

Draft of Onley Town Council Minutes of May 9, 2016

VIRGINIA: At a Recessed Meeting/Budget Workshop of the Onley Town Council held at the VVA Building, 25534 East Main Street, on the 9th day of May, A.D., 2016:

Council Members Present: Jack Pierson, Mayor
Ned Finney, Vice-Mayor
John Dennis
Dawn Dize
Matt Hart
Susan Rillo
Don Strautz

Staff Present: Jamye Salazar, Treasurer
John Spivey, Chief of Police

Call to Order

Mayor Pierson called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance

The invocation was given by Dawn Dize and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ned Finney.

2016-2017 Budget Work Session

Ms. Salazar stated that there are only a few matters that need to be finalized tonight. She added that she did make several changes to the proposed budget since the last work session. A copy of the changes will be attached to the minutes.

In the matter of holiday light decorations, she has had no luck with ANEC so she asked for Council's guidance with this matter. She reminded Council that SPOTS has asked for a donation of \$2,500.00 and a decision about that will need to be made tonight. Lastly, she would like Council's guidance with handling the excess/overage in the budget.

Council added \$10,000.00 to the budget for the purchase of holiday lights.

After some discussion about the donation to SPOTS, Council decided against giving them another donation.

Mayor Pierson asked Council if they would like to budget any of the excess money for the purchase of the property across from the Town Office. Mr. Finney stated that \$20,000.00 for .20 acres is too much money. He added that we can purchase property by the pool for that price and acquire much more land.

Mayor Pierson stated that location is very important and he does not like the location of the area over by the pool. He likes the property in the center of town as well as the security aspect of it. Mr. Finney asked Mr. Hart if he is willing to accept less than \$20,000.00 for the property. At this time, Mr. Hart recused himself from the Council table and sat in the audience so he could address Council's question.

Mr. Hart stated that \$20,000.00 was the amount that he agreed upon with Roy Cowan, the mortgage holder on the property. Mr. Strautz stated that there is very little that can be done with such a small piece of property; he asked Mr. Hart if he would be willing to sell the entire parcel – not just a portion. Mr. Hart stated that were he to do that, the appraisal amount would double or triple. Mayor Pierson said that the real question is it worth that price to us to put in a park across from the office.

Ms. Dize asked if we are discussing a playground or a park because they are two different things. Mr. Finney stated that he wants a playground for kids – he has never wanted the park. Mayor Pierson said we have already decided that. Mr. Finney disagreed. Mayor Pierson asked Council to decide right now what we want – either a playground or a park. Ms. Dize said that she doesn't feel it is a safe place for a

playground and most citizens do not want one anyway. Mr. Dennis stated that the location is not great for a park either and \$20,000.00 is too much money. Mr. Strautz stated that the Planning Commission needs to conduct its feasibility study. Mr. Strautz then said "no" to a playground. Ms. Rillo is in favor of a park. At this point, Ms. Salazar stated that the issue for tonight is if Council wants to put money in the budget for the purchase of property but no decisions about the property should be made tonight. Council decided against putting money in the budget for the purchase of property. Council decided to put the excess money in the budget to General Government/Capital Expense. Ms. Salazar stated that we have a balanced budget. A copy will be attached.

Motion: To send the proposed 2016-2017 Budget to Public Hearing on June 6, 2016 by John Dennis and seconded by Don Strautz. Roll Call Vote: Hart-yes; Rillo-yes; Dize-yes; Dennis-yes; Strautz-yes; Finney-yes. MOTION PASSED

In the matter of the VRS Hazard Duty Supplement, Mr. Strautz stated that he was referred to the website and recommended that Council go to the website. Mayor Pierson stated that Sgt. Bennett provided him with a 78-page document so if anyone would like to have a look at it, they should stop in the Town Office.

Adjourn/Recess

Motion: To adjourn at 6:58pm by Don Strautz and seconded by Matt Hart. Roll Call Vote: Hart-yes; Rillo-yes; Dize-yes; Dennis-yes; Strautz-yes; Finney-yes. MOTION PASSED

Respectfully submitted by,

Jamye Salazar
Treasurer