

**Town of Onancock
Town Council Meeting
Monday, April 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 were present. Maphis Oswald was not 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) Public Business:

a) Consideration and Approval of March 28, 2022, Meeting Minutes:

Councilmember Marino moved to approve the minutes. Councilmember Holdren seconded the motion. The motion was passed with 5-0 vote.

b) Consideration and Approval of April 11, 2022, Town Council Budget Workshop Minutes:

Councilmember Holdren moved to approve the minutes. Councilmember Nock seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a 5-0 vote.

c) Public Hearing – 2023 Budget

The public hearing was called to order at 7:03 PM by Mayor Fosque. The mayor reiterated that the Town of Onancock does not perform real estate assessments. Matt and the Mayor spoke with the Accomack County and the Town or Town Council cannot appeal the assessments. This is the responsibility of the individual property owner.

Public Comments

- i.) John Boddie – 5 Sturgis Rd – Mr. Boddie wanted Town Council's input on a reassessment of 2022 real property from Accomack County. Mayor Fosque explained the only mechanism in place is to adjust the tax rate.
- ii.) Priscilla Hart – 21 Market St – Ms. Hart asked for interpretation of the 2023 proposed budget pertaining to the tax rate and how this impacts reserve money. The questions were derived from review of minutes from the April 11, 2022 budget workshop. Matt explained for each penny the tax rate is lowered; \$14,000 of reserve money is allocated. Ms. Hart expressed her desire for Town Council to lower the tax rate to .27/cent per \$100.

Public Hearing closed at 7:08 PM

**Town of Onancock
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Monday, April 28, 2022
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d) Eastern Shore of Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan 2021 – Matt read the background and introduced the Mitigation Plan. Councilmember Nock moved for the Resolution Plan to be adopted and read the plan into order. Councilmember Gillespie seconded the motion. The motion was approved with 5-0 vote.

4) Council Discussion

a) Dog Park Design – Onancock Business & Civic Association (OBCA) endorsed the idea of a dog park being built on donated land the from Fire Department. Along with \$25,000 allocated ARPA funds, local businesses have donated time and material to offset expenses. Matt spoke to the developer building new houses near the park to inform them of the ongoing project. No negative feedback was reported. Matt is working with ANEC for appropriate lightening options. The desire is to install ground level lightening to cut down on bright lights generated by pole lightening, this will be less distracting to homeowners in the area. The Park will be open from dawn to dusk. Councilmember Marino thanked Councilmember Burger for the landscaping work.

b) Main Street Grant match request – Jenny Gehman with the Onancock Main Street requested a \$12,500 grant match in order to fulfill the requirements of a VA Main Street grant of \$25,000. If the grant is awarded, the funds will be used for a mural project on multiple buildings, promotional incentives, business workshops and window banners for vacant downtown commercial buildings. Councilmember Nock motioned to approve the grant match request. Councilmember Marino seconded. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

c) Procurement Policy review – a committee of Councilmember Holdren, Councilmember Gillespie, Mayor Fosque and the Town Manager Spuck was formed to review the current policy. Any recommended changes will be presented to Town Council for consideration. The committee members will communicate internally about a meeting time.

5) Committee Reports

a) HRSD – the road projects are moving forward.

b) Planning Commission – Currently the Planning Commission is working on revisions to B-1 and BW districts. Several requests were made to review the parking issues. These requests are being addressed.

c) Waterfront – Marina is open full time. Harbormaster is looking for one additional seasonal employee. Matt is trying to find golf carts to rent for transient occupants.

d) Personnel – Councilmember Holdren, Councilmember Marino and other committee members are still working on updates to personnel manual.

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6) Mayor's Report – Mayor Fosque reported (3) members of Onancock Main Street will be attending the Main Street Now Conference in Richmond, VA, being held May 16th – 18th. Mayor Fosque will not attend the May 2022 Town Council meeting. Councilmember Oswald will run the meeting.

7) Town Manager's Report – Town Manager Spuck updated with the following:

- a) Chaney grain operation –At this time, grain operations are not moving forward. Chaney's goal is to work with the Town, but they are adamant about needing to utilize the pier space. The increased traffic flow with heavy trucks still does not meet VDOT's requirements for a different entrance; however, the possibility of giving the Town a right-of-way to install a sidewalk and giving VDOT a permanent utility easement to maintain storm drain issues is a possible solution. The expense to install a new sidewalk can be offset with Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and revenue sharing. The planning commission plans to review the Business Waterfront ordinance at May meeting.
- b) Town Manager Spuck is currently working to prioritize ARPA projects.

8) Closed Session (if required)
none

9) Adjourn

Councilmember Marino moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Holdren seconded. The motion was passed 5-0 vote.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM



Mayor, Fletcher Fosque



Town Clerk, Debbie Caton