



OCOCOQUAN TOWN COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
Town Hall – 314 Mill Street, Occoquan, VA 22125
Wednesday, August 6, 2025
7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Earnie Porta; Vice Mayor Jenn Loges, Councilmembers Robert Love, Cindy Fithian, Eliot Perkins, and Theo Daubresse

Absent: None

Staff: Adam Linn, Town Manager / Chief of Police; Matt Whitmoyer, Deputy Town Manager; Philip Auville, Town Clerk; Jason Forman, Deputy Chief of Police; Tammy Hassett, Events Director; Asma Rupani, Town Treasurer

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Mayor Loges arrived at 7:02 p.m.

Mayor Porta asked for unanimous consent to add to the agenda a recognition of Mark Summerson, to move up on the agenda the Resolution of Appreciation for Ann Kisling, and to add to the agenda a discussion on 107 E. Colonial Drive. There being no objection, the items were added and moved up on the agenda.

Mayor Porta mentioned that Mark Summerson is a fine art photographer, who recently relocated to Occoquan and participated as a new vendor at the most recent RiverFest and Crafts Show. His online store features photographic prints of Occoquan and instinctively captures light, motion, and atmosphere, and he has donated a photograph entitled “Over Quiet Docks” to the Town. The photograph is being displayed in Town Hall.

Mayor Porta read off the Resolution of Appreciation for Ann Kisling for the occasion of her retirement from the Planning Commission.

Vice Mayor Loges moved to adopt Resolution R-2025-07 recognizing Ann Kisling for her years of dedicated service to the Occoquan community. Councilmember Perkins seconded. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Ayes: Vice Mayor Loges, Councilmember Perkins, Councilmember Fithian, Councilmember Daubresse, and Councilmember Love

Nays: None

3. CITIZENS’ TIME

One resident and one business owner spoke during Citizens' Time.

James Elgin, a resident from River Road, spoke on a parking issue related to a residence with more vehicles than parking spaces on River Road. He indicated that he has already raised the issue of the number of people believed to be living in the house located at 105 River Road with both the Town staff and Prince William County. He also noted that a number of cars parked in front of 105 River Road do not display a vehicle decal registering the vehicles in the town.

Jordan Sanders, the business owner of Hello Jackson, also spoke and provided draft signage proposals to the council based on the prior month's discussion to allow off-premises signage to low visibility businesses.

Since there were no further citizen comments other than those related to 107 E. Colonial Drive, Citizens' Time was closed.

Discussion on Signage

Mayor Porta asked Mr. Crim if the town could allow off-premises signage by distinguishing by business location.

Mr. Crim replied that under the uniformity requirement applicable to in zoning law it would have to be the same for every business.

Mayor Porta noted it would be a problem to define which businesses would be considered low visibility. He asked Mr. Crim if other jurisdictions have used that terminology.

Mr. Crim replied he doesn't know of any other jurisdictions that use that terminology.

Mayor Porta noted that the staff and Planning Commission previously recommended allowing up to two a-frame signs, including one off-premises. The reason it wasn't adopted at that time was there were no businesses that came to the Town Council to advocate for it and in the past one of the guiding reasons for enacting the signage restriction was that businesses came to the Town Council opposing multiple A-frame signs and off-premises signage. Mayor Porta noted that since signage is in the zoning code changes will require that the Town Council refer it to the Planning Commission for review and any necessary public hearings, then Town Council would also have to hold a public hearing before it could vote on any change. He recommended the Town Council refer the matter to the Planning Commission for their recommendation to the Town Council and noted that it will be important for the business owners to express their views on the subject at the appropriate meetings and hearings.

Town Council was in unanimous agreement to send the signage change to the Planning Commission for their recommendation.

Discussion on River Road

Mr. Linn advised that parking enforcement had indeed gone twice to River Road to review parking compliance. After speaking with the County, he confirmed that the County did not go out to check whether too many people live in the residence at issue. Mr. Linn advised that the town can't regulate how many cars someone has but can regulate whether they have a town decal or not; however, the Town can only tow vehicles from public parking if there are more than three unpaid parking violations.

