

Onley Town Council Minutes of December 2, 2013

VIRGINIA: At a Regular Monthly Meeting of the Onley Town Council held at the Onley Fire & Rescue Building on the 2nd day of December, A.D., 2013:

Members Present: Jack Pierson, Mayor
Dawn Dize
Ned Finney, Vice-Mayor
Fred Gardner
Susan Rillo
Don Strautz

Members Absent: Billy Chance

Staff Present: Walter Marks, OPD Chief of Police
Jamye Salazar, Treasurer
Cela Burge, Town Attorney
Cindy McKeever, Zoning Administrator

Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

The invocation was given by Fred Gardner and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Susan Rillo.

Call to Order

The Regular Monthly Town Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Pierson at 6:28pm.

Adoption of Agenda

Motion: To adopt the agenda by Dawn Dize and seconded by Don Strautz.

Vote: Chance-absent; Dize-yes; Finney-yes; Gardner-yes; Rillo-yes; Strautz-yes. MOTION PASSED

Consideration of Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes of the November 4, 2013 Regular Monthly Council Meeting by Ned

Finney and seconded by Susan Rillo. Vote: Chance-absent; Dize-yes; Finney-yes; Gardner-yes; Rillo-yes; Strautz-yes. MOTION PASSED

Department Reports

Police Report & Schedule

Chief Marks introduced Officer Jess Long stating that he has been a nice addition to the department. Mr. Strautz commended Officer Coulbourne & Officer Spivey on the way they handled the situation with Nancy Bonniwell adding that Officer Spivey even returned later that night to check on Mrs. Bonniwell. Chief Marks stated that they are still waiting on the new car but expect it some time this month. He asked that Council approve the purchase of a tactical vest for Officer Long at a cost of \$495.00 plus shipping.

Motion: To purchase a tactical vest for Officer Long in the amount of \$495.00 plus shipping by Don Strautz and seconded by Dawn Dize. Vote: Chance-absent; Dize-yes; Finney-yes; Gardner-yes; Rillo-yes; Strautz-yes. MOTION PASSED

Motion: To approve the January 2014 Police Schedule by Dawn Dize and seconded by Fred Gardner.

Vote: Chance-absent; Dize-yes; Finney-yes; Gardner-yes; Rillo-yes; Strautz-yes. MOTION PASSED

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Salazar gave an overview of the budget and pointed out that there is still a lot of money in the regular checking account. She will speak to the matter of the LGIP when it is reached on the agenda. She will begin giving Council an update on the Rainy Day Fund at the January meeting. Mr. Finney asked Chief Marks how well the overtime grant is working. Chief Marks stated that it is working well – Officer Bennett does not wish to work a lot of overtime so the majority of the hours are divided among the other officers.

Motion: To pay the Payables by Ned Finney and seconded by Susan Rillo. Vote: Chance-absent; Dize-yes; Finney-yes; Gardner-yes; Rillo-yes; Strautz-yes. MOTION PASSED

Zoning

Ms. McKeever welcomed everyone and stated that there has been little activity this past month. She has the final draft of the Nicolls letter ready to be mailed. She pointed out that VDOT is in Town working on the sidewalks and she was able to have them put us ahead of the other towns on the list. She concluded by saying that she really enjoyed the parade and lunch afterward. Everyone was in agreement that the whole day went very well. Mr. Finney asked how things are going at the bounce house. Ms. McKeever was not sure. Ms. Salazar stated that she has spoken with the manager several times and she has stated that weekends are great but weekdays are a little slow.

Attorney's Report

Ms. Burge stated that she has worked with Ms. McKeever on refining the letter to Mr. Nicolls. She stated that the Town has received a letter from Lawrence Land stating that he is representing Glenwood Bennett who was involved in the accident with Officer Spivey. The last thing that she mentioned was the Rainy Day Policy which states that it will be reviewed at the end of each fiscal quarter. She added that Council did not expect to make their goal until 2015 but it looks like that may happen a little sooner so she really wants Council to look very closely at the financials provided each month by Ms. Salazar.

Old Business

Mr. Finney stated that a pre-bid meeting was held and the committee expects to have about six bidders. After speaking tonight with Ms. Burge, the committee will need to notify the bidders when the bids need to be returned for opening. This notice will also need to be posted at the Town Office and around Town.

There was no grant coordinator's report. Ms. Salazar stated that she does not believe anything has changed since last month's meeting.

Ms. Salazar reminded Council that they have opted out of the VRS program for VLDP so they now have to make a decision between VML and VACO. Ms. Salazar stated that currently all of our liability coverage is with VML. Ms. Burge stated that VML seems to have a slightly better rate and she asked Council to remember that VML has been a good partner to the Town of Onley for some time. She explained that once a decision is made, Council will need to adopt the Form of Ordinance Approving Joint Powers Association Agreement and join the Virginia Local Government Insurance Associations.

Motion: To accept the VML rates for VLDP coverage adopting the Form of Ordinance Approving Joint Powers Association Agreement and join the Virginia Local Government Insurance Association by Ned Finney and seconded by Don Strautz. Roll Call Vote: Chance-absent; Dize-yes; Finney-yes; Gardner-yes; Rillo-yes; Strautz-yes. MOTION PASSED

Ms. Burge read a copy of the ordinance into the minutes. A copy will be attached.

