

Onley Town Council Minutes of November 9, 2015

VIRGINIA: At a Regular Monthly Meeting of the Onley Town Council held at the VVA Building, 25534 East Main Street, on the 9th day of November, A.D., 2015:

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

Staff Present: John Spivey, Chief of Police
Jamy Salazar, Treasurer
Cela Burge, Town Attorney
John Pavlik, Zoning Administrator

Call to Order

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

Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance

The invocation was given by Don Strautz and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dawn Dize.

Adoption of Agenda

Mayor Pierson stated that Ms. Burge is not feeling well and asked to move the Attorney's Report to the beginning of the meeting so that Ms. Burge might leave if she needs to.

Motion: To adopt the agenda with the requested change by Don Strautz and seconded by Susan Rillo.

Roll Call Vote: Hart=yes; Rillo=yes; Dize=yes; Dennis=yes; Strautz=yes; Finney=yes. MOTION PASSED

Department Reports

Attorney's Report

As a follow up from last month's meeting, Ms. Burge stated that she has checked with the Accomack 911 Center and there is a disaster plan in place. She also spoke with the Town of Chincoteague and they have one as well.

In reference to the Onley Recreation Association, she has learned that they are an incorporated entity under the guidelines of the SCC. She added that they do have shareholders and they should be treated as a business and not a non-profit.

Lastly, Ms. Burge stated that she has been offered the position of Accomack County Attorney and she has accepted that position as of January 1, 2016. She thanked Council for the opportunity to serve as the Town Attorney for the last few years.

Consideration of Minutes

Motion: To adopt the Minutes of the October 14, 2015 Regular Monthly Meeting by Don Strautz and seconded by Susan Rillo. Roll Call Vote: Hart=yes; Rillo=yes; Dize=yes; Dennis=yes; Strautz=yes; Finney=yes. MOTION PASSED

Police Report & Schedule

Chief Spivey stated that Halloween went very well. There was a great police presence and he has had several compliments about how well it was handled.

Chief Spivey asked that Council approve the purchase of a laptop computer to use solely in court for playing video from the new camera system. He stated that the cost of the laptop is approximately \$570.00 with a possible sale price of \$549.00.

Motion: To purchase a laptop computer with the Byrne Jag grant in the amount of \$570.00 with the possibility of spending \$549.00 by Ned Finney and seconded by Susan Rillo. Roll Call Vote: Hart-yes; Rillo-yes; Dize-yes; Dennis-yes; Strautz-yes; Finney-yes. MOTION PASSED

Chief Spivey pointed out that there is a lot of leave time being used in December but all of the shifts are being covered.

Mr. Dennis asked what the status is on the new car. Chief Spivey stated that he expects it this week.

Motion: To approve the December 2015 schedule by Ned Finney and seconded by Don Strautz. Roll Call Vote: Hart-yes; Rillo-yes; Dize-yes; Dennis-yes; Strautz-yes; Finney-yes. MOTION PASSED

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Salazar stated that the China Chef is closing for two months for renovations so we will not collect meals tax from them for that time period. She pointed out that \$200,000.00 has been moved from the PNC regular checking account to the Shore Bank money market as requested at last month's meeting. She pointed out a date correction on the purchase journal referencing the VRS. She added that tax bills were mailed on October 27th and have started to come in slowly. She concluded by giving an overview of the budget.

Motion: To Pay the October 2015 Payables by Ned Finney and seconded by Susan Rillo. Roll Call Vote: Hart-yes; Rillo-yes; Dize-yes; Dennis-yes; Strautz-yes; Finney-yes. MOTION PASSED

Zoning Administrator's Report

Mr. Pavlik read his report into the minutes. A copy of this report will be attached.

Public Works

Ms. Salazar stated that the bench is in the garage – it was not stolen as was previously reported. She stated that after last month's meeting, she called Mr. Simpson and expressed to him with a sense of urgency that Council is not at all happy with the quality of his work. She said that he was very apologetic and seemed genuinely concerned. He even made the offer to come to a meeting to speak with Council about their concerns. She added that since that conversation, their overall performance has improved tremendously. The grass cutting is done for the year but they have been meticulous about cleaning the storm drains and litter pickup. We have had a man here every Monday morning to perform whatever tasks necessary around town. The flags went up this week, pick-up of the clean-up items will happen later this week, and next week the flags will come down and the holiday decorations will start to go up. They have started checking the lights on the snowflakes as well as the hardware needed at the utility poles. They also repaired the broken flag pole at the Town Office. They would like to start the project of cleaning the leaves and debris from the gutters of the road, but Ms. Salazar suggested that they hold off on that until the leaves have finished falling. She stated that she and Mayor Pierson had a discussion with Mr. Simpson about the crepe myrtles and he is going to try to treat them so that the undergrowth coming up from the bottom will be minimal. Lastly, he has agreed to let us use one of his employees as well as the use of a truck for the Veterans Day Celebration. Mayor Pierson stated that he would like to see the addition of a maintenance man about three days a week in the next contract. He stated that we will discuss this further at the end of the current contract. Billye D. Custis stated that there is a little bridge across the ditch behind the Town Office and it is in very poor condition. She suggested that the

town remove it since she saw someone trying to use it and was concerned for their safety. Council agreed and Ms. Salazar will have it removed by Mr. Simpson.

