

Town Council Meeting Minutes
June 15, 2020
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The Orange Town Council held a meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Town of Orange Community Meeting Room. Town Council Members present were: Mayor Martha B. Roby, Vice-Mayor Frederick W. Sherman, Jr., Councilmembers Timothy Bosford, Jr., Elliott A. Fox, Jr. and Donna Waugh-Robinson. Staff members present were: Town Manager Greg Woods, Town Clerk Wendy J. Chewning, MMC, Town Attorney Catherine Lea, and Director of Finance Norris John.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Fox led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER

The Mayor called the meeting to order. The Town Clerk called roll and noted that there was a quorum present.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion was made by Councilmember Bosford, seconded by Councilmember Waugh-Robinson, to adopt the agenda, as presented. On vote, Mayor Roby – aye, Vice-Mayor Sherman – aye, Councilmember Bosford – aye, Councilmember Fox – aye, and Councilmember Waugh-Robinson - aye. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment.

TOWN COUNCIL CONSIDERED TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 16th, APRIL 6th, April 20th, AND May 12th, 2020

Motion was made by Councilmember Waugh-Robinson, seconded by Councilmember Bosford, to adopt the minutes of March 16th, April 6th, April 20th, and May 12th, 2020, as written and presented. On vote, Mayor Roby – aye, Vice-Mayor Sherman – aye, Councilmember Bosford – aye, Councilmember Fox – aye, and Councilmember Waugh-Robinson - aye. The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

FINANCE REPORT

The Director of Finance stated that he would be reporting on the eleventh month for May FY2020:

The Director of Finance reported that on Page 5-3 “Current Month” – General Fund Tax Revenues amounted to \$282,139 of which \$116,172 was from Bank Franchise Taxes. The

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Director of Finance reported that as of now Meals Tax was projected to be \$53,000 better than budgeted. The Town Manager reported that the Bank Franchise Tax was fifty percent less than in previous years without any notable changes and that staff would need to check calculation with State.

The Director of Finance reported that on Page 5-4 Water Sales to date were \$1,148,299 and Sewer Sales to date were \$1,450,877.

The Director of Finance stated that on page 5-13 for the month of December, the Town paid \$637,784 in bills of which more than 50% was debt repayment. The Director of Finance stated that the leachate total to date was \$77,983, and another invoice was sent out for May for \$23,000 for a total of over \$99,000. The Town Manager reported that the Sewer Fund was only \$50,000 in the red and that was due to funds received from leachate.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION OF FY21 BUDGET

The Town Manager reported that the FY21 Budget totaling \$8,921,000 was very conservative. The Town Manager stated that he thought we would have no problem with this budget as long as the State didn't take funds for road maintenance or our 599 funds.

The Town Manager reported that this Budget consisted of \$3 uncommitted in reserves, a \$0.02 water increase dedicated to the elevator, a 2.5% increase for employees, and a LODA increase to impact \$1,000 for the year.

After discussion, motion was made by Vice-Mayor Sherman, seconded by Councilmember Waugh-Robinson, to adopt the FY21 Budget, as presented. On roll call vote: Councilmember Fox – aye, Vice-Mayor Sherman – aye, Councilmember Waugh-Robinson – aye, Councilmember Bosford – aye, and Mayor Roby – aye. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF FY21 APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE

The Town Manager reported that there were only two changes to the FY21 Appropriation Ordinance from FY20 this being the real estate tax equalization rate to \$0.157 per \$100 of assessed value and the water consumption increase of \$0.02 per 100 gallons dedicated to capital expenditures.

Motion was made by Councilmember Waugh-Robinson, seconded by Vice-Mayor Sherman, to adopt the FY21 Appropriation Ordinance, as presented. On roll call vote: Councilmember Bosford – aye, Councilmember Fox – aye, Vice-Mayor Sherman – aye, Councilmember Waugh-Robinson – aye, and Mayor Roby – aye. The motion carried unanimously.