Mayor Porta asked what if the town owns all the parking spaces and then assigns spaces to each residence on River Road.

Mr. Linn noted that the town owns a significant portion of the parking spaces since the property lines only extend part way into the spaces.

Mr. Crim replied that the town could create a special parking district to take over the parking and issue special parking decals.

After discussion Mayor Porta directed staff to look into creating a special parking district and return to Council.

Discussion on 107 East Colonial Drive

Mr. Linn briefed the Town Council on the events that occurred on East Colonial Drive on August 5th and the morning of August 6th. He also noted that police cannot forcibly enter a private residence to serve either an emergency custody order or protective order, nor can they forcibly enter a residence on most misdemeanor warrants. Mr. Linn explained that as a result of the incidents discussed, the individual at 107 East Colonial Drive now has several active criminal charges as well as other cases pending against him in the Prince William County Courts.

Mr. Linn continued that based on obtaining the criminal charges this morning the Town Police and Prince William County Police, in a joint operation, made entry into the residence to arrest the individual at 107 East Colonial Drive. Unfortunately, they were not able to locate the individual despite searching the property with a canine unit.

Mr. Linn responded to several questions asked by Mayor Porta.

Mayor Porta reopened Citizens' Time for the discussion on 107 East Colonial Drive.

Eight residents from East Colonial Drive and Mill Cross Lane spoke and expressed concern about the ongoing disturbances caused by the individuals at 107 East Colonial Drive. The residents stressed that the situation has escalated to an emergency level, threatening their sense of safety and security, and they urged stronger action to protect the community.

Since there were no further citizen comments, Citizens' Time was closed.

Mayor Porta thanked everyone for attending and sharing information and expressed his sorrow over how this situation is affecting the community.

In response to one of the comments, Mayor Porta indicated that it was his understanding that the reason the individual was able to elude police last evening was that there were County officers nearby waiting to pursue him once he ran over the stop sticks used by town police, but that somehow this pursuit did not occur.

Mr. Linn replied that the Town police were told that after the deployment of stop sticks, County Police would follow the vehicle if it went out Occoquan Road, which it did. The County has a limited pursuit policy but would follow the vehicle. However, the vehicle was not followed once it left the town.

Mayor Porta asked about the delay in response to the 911 calls from earlier in the evening.

Mr. Linn replied that the Town officers were assigned to the National Night Out event and based on the integrated CAD system they believed the County Police were handling the calls and that the calls had been

closed out by County police.

Mayor Porta asked if protective orders had expiration dates that would then allow the individual to return to the house after expiration.

Mr. Linn replied that it is correct, and the protective orders have in this case all been temporary.

Mr. Linn also noted that the police incident reports can be found online in the town administrative report in the first Town Council Meeting Agenda Packet for each month.

Mayor Porta noted that he sees basically two courses of action to address the situation: the first is to apply maximum pressure through any legal avenues with regard to the criminal activity, and the second is to station an officer at the street in the interest of public safety on at least a temporary basis.

Mr. Crim added other suggestions such as seeking assistance from the Fire Marshall for the fires and broken glass. He also suggested reviewing the Town Code for broken windows and other property maintenance issues.

Vice Mayor Loges asked if it's the Town or the County's police that are the lead on this.

Mr. Linn replied that the Town has the criminal warrants and has taken the lead; however, the Town Police are working with Prince William County Police.

Vice Mayor Loges suggested advocating to the magistrate and the court system for the safety of the law enforcement officers and the residents, and the seriousness of the situation.

Councilmember Daubresse as a resident on the same street, spoke on behalf of two residents who couldn't come to the meeting. One resident wished to address how the constant police presence is interfering with their lives since at times the street is blocked off. Another resident who has a child noted they are changing their walking patterns to avoid 107 East Colonial Drive. Councilmember Daubresse further spoke on how this situation is impacting the lives of these residents and is negatively escalating. He asked if this can be officially expressed to the Prince William County Police that this is a serious situation either in writing or by having someone come to listen to the residents' concerns.

Town Council discussed the events on East Colonial Drive and the issues brought forth by residents.

Mr. Linn updated Town Council that the individual's vehicle had just been found by Town Police and they are using all available resources to locate the individual.

Residents came forth to speak more about the situation and the Prince William County Police response to the issue.

Mr. Linn gave out the Occoquan Non-Emergency Number and noted if the individual is seen to call 911 immediately.

Mayor Porta and all the Council Members again thanked the residents for attending the meeting, expressing their concerns and providing valuable information.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Request to Accept July 8, 2025, Town Council Meeting Minutes

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

Mayor Porta asked for unanimous consent to move up on the agenda the Town Treasurers' Report. There being no objection, the items were moved up on the agenda.

5. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

a. Town Treasurers' Report

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

6. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Porta reported the following:

- On July 11th, he participated in the Fox5 Zip Trip.
- On July 14th, he gave a bus tour group a presentation on the town's history.
- On July 23rd, he gave a presentation on Hurricane Agnes at the George Mason OLLI.
- On August 1st, he emceed Triva Night in River Mill Park.
- On August 3rd, he attended the Snakehead Round Up.
- On August 4th, he took fifteen members from the town's congressperson on a tour of the town.
- On August 5th, he attended the National Night Out.

7. COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS

Councilmember Perkins noted that he joined in with staff and others with beautification projects. He also participated in the Snakehead Round Up.

Councilmember Love noted that he participated in Trivia Night, attended the Snakehead Round Up, and attended National Night Out.

Councilmember Fithian noted that she attended National Night Out.

8. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Councilmember Perkins reported that the Planning Commission met in July. He thanked the Council for their feedback on the strategic document. He also noted that he spoke with Mr. Sills on the Mill at Occoquan and he reported that he plans on starting in October and he asked Mr. Sills to follow up with staff, which he has not.

Architectural Review Board (ARB) Chair Seefeldt reported that the ARB did not meet in July.

9. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

a. Administrative Report

Mr. Linn provided a written report as part of the agenda packet.

Mr. Linn invited Mr. Whitmoyer to provide a brief update on the Main Street Program Grant.

Mr. Whitmoyer briefed Council on the grant project indicating that it will concentrate on the Mill Street Storage Shed and will include beautification, replacement of the door, a bench, and art mural.

Mayor Porta noted the large amount of timed parking violations. The goal of the timed parking is for employees to park in the long-term parking lots and not take up street parking from customers.

b. Town Attorney's Report

Mr. Crim provided a written report as part of the agenda packet.

Mayor Porta asked if there was any material he would want to share about the Virginia Legislation that affects site plans and subdivision processing.

Mr. Crim replied that there are inconsistencies with the town ordinance and state code about the length of time that a preliminary plan is viable. That will need to be cleared up in the code.

10. REGULAR BUSINESS

a. Request to Adopt a Resolution of Appreciation for James Drakes

Councilmember Fithian moved to adopt Resolution R-2025-08 recognizing James Drakes for his years of dedicated service to the Occoquan community. Vice Mayor Loges seconded. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

b. Request to Adopt Ordinance Updating References in Title IX of the Town Code

Councilmember Perkins moved to adopt the ordinance as presented. Councilmember Love seconded. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Ayes: Vice Mayor Loges, Councilmember Perkins, Councilmember Fithian, Councilmember Daubresse, and Councilmember Love

Nays: None

11. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Discussion on Snakehead Initiative

Vice Mayor Loges thanked Mr. Linn for starting this event.

Mayor Porta noted that it was a good idea and that it had 126 people sign up.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 p.m.



Philip Auville, Town Clerk