Mr. Strautz asked who is responsible for fixing the sidewalks once ANEC pulls up the old utility poles. Ms. Salazar stated that she spoke with ANEC and they did some repair but it is still not as it should be. Mr. Dennis suggested that she call VDOT.

Planning Commission Report

Ms. Siglin stated the Planning Commission is continuing with definitions. She stated that the meeting dates for November and December have been moved back one week to accommodate the holidays. On behalf of SPOTS, she offered the use of the train station and tents for the Veterans Day Celebration.

Old Business

Mayor Pierson stated that the ATL grant money has not been distributed and he would like for Council to reconsider how it will be distributed, adding that we do not have to make a decision until June 2016. He added that every town in Accomack County with the exception of one passes the money to the volunteer fire company.

Mayor Pierson asked Council to set a work session date to continue the discussion on the new town office. Mr. Finney stated that while he wants to see a new town office, he is not in favor of starting at square one and spending more time and money without moving forward. He would like for Council to set up a building committee. Mr. Strautz said that he is fine with that but he doesn't want people second guessing decisions that are made by that committee. He would like to have Harry Parker & Tommy Arnold meet with us and tell us what we can get for \$350,000.00. Mr. Hart stated that his biggest issue with the building is to keep it off of the ground. He is not in favor of a concrete slab.

Council decide to meet again on November 17th at 6:30 at the train station to continue the discussion of the new town office.

Ms. Salazar gave an update on the Veterans Day Celebration. She only had the money to order five trophies but Council approved the purchase of additional trophies

New Business

Ms. Salazar asked that Council allow her to write off the tax bills that are under \$2.00 and not combined with any other bills. The total amount for the 45 bills is \$52.98.

Motion: To write-off tax bills that are \$2.00 or less by Don Strautz and seconded by Dawn Dize. Roll

Call Vote: Hart-yes; Rillo-yes; Dize-yes; Dennis-yes; Strautz-yes; Finney-yes. MOTION PASSED

Public Comments

There were no comments.

Council Comments

Mr. Hart thanked Ms. Burge for her service and wished Ms. Dize the best of luck with her upcoming surgery. He stated that he wants to move forward with the new town office.

Ms. Rillo thanked Ms. Burge and also wished Ms. Dize the best with her surgery.

Ms. Dize thanked Ms. Burge for all that she has done for the town and her many years of excellent advice. On another matter, she stated that seven years ago, on June 30, 2008, there was \$373,288.56 and today we have \$1,615,676.52, thanks largely to our Treasurer, Jamye Salazar, Former Mayor Billye D. Custis and Town Council Members. She added that she does want a new town office but wants everyone to remain mindful of spending.

Mr. Dennis thanked Ms. Burge and wished her the best of luck with her new adventure.

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Mr. Strautz thanked Ms. Dize for what she said and agreed that it is important to be mindful of spending but he does feel that if we are going to proceed, we need to do it and stop running in circles. He welcomed Ms. Burge as a fellow employee of Accomack County and wished her well. He thanked everyone for coming and thanked the employees for all they do.

Mr. Finney thanked Ms. Burge for her service and stated that while we are losing a great employee, we have a good friend. He stated that Ms. Dize will be in his prayers. He thanked the employees, especially Ms. Salazar, adding that she has a lot of responsibility and tackles it head on. He thanked Chief Spivey and added that he can't believe the changes in the Police Department since he has been Chief.

At this time, Billye D. Custis asked what the plan was for hiring a new attorney. Ms. Burge offered to send letters to all the members of the Bar Association asking that anyone interested in filling her position submit a letter of interest to the Mayor. Council agreed to have her handle that.

Adjourn/Recess

Motion: To recess at 7:49pm until November 17, 2015 by Don Strautz and seconded by John Dennis.

Roll Call Vote: Hart-yes; Rillo-yes; Dize-yes; Dennis-yes; Strautz-yes; Finney-yes. MOTION PASSED

Respectfully submitted by,

Jamye Salazar
Treasurer

Jack Pierson
Mayor