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NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION OF RE-APPOINTMENT OF BEN SHERMAN TO THE TOWN'S PLANNING COMMISSION WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2024

The Town Manager reported that Mr. Sherman's term on the Town's Planning Commission expired June 30, 2024. The Town Manager reported further that staff had contacted Mr. Sherman and he wished to be re-appointed. The Town Manager reported that Mr. Sherman had been the Chairman for the Planning Commission for quite some time and did a good job.

Motion was made by Councilmember Waugh-Robinson, seconded by Councilmember Bosford, to re-appoint Ben Sherman to the Town's Planning Commission with a term to expire June 30, 2024. On vote, Mayor Roby – aye, Vice-Mayor Sherman – aye, Councilmember Bosford – aye, Councilmember Fox – aye, and Councilmember Waugh-Robinson - aye. The motion carried unanimously.

TOWN COUNCIL CONSIDERED ORDINANCE (ORD2020-03) ALLOWING FOR THE PROSECUTION OF TRAFFIC OFFENSES

The Town Manager stated that this Ordinance was adopted annually and allowed the prosecution of traffic offenses.

Motion was made by Councilmember Bosford, seconded by Vice-Mayor Sherman, to move that Town Council adopt Ordinance (ORD2020-03), as presented. On vote, Mayor Roby – aye, Vice-Mayor Sherman – aye, Councilmember Bosford – aye, Councilmember Fox – aye, and Councilmember Waugh-Robinson - aye. The motion carried unanimously.

TOWN COUNCIL DISCUSSED AND RE-ADOPTED A CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT ORDINANCE TO EFFECTUATE TEMPORARY CHANGES IN CERTAIN DEADLINES AND TO MODIFY PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES TO ADDRESS CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH PANDEMIC DISASTER

The Town Attorney stated that back on April 6, 2020 Town Council adopted an Emergency Ordinance (ORD2020-01). The Town Attorney stated further that at that meeting, she explained to Town Council that the Emergency Ordinance would need to be re-adopted or rescinded every 60 days.

Mayor Roby thanked the Town Clerk for researching options and coming up for a way for Town Council to meet virtually. Councilmember Bosford requested looking into something like WebEx or Zoom where both visual and audible teleconferencing was an option. Mayor Roby stated that not everyone had a computer so that it was important to have an audible option.

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After discussion, motion was made by Councilmember Waugh-Robinson, seconded by Councilmember Bosford, to re-adopt the Continuity of Governance Ordinance (ORD2020-01) that was adopted on April 6, 2020. On vote, Mayor Roby – aye, Vice-Mayor Sherman – aye, Councilmember Bosford – aye, Councilmember Fox – aye, and Councilmember Waugh-Robinson - aye. The motion carried unanimously.

REESTABLISHMENT OF TOWN'S IDA

The Town Manager stated that he was looking into reestablishing the Town's IDA in order to facilitate the disbursal of funding from the CARES ACT provided to the Town through the County. The Town Manager stated that this would be on the regular July 20th Town Council agenda for discussion.

LETTER FROM ANN CLEMENTS

Mayor Roby read a letter from Ann Clements thanking the Town for the high school college scholarship that she received.

NORTH STREET

The Town Manager stated that utilities on North Street was done except for the Verizon work.

VERIZON TOWER

The Town Manger stated that we are supposed to start receiving money on June 28, 2020 for the Verizon Tower.


POLICE DEPARTMENT

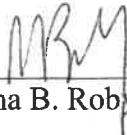
Vice-Mayor Sherman commended Chief Fenwick and the police department on their reactions to the recent Town protests.

WELCOME BACK

Mayor Roby stated that she was glad to see everyone this evening and that she hoped everyone, and their families were well. Councilmember Fox encouraged everyone to support our local businesses as much as we can and shop local.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.


Wendy J. Chewning, MMC, Town Clerk


Martha B. Roby, Mayor