comments concerning Chaney, Matt Spuck reported he spoke with Kyle from Chaney to discuss the intent of the operation. Chaney plans to send out 12 barges a year. He did not have the truck count to fill a barge; therefore, Kyle was uncertain of the number of trucks that will travel in and out of town. Matt plans to follow up with VDOT for any regulations

**Town of Onancock
Town Council Meeting
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or public safety issues. All research from Chaney and VDOT will be forwarded to the Town attorney.

7) Committee Reports:

- a) HRSD - HRSD has received permits from VDOT to pave specified areas.
- b) Waterfront – T Lee Byrd reported meetings will be 2nd Tuesday of each month. Harbormaster is working diligently to have building ready to open full time on 04/01/22.
- c) Planning Commission – Fletcher Fosque reported a meeting schedule was established for 2022.
- d) Personnel Committee – Councilmember Marino reported the committee is working to update personnel policies. Currently duplicate personnel handbooks are being reviewed to ensure consistency with polices.

8) Mayor's report:

- a) Mayor Fosque reported 1266 people attended the St. Patrick Day's parade.
- b) Main Street is working to launch a community business grant for new businesses in Downtown Onancock. The grant is for \$45,000 - \$60,000 but requires a \$20,000 cash grant from Town.
Councilmember Holdren made a motion to approve the grant. Councilmember Marino seconded. The motion was passed with a 5-1 vote.

9) Town Manager's report:

- a) currently working on FY 2023 budget
- b) Dog-park project is ongoing.
- c) currently working on ARPA projects due 04/30/22.

10) Council comments:

- a) Councilmember Marino is planning a community picnic in September at Ker Place.
- b) Councilmember Marino encouraged the public to review the budget.
- c) Councilmember Oswald thanked Mr. Ruthig for his comments and asked how the Town can appeal.
- d) Councilmember Nock asked how the Town, Town Council and individuals can appeal the real estate assessments. She also expressed concerns about the Chaney grain operation.

Councilmember Marino motioned to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Gillespie seconded. The motion was passed 6-0 vote.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM

**Town of Onancock
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Town Mayor, Flector Fosque



Town Clerk, Debbie Caton