

**Town of Onancock
Town Council Meeting
Monday June 26, 2023
7:00 PM**

1) Call to order and Roll Call:

Vice- Mayor Maphis Oswald called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and roll was called. Vice-Mayor Maphis Oswald, Councilmembers Cynthia Holdren, Joy Marino, and Sarah Nock were present. Councilmembers Brandon Brockmeier and Ray Burger were not present. Mayor Fletcher Fosque was present via Zoom. Town Manager Matt Spuck and Town Clerk Debbie Caton were also present.

2) The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3) Approve minutes from the May 15, 2023, meeting– Councilmember Holdren moved to approve the minutes. Councilmember Nock seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

4) Approve minutes from the May 22, 2023, meeting - Councilmember Nock moved to approve the minutes. Councilmember Holdren seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

5) Public Hearings

- a. **26-4: Speed Limit Ordinance –** The public hearing was opened at 7:04 PM.

Public Comments:

Charlie Roe – 142 Market St – Mr. Roe is in favor of the speed limit change but thinks it is important to have police enforcement. In the past, he has spoken to the town about the difficulty with crossing the street in the B-2 district. At that time, his suggestion was cross walks and police enforcement. In his experience, the downtown businesses are treated differently than uptown.

Public hearing closed at 7:10 PM.

Council Comments – Councilmember Holdren thinks there was a miscommunication in that the speed limit change was to facilitate the use of golf carts. She wished to clarify that the changes are for pedestrian safety and not for the less than 20 golf carts in town.

- b. **Chapter 2: Administration, Division 3: Economic Development Authority Ordinance –** Public Hearing opened at 7:13. Town Manager Spuck explained the Economic Development Authority (EDA) needs to be in place for the short-term because the town received a grant from the VA Department of Housing and

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Community Development (DHCD) IRF loan to revitalize a blighted building. The town cannot lend money to a private entity per the attorney; therefore, an EDA board needs to be established to oversee the funds and loan terms. He further went on to explain that in the long term the EDA board will allow for additional funding avenues to stimulate the businesses in Onancock. This will include all businesses despite their location of downtown or uptown.

Public Comments – Peter Holt - 15 Meadville – Mr. Holt asked, “would the Town set up a committee to manage the funds?” Town Manger Spuck explained the EDA is a 7-member board and the terms would rotate like a council seat. The plan is to select qualified members from the community to fulfill the skill sets required such as accounting, legal, real estate, and other requirements as needed.

Public hearing closed at 7:20 PM.

6) Public Presentation

- a. **Geoff Daking: Sound measurement** – Mr. Daking distributed a packet to town council of his presentation. This packet is included in the approved minutes. He gave a presentation on sound measurement. The goal of the presentation was to help town council and members of the audience better understand how sound is measured. He explained music is more difficult to measure because of the different levels in dynamics and different frequencies. He went on to further explain sound reinforcement and the combination of microphones and speakers. All outdoor music venues will need sound reinforcement. The entire presentation can be viewed at the www.onancock.com.

Councilmember Marino asked Mr. Daking what sources were used for the presentation? Mr. Daking responded, “he used data from the Audio Encyclopedia, World Health Organization and Bell Labs. “

Councilmember Marino asked Mr. Daking if he was a sound engineer. He responded “yes”.

The following comments were out of order and not part of the public comment session. Vice-Mayor Oswald allowed the comments.

Don Ruthig- Mr. Ruthig spoke from the audience and disagreed with Mr. Daking’s opinion about reinforced sound.

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Clark Williams – Mr. Williams spoke from the audience and explained that residential neighborhoods deserve peace and quiet.

7) Council Action

- a. **Section 3-301 to 3-303: Economic Development Authority ordinance -** Councilmember Marino moved to adopt the EDA ordinance. Councilmember Holdren seconded the motion.

Council Discussion –

- Councilmember Marino asked if the council could adopt the ordinance now but later appoint members and establish by-laws? Town Manager Spuck verified with the attorney that we can appoint members and establish by-laws after the ordinance was passed.
- Councilmember Holdren asked the attorney for clarification on the EDA's authority to develop properties outside of the town limits. She has not received a response and would like his response before moving forward with the ordinance. Town Manager Spuck stated this decision would negatively impact more people than being considered. It impacts the contractor that is drawing money from a line of credit at a higher interest rate, it hurts the Town's relationship with DHCH because we cannot process the loan and it hurts Onancock Main Street as the grant award was a huge accomplishment.
- Vice-Mayor Oswald would like to clarify the members of the board will be residents of Onancock. The following is the state regulation in reference to members of the board, *"every director shall, at the time of his appointment and thereafter, reside in a locality within which the authority operates or in an adjoining locality. When a director ceases to be a resident of such locality, the director's office shall be vacant, and a new director may be appointed for the remainder of the term."*

The motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

- b. **Section 26-4: Speed Limit** – Town Manager Spuck asked to redact line A under 1. – Vice-Mayor Oswald moved to approve the ordinance with the above redaction. Councilmember Holdren seconded the motion.

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Council comments:

- Councilmember Holdren asked Town Manager Spuck to elaborate on the resident complaints about the current speed limit. Town Manger Spuck reminded everyone of Mr. Roe’s earlier comments. He also explained the road diet is a large part of the decision on Market St. The road diet will take the four-lane road down to two lanes with bike and pedestrian lanes on each side. Most safety complaints are from residents are about Liberty St. Because there are no sidewalks on Liberty, pedestrians feel unsafe while walking because cars are speeding.
- Councilmember Nock asked if VDOT will approve all or nothing with the suggested speed limit changes. Town Manager Spuck replied saying, “VDOT could do that but he does not know why they would.”

Nock – yea
Maphis – yea
Holdren – yea
Marino – nay

The motion carried with 3-1 vote.

- c. **Onancock Resolution – Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG)** – The boating infrastructure grant is applied for each year. Last year the award was \$64,000 which helped pay for the new bulkhead. The resolution is required for reimbursement. Councilmember Marino moved to accept the resolution. Vice- Mayor Oswald seconded the motion.

- Councilmember Nock asked for clarification that the work is already complete. Town Manager Spuck confirmed the work is complete.

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

8) Council Discussion:

- a) Hill Studios next steps parking – There were three initiatives with the Hill Studio study. 1) Parking – nose-in parking on College Ave. was favorable. The recommendation was to come back and work with VDOT to get nose-in parking. 2) Lighting – The downtown lighting was popular while the residential package was not popular. 3) Signage – The wayfinding signs were well received along with street

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signs. The package that was not received well was the entry way and the destination signs. David Hill asked for any design ideas to help the process begin to move forward. Upon selection, Hill Studios will provide manufacturer, product information and pricing for a proposed budget. Mayor Fosque suggested a work session in July because of the absence of Councilmember Brockmeier and Councilmember Burger. Councilmember Holdren asked if we can get the pricing for the packages that are popular.

9) Public Comments –

- a) Rick Turner – 3 Onancock St – Mr. Turner thinks the FOS have been treated poorly. The board has continued to keep the grounds in great shape and the building is pristine. Any maintenance issues have been managed solely by the FOS board without town involvement. One of many examples includes the request for an outdoor bathroom facility because of the high traffic at the playground. The FOS board worked out a free porta potty deal. He also stated the pavilion will not be a constant nuisance. When the Hill Studio gave their presentation a few months ago, it was noted that music can benefit small towns.
- b) Haydon Rochester – 39 King St –Mr. Rochester is the President of FOS. He stated the school zoning is a unique zoning. The town council gave FOS permission to move forward with the construction of the pavilion and is extremely unfortunate the project is not completed.
- c) Priscilla Hart – 21 Market St – Ms. Hart likes the idea of a town Welcome Center. She hosted a few guest that were staying at the harbor who needed assistance with town sightseeing spots and other activities. Town Manager Spuck informed her that that he is currently working to create a digital walking map and other visitor apps. The grant awarded from VA Tourism will assist in the cost of development.
- d) Clark Williams – 5 Johnson St – Mr. Clark stated when he discusses with new residents as to why they moved to Onancock; many respond with “the peace and quiet of a small town.” The performance pavilion will disrupt this way of life for residents. He charged town council to navigate the issues.

10) Committee Reports

- a) Personnel Committee -Councilmember Holdren reported the personnel committee met to discuss Town Manager Spuck’s annual evaluation. Currently, the revised personnel handbook has not been approved and hopes the revisions can be expedited.

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- b) Planning Commission – In Councilmember Brockmeier’s absence, Town Manager Spuck reported the planning commission reviewed Chapter 38 – Zoning.
- c) Waterfront Committee – In Mayor Fosque’s absence, Town Manager Spuck reported the waterfront committee reviewed performance with slip nights and revenue. With the BIG Infrastructure Grant, the Harbor can install a new fuel pump, pump out station, and a handicap ramp.

11) Mayor’s Report – defer to next month.

12) Town Manager’s Report

- a) HRSD – The utility repair to install sewer laterals on Jefferson St. qualifies as a patch/repair and the road will be brought up to VDOT standards. It is no longer necessary for the road to be a one-way street.
- b) VA Tourism Grant – With the grant award money, we are creating a walking map and interactive map system to use on your phone.
- c) Town website – Town Manager Spuck had a zoom call with the website developer, and they came to an agreement on the landing page. A contractor was hired to work on social media presence.
- d) ARPA – The generator, cameras and new equipment have been moved to the DOJ grant. The county has the plans for the new police station because there is a life safety approval required.
- e) 38 Market St – a floor plan has been approved.

Financial Report – Town Manager Spuck reviewed the financial report.

13) Town Council comments –

- Councilmember Nock - She reminded everyone of the ice cream social on July 3, 2023.
- Vice- Mayor Oswald – She stated the mayor’s job is not easy and she appreciates everyone’s patience with running the meeting.
- Councilmember Holdren – The HOS Blooms and Brush tour was well attended and hopes this will become an annual event. She reminded everyone about OMS gift card promotion. The new mural at North Street Playhouse will start towards the end of July.
- Councilmember Marino –She is sorry to see Charlie Roe leave town and thanked him for his help.

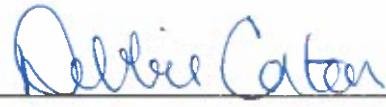
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14) Closed Session -not necessary

15) Adjourn – Councilmember Marino moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Holdren seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:28 PM.



Mayor, Fletcher Fosque



Town Clerk, Debbie Caton