



# OCCOQUAN TOWN COUNCIL

## Meeting Minutes

Town Hall - 314 Mill Street, Occoquan, VA 22125

Tuesday, May 2, 2023

7:00 p.m.

**Present:** Mayor Earnie Porta; Vice Mayor Jenn Loges; Councilmembers Nancy Freeborne Brinton, Theo Daubresse, Cindy Fithian, and Eliot Perkins

**Absent:** None

**Staff:** Adam Linn, Town Manager / Chief of Police; Philip Auville, Town Clerk; Matt Whitmoyer, Management Fellow; Jason Forman, Deputy Chief of Police; Julie Little, Events Director; Manuel Casillas, Town Treasurer; Bruce Reese, Town Engineer (remote); Martin Crim, Town Attorney (remote)

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Porta called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### 3. CITIZENS' TIME

No one spoke during citizens' time.

Mayor Porta asked for unanimous consent to add to the agenda a Resolution of Appreciation and Recognition to Merial Curren and Jeffrey Curren on the Occasion of their Retirement. There being no objection, the Resolution was added to the agenda.

### 4. PUBLIC HEARING

#### a. Public Hearing on FY 2024 Proposed Budget

Mayor Porta opened the public hearing at 7:02 p.m.

Mayor Porta invited the public to speak. No one spoke at the public hearing.

Mayor Porta closed the public hearing at 7:02 p.m.

### 5. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Mr. Mike Moran from Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates presented the FYE 2022 financial audit.

Mayor Porta provided an opportunity for each Council member to ask questions if they desired. No questions were asked.

### 6. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. **April 18, 2023, Meeting Minutes**
- b. **Request to Set Public Hearing for a Zoning Text Amendment on Temporary Sales Trailers**
- c. **Request to Set Public Hearing for a Zoning Text Amendment on Granting the Zoning Administrator Authority to Make Modifications from the Zoning Ordinance with Respect to Physical Requirements**
- d. **Request to Set a Public Hearing for a Zoning Text Amendment on Amending the Sign Ordinance**

**Councilmember Freeborne Brinton moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Perkins seconded. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**

## **7. MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Porta reported the following:

- On April 7<sup>th</sup>, he checked in on the start of Congressional mobile constituent service office hours.
- On April 14<sup>th</sup>, he attended public call to prayer and Iftar dinner at the Masjid al-Husain Peace Center.
- On April 18<sup>th</sup>, he met with the Town Manager and representatives from the Occoquan Pointe and Barrington Pointe HOAs, who in addition to some requests regarding the stairs that access their areas, offered to assist the town with some drainage issues. Mayor Porta noted his appreciation for their collaborative, community-minded initiative on the drainage issues.
- On April 20<sup>th</sup>, he attended the 50th anniversary luncheon of the local chapter of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees.
- On April 26<sup>th</sup>, he served as a celebrity waiter at the Lake Ridge Rotary's annual fundraiser.

Mayor Porta also noted that a member of the mosque had inquired about more regular call-to-prayer activity consistent with the town noise ordinance. He is discussing the matter with the town staff and will engage with leadership at the mosque on the issue and report back to the Council.

Mayor Porta also asked for confirmation from the Town Council about parameters for any renovation proposal requests for the museum. The Council agreed that the basic parameters of any such effort should involve (a) an addition/renovation that doubles display space, and (b) an exterior river-facing deck suitable for gatherings of 50-75 people with access from within the museum and flexibility to connect to boardwalk.

## **8. COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS**

Councilmember Freeborne Brinton mentioned that on April 14<sup>th</sup> that she participated in Iftar dinner at the Masjid al-Husain Peace Center. She also mentioned that she is rejoining the Community Healthcare Coalition Greater Prince William Group.

Councilmember Fithian noted that she enjoyed participating in the Occoquan FOTO Clean Up on April 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **9. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

Architectural Review Board (ARB) Chair Seefeldt reported that the ARB did not meet on April 25<sup>th</sup>. Chair Seefeldt noted that Ms. Curren will remain on the ARB as the Business Representative since she still has the Patriots for Disabled Divers Non-Profit headquartered in Town.

Councilmember Perkins reported that the Planning Commission met on April 25<sup>th</sup>. He noted that the Planning Commission discussed and was finalizing the strategic plan for future directions of the

Planning Commission which will focus on the following: Maximizing Natural Resources, Town Entrances and Beautification, Business Development, Community Character, Town Mobility, and Being a Green Town.

Vice Mayor Loges thanked Councilmember Perkins for all the accomplishments and work that he puts into the Planning Commission.

## 10. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

### a. Administrative Report

Mr. Linn provided a written report as part of the agenda packet and responded to brief questions from the council.

Mayor Porta complemented staff on getting the mural project out to the public.

Councilmember Fithian commented that the police volunteer hours worked so far have exceeded a full-time officer.

Councilmember Daubresse asked if there were any updates on the Beer Garden. Mr. Linn advised that the Beer Garden had received its permit from the Town as well as their bond release. Mr. Linn further advised that the owner is currently working with the County on getting their final permit which related to a question regarding the capacity of the pergolas.

### b. Town Treasurer's report

Mr. Casillas provided a written report as part of the agenda packet and responded to brief questions from the Council

Mayor Porta noted that expenses are currently 75% through the fiscal year, when straight lining up to March for the fiscal year.

The Council directed staff to create a plan for collecting delinquent taxes in Town.

### c. Town Attorney

Mr. Crim provided a written report as part of the agenda packet. There were no questions.

## 11. REGULAR BUSINESS

### a. Request to Adopt a Resolution of Appreciation and Recognition to Merial Curren and Jeffrey Curren on the Occasion of their Retirement

**Vice Mayor Loges moved to adopt a Resolution of Appreciation and Recognition to Merial Curren and Jeffrey Curren on the Occasion of their Retirement. Councilmember Fithian seconded. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.**

**Ayes:** Vice Mayor Loges, Councilmember Fithian, Councilmember Daubresse,  
Councilmember Freeborne Brinton, Councilmember Perkins

**Nays:** None

### b. Request to Adopt Ordinance to Amend Section 92.10 entitled Permit for Amplified Outdoor Sound of Title 9: General Regulations of the Town Code

**Councilmember Perkins moved to adopt Ordinance 2023-06 to amend 92.10 of the Town**

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**Code as presented. Councilmember Fithian seconded. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.**

**Ayes:** Vice Mayor Loges, Councilmember Fithian, Councilmember Daubresse, Councilmember Freeborne Brinton, Councilmember Perkins

**Nays:** None

## 12. CLOSED SESSION

Vice Mayor Loges moved that the Council convene in closed session to discuss the following as permitted by Virginia Code § 2.2-3711 (A)(3), a matter involving: disposition of publicly held property specifically involving 115 Commerce Street, because discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the City's bargaining position or negotiating strategy. Councilmember Perkins seconded. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

The Council went into closed session at 7:51 p.m.

The Council came out of closed session at 8:05 p.m.

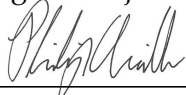
Vice Mayor Loges moved to certify that, in the closed session just concluded, nothing was discussed except the matter or matters (1) specifically identified in the motion to convene in closed session and (2) lawfully permitted to be discussed in a closed session under the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act as cited in that motion. Seconded by Councilmember Fithian. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

**Ayes:** Vice Mayor Loges, Councilmember Fithian, Councilmember Daubresse, Councilmember Freeborne Brinton, Councilmember Perkins

**Nays:** None

## 13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.



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Philip Auville, Town Clerk