

**Town of Onancock
Town Council Meeting
Monday, December 19, 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, Cindy Holdren, Joy Marino, Sarah Nock and Maphis Oswald were present. A quorum was established. Chairperson Schreiber called the Planning Commission to order at 7:01 PM. The roll was called. Commissioners Bill Bagwell, Brandon Brockmeier, Fletcher Fosque, Carol Tunstall, and Chairperson Scott Schreiber were present. Commissioners T Lee Byrd and Larry Frey were not present. A quorum was established. Town Clerk Debbie Caton and Deputy Clerk Mariellen Mearsheimer were also present. Town Manger Spuck was present via Zoom.

2) The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3) Amend the original agenda – Councilmember Holdren moved to amend the original agenda. She requested to add scoring and discussing the Town Master Plan so to pick a firm and start price negotiations. Councilmember Oswald seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

4) Consideration and Approval of November 28, 202 Meeting Minutes:

Councilmember Oswald moved to approve the minutes as presented. Councilmember Gillespie seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a 6-0 vote.

4) Public Hearings

a) Public Hearing was called to order at 7:03 PM – Short Term Rental ordinance 38-77. Planning Commission was called to order at 7:03. Mayor Fosque explained the language was updated to clarify the number of properties that can be owned and operated as an Airbnb by a single owner.

No public comments.

The public hearing closed at 7:05 PM.

5) Council discussion:

a) Short Term Rental ordinance – 38-77 – After council discussion, Commissioner Tunstall from the Planning Commission moved to adopt the recommended changes. Commissioner Bagwell seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote. Councilmember Nock moved to adopt amended 38-77 ordinance on Short Term Rental. A roll call vote was taken.

Councilmember Burger – yes
Councilmember Holdren – yes
Councilmember Nock – yes

Councilmember Gillespie – yes
Councilmember Marino – yes
Councilmember Oswald – yes

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The motion passed with a 6-0 vote.
Planning Commission adjourned at 7:18 PM.

6) Amend the original agenda – Accomack County’s current Clerk of Circuit Court, Samuel H. Cooper, Jr. was present to swear in Mayor Fosque for the term of January 1, 2023 and ending December 31, 2024. Councilmembers Holdren, Marino and Nock were also sworn in for the term of January 1, 2023 and ending December 31, 2026.

5) Council discussion – continued

b) Façade Improvement Grant guidelines – Councilmember Nock presented the overview of the Façade Improvement grant guidelines and grant application to the Town Council for approval. Upon approval, the application period will be open for 45 days and depending on scoring and the number of applications, a second tranche may be available at a later date.

Councilmember Nock read an emailed letter from Kimberley Moore owner of the Inn at Onancock. Ms. Moore respectfully requested a change to the documents that will allow The Inn at Onancock and The Spinning Wheel to also apply for the grant. Town members discussed and questioned the original intent of the grant and if that included allowing business outside of the business district to apply. Janet Fosque, President of Onancock Main Street, spoke and stated the original intent of the grant was to focus on downtown, uptown and wharf businesses. Councilmember Marino moved to accept the grant application and grant guidelines. Councilmember Gillespie seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

c) 2023 Meeting Schedule- Councilmember Holdren moved to adopt the meeting schedule. Councilmember Nock seconded. The motion passed with a 6-0 vote.

d) USDA resolution for loan/grant for police department and water department vehicles – Councilmember Oswald moved to adopt the motion. Councilmember Burger seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Councilmember Burger – yes
Councilmember Holdren – yes
Councilmember Nock – yes

Councilmember Gillespie – yes
Councilmember Marino – yes
Councilmember Oswald - yes

The motion was passed with 6-0 vote.

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7) Public Comments –

- Charlie Roe – 142 Market St – Mr. Roe is very sad that members of the community and taxpayers did not have any input in the Performance Pavilion. He feels like there has been a lot of secrecy. He thinks Town Council needs to consider everyone in the community for such decisions.
- Rosemary Paparo – 9 Holly St – Ms. Paparo spoke at the meeting Wednesday, December 14, 2022 at the Historic Onancock School regarding the Performance Pavilion. Ms. Paparo wanted it on record that she is representing the Onancock Residents Group. A packet with signed petitions from concerned residents was presented to the Town Council. All residents signed in front of representative. Onancock Residents group did not go to the press except on December 12, 2022 which is the same day the petitions were presented to town council and the board of Historic Onancock School.
- Jeff Albrechtson – 6 Johnson St – In regard to building of Performance Pavilion, Mr. Albrechtson found the meeting on Wednesday, December 14, 2022 to be a “dog and pony” show. Mr. Albrechtson asked the following questions: Town Council approved the construction at the March 28, 2022 meeting. At this meeting, did HOS provide Town Council with any detailed plans for the development of the pavilion? Prior to the approval, surrounding residents were not given a forum on how the pavilion will impact daily living. Why did it take 9 months for this to happen?
- Dr. Felthousen -5 Ames St – Dr. Felthousen spent two months trying to gather facts. In an effort to move forward, Dr. Felthousen applied to be a member of Town Council. He would like to find a way to move forward and find a resolution.
- Brenda Smith – 12 Market St – Ms. Smith voiced her support for the town’s process. During COVID, all meetings were accessible. Meetings are transparent with advertising in the Eastern Shore Post, on the town’s website and an email distribution list. All residents can call the office to be added to the list.
- Clark Williams – 5 Johnson St – residents within a 2-3 block radius will be directly impacted by the Performance Pavilion. He was not informed of the project. The only way the project will be completed and successful is to include the residents in all communication.
- John Morrison – Mallard’s at the Wharf is seeking use of the adjacent parking lot at the Wharf on February 4, 2023 for the Riverside Auxiliary annual fundraiser.

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Councilmember Oswald moved to approve the request. Councilmember Burger seconded the motion. The vote passed with 6-0.

8) Selection of firm for Town Master Plan: a RFP went out 5 months ago to firms requesting proposals for a town master plan to include parking solutions, wayfinding, designing public space and lighting. The firm selected will be asked to give a price proposal.

Councilmember Holdren selected Hill Studio.
Councilmember Marino selected CRSA.
Councilmember Oswald selected Hill Studio.
Councilmember Nock – abstain
Councilmember Gillespie selected Hill Studio.
Councilmember Burger selected Hill Studio.

Councilmember Holdren moved to accept Hill Studios. Councilmember Marino seconded. The vote passed with 6-0 vote.

9) Committee Reports:

- a) Personnel Committee – Councilmember Marino reported a meeting was not held in November.
- b) Planning Commission – Commissioner Fosque updated the Planning Commission is developing a blighted property and property maintenance ordinance.
- c) Waterfront Committee – Mayor Fosque gave updates on the Bulkhead. The decorated sailboats are in the marina for the Christmas season.

10) Mayor’s Report –

- a) The town is currently down two police officers. Chief Williams will attend the January 2023 meeting to answer questions and present options to retain and recruit officers.
- b) The DPW is also down an employee. The harbormaster is filling in during the winter months.
- c) Mayor Fosque thanked everyone involved with Christmas in Onancock.
- d) Dog Park parade – Nina Adler organized a dog park parade. About 17 dogs participated.

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- e) Performance Pavilion – suggested a work session or ad-hoc committee to help facilitate open communication with HOS about the project.
- f) Appointment of Town Council member – set up a special meeting in January to interview and select a new council member.

11) Town Manager’s Report

a) Town Manager’s Report – in Council packet.

b) Financial Report – Councilmember Holdren commented on ARPA project cost updates. She had requested a cost update from Town Manager Spuck on items closed and unspent money that is available to reallocate to open projects. A total of \$18,800 is unexpended. Councilmember Holdren would like to consider reallocation of the funds.

12) Town Councilmember comments –

- Councilmember Burger – no comment.
- Councilmember Gillespie – December 19th was Ms. Gillespie’s last meeting. She thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve on the Town Council.
- Councilmember Nock – Councilmember Nock thanked Nina Adler for organizing the dog park parade. She complimented the decorated sailboats at the harbor. She expressed her gratitude to Councilmember Gillespie’s service.
- Councilmember Oswald – no comment.
- Councilmember Marino – Councilmember Marino stated she feels as if she did not do her due diligence before voting on the construction of the Performance Pavilion. She also stated she feels like the town has always supported the school with past projects but the blueprints and supporting documents were not available at the March 2022 meeting and this potentially played a part in her vote.
- Councilmember Holdren - Councilmember Holdren commented on the Performance Pavilion. She would like to move forward with working towards the goal of making the pavilion a positive thing for the community despite all the negative publicity and comments. Councilmember Holdren expressed her gratitude for Councilmember Gillespie’s service.

13) Closed session – not necessary.

14) Adjourn – Councilmember Holdren moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Gillespie seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 6-0 vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM.

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Mayor, Fletcher Fosque



Town Clerk, Debbie Caton