

Onley Town Council Minutes of August 27, 2012

VIRGINIA: At a Recessed/Orientation Meeting of the Onley Town Council held at the Onley Fire & Rescue Building on the 27th day of August, A.D., 2012:

Members Present: Billye D. Custis, Mayor
Billy Chance
Dawn Dize
Ned Finney
Fred Gardner
Jack Pierson, Vice-Mayor
Don Strautz

Staff Present: Walter Marks, OPD Chief of Police
Jamy Salazar, Treasurer
Cela Burge, Town Attorney

Call to Order

The Recessed/Orientation meeting was called to order by Mayor Custis at 6:30pm. The invocation was given by Fred Gardner. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Ned Finney.

Adoption of Agenda

Mayor Custis stated that Ms. Burge has asked to move the Council Orientation to the end of the meeting.

Motion: To adopt the agenda moving Council Orientation to the end of the meeting after Old Business making it item 7.c. by Don Strautz and seconded by Ned Finney. Vote: Chance-yes; Dize-yes; Finney-yes; Gardner-yes; Pierson-yes; Strautz-yes. MOTION PASSED

Department Reports

Police

Mayor Custis told Council that the total cost of a fifth officer without a new police vehicle is approximately \$46,169.00. If we were to add the cost of a new police cruiser, that would be approximately an additional \$30,000.00. Chief Marks does not feel that there is a need for another vehicle but Mayor Custis disagreed adding that in her experience there is always a need for an additional vehicle. Mr. Strautz asked if there is any reason why we couldn't pursue the purchase of a lower priced vehicle should we need to purchase one. He added that the Chincoteague Police Department has a small Ford that they use which may be more economical than the Dodge Charger. Mr. Finney suggested looking into the purchase of another Explorer. Mayor Custis steered the conversation back to the cost of an officer without the purchase of a police cruiser. She stated that while the purchase of a new vehicle would need to be discussed eventually, she is more concerned with the \$46,000.00 that it will take to hire the officer. She added that there is no money in the budget for this and doing so would mean taking money from the reserve. Mr. Finney feels that we have to do it so we need to come up with the money from somewhere. Mayor Custis reminded Council that the Town is also losing fine revenue due to new legislation that began July 1st. Mr. Pierson asked if Royal Farms may be willing to help cover the cost of a fifth officer. Mayor Custis and Chief Marks were in agreement that they wouldn't want to give the impression that the Police Department can "be bought". Council asked Ms. Salazar to contact the Town of Exmore and ask what kind of revenue they receive from Royal Farms so they can decide how much of that will cover the cost of a fifth officer.

Attorney's Report

Ms. Burge stated that she read the proposed mutual aid agreement with Accomack County Sheriff's Department and she would like to point out a few things as well as make some suggestions. She is concerned that this agreement states that while the County cannot compel the Town to answer a call outside of Onley, Onley cannot compel the County to answer calls in Town. The Town will also be assuming all responsibility for any damages or injuries to Town property or employees while answering calls outside of the Town. The County will not be liable to the Town. There is also a provision that states that any County Officer working in Town will notify the Chief of such and that any Town Officer should notify the Sheriff's Department when working in the County. Mr. Finney stated that he does not like this idea and feels that the Town will be "getting the short end of the stick". Mayor Custis agreed adding that she does not feel the County should have the option of declining a call in Town. This is a concern because citizens of Onley are also citizens of Accomack County. Mr. Pierson and Ms. Dize were in agreement. Mr. Strautz asked Ms. Burge what the point of this agreement is. Ms. Burge stated that this agreement essentially formalizes what the Town is already doing. Chief Marks stated that he does not want his officers answering calls all over the County. Mr. Finney agreed stating that while he is in favor of helping, he feels that Onley officers are being paid to protect the citizens and the Town – not Accomack County.

Old Business

Ms. Salazar stated that she is still waiting for our representative to get her the CPI rate for the contract renewal with Waste Management. She will most likely have this information at the next meeting.

Mayor Custis asked that Council members decide what committee they would like to serve on for the remainder of the two year term. The committees are as follows:

Fire Department Liaison – Ned Finney

Beautification – Dawn Dize

Planning Commission Liaison – Don Strautz

Public Works & Safety – Ned Finney & Fred Gardner

Technology & Broadband – Fred Gardner

Finance – Dawn Dize

Administration –

Community Events – Billy Chance & Don Strautz (Committee includes: Billy D. Custis, Jamiye Salazar, Ada Jo Amadeo, Jim White and Mark Williams)

Mr. Finney stated that Mr. Pierson needs to serve on a committee as well.

Orientation

Ms. Burge presented each Council Member, Ms. Salazar and Chief Marks with an Orientation Primer. She went over the primer page by page explaining the proper way for Council to conduct itself as well as explanations of financial reports, ordinances and resolutions, the complaint process for the Town and the organizational chart. She discussed the duties and responsibilities of the Mayor and Council as well as how the Treasurer and Chief of Police relate to such.

Adjourn/Recess

Motion: To adjourn at 9:29pm by Don Strautz and seconded by Fred Gardner. Vote: Chance-yes; Dize-yes; Finney-yes; Gardner-yes; Pierson-yes; Strautz-yes. MOTION PASSED

Jamiye Salazar, Treasurer

Billye D. Custis, Mayor