At this time, Mayor Pierson told everyone that Mr. Chance is in the hospital but he didn't have any details.

New Business

Ms. Salazar attended the LGIP seminar on November 15th and gave Council some highlights from that meeting. She stated that loss of principal is possible, the minimum to buy in is \$75,000.00 with no less than \$50,000.00 in the account and there are administrative fees of .14 % and .09% of the account balance. They ask that we are willing to leave the money in the account for 3-5 years and withdrawals are possible but they are at the pool's discretion. She does not feel that this program is what Council had in mind when looking for somewhere to invest adding that the potential loss of principal alarms her. Council agreed that loss of principal is not something that they can take a chance with when talking about taxpayers' money. Mr. Strautz stated that in reference to drawing down principal, he would rather invest in the infrastructure of the Town than take a chance on losing money. He suggested spending money to improve the Town rather than taking a chance at losing it on an investment. Ms. Dize stated that very little money has been spent on beautification and she would like to change that. Ms. Salazar reminded them that they will need to make a decision about moving some money from the regular checking account at next month's meeting. Mr. Finney would like to pay for the new building and not have to finance any of the costs.

Ms. Salazar stated that Suzanne Taylor's term on the BZA will expire on December 31, 2013. Ms. Taylor has said that she is willing to serve if we absolutely cannot find someone else but she would prefer not to since she is about to retire. Ms. Burge stated that Ms. Taylor will continue to serve after the expiration date until a replacement can be appointed.

Ms. Burge stated that El Remolino (located in Tasley but having a business address in Onley) has applied for an ABC license to serve beer off premise. A copy of the letter from the ABC Board will be attached. Ms. Burge explained that this is Council's opportunity to voice their opinion for or against the license or they may take no action. Mr. Gardner stated that there are several family businesses in that area that do not need or may not want alcohol sold there. Mr. Strautz stated that the alcohol will not be consumed at the business and it will be up to the business owner to enforce that. Mr. Finney stated that he has no objections to it since beer is sold at several surrounding businesses including the convenience store directly across the street. Chief Marks stated that he does not recall any problems at that location over the years. Officer Long agreed basing it on his seven years with the Sheriff's Department.

Public Comment

Jan Siglin stated that the Santa train will be coming to Town at 3:20pm on Saturday. There will be six trains running at the station and there may be an outside train as well. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served. Christmas caroling will take place on December 20th. Everyone interested should meet at the fire house just before 6:00. Cookies would be appreciated for that event as well. Mr. Finney asked how the bathroom renovation is coming. Ms. Siglin stated they have all of the permits but they still need to raise more money.

Council Comments

Mr. Strautz stated that we have some very good employees and when you get the opportunity to interact with them, you realize how lucky we are as a Town. He added that he spent a few hours at the train station last weekend and he feels that we have a lot of good volunteers as well. He is very excited about the new Town Office and thanked the building committee for serving.

Mr. Finney stated that he would like to offer a prayer for Billy Chance and for former Mayor Billye D. Custis who are both dealing with some serious health issues. On another matter, he would like for Council to consider the possibility of a playground or a skateboard park in Town to give kids something to do. He suggested that we contact Roy Cowan and see if he is interested in selling the property across from the Town Office. He thanked everyone for all that they do.

Ms. Dize feels that the Town is very fortunate to have such good employees and she feels honored to serve with such good Council members.

Mr. Gardner suggested that anyone who is able, take a look at the skateboard park on Chincoteague. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Ms. Rillo stated that she thinks the holiday lights look beautiful. They are all even and lit and she feels that they look better than ever. She welcomed Officer Long and agreed that the Town needs something for the kids.

Closed Session

Motion: To go into Closed Session at 7:32 pm in accordance with Section 2.1-344-A of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended for the purpose of Paragraph 1: Discussion or Consideration of Personnel Matters pertaining to the Police, General Government, and Public Works Departments, specifically related to holiday bonuses by Don Strautz and seconded by Fred Gardner. Vote: Chance-absent; Dize-yes; Finney-yes; Gardner-yes; Rillo-yes; Strautz-yes MOTION PASSED

Open Session & Certification of Closed Session

Motion: To return to Open Session at 7:42pm by Dawn Dize and seconded by Fred Gardner.

Vote: Chance-absent; Dize-yes; Finney-yes; Gardner-yes; Rillo-yes; Strautz-yes. MOTION PASSED

A roll call vote was taken immediately after reconvening in Open Session, at which time each member certified by his/her vote whether only the matters previously disclosed were discussed during Closed Session: Pierson-yes; Chance-absent; Dize-yes; Finney-yes; Gardner-yes; Rillo-yes; Strautz-yes.

Motion: To give the following holiday bonuses: \$550.00 to Chief of Police, \$350.00 to all Full-Time Police Officers, \$100.00 to all Part-Time Employees, Two Weeks Pay to the Treasurer and a \$150.00 Aqua gift certificate to Mike Higgins by Dawn Dize and seconded by Susan Rillo. Vote: Chance-absent; Dize-yes; Finney-yes; Gardner-yes; Rillo-yes; Strautz-yes MOTION PASSED

Adjourn/Recess

Motion: To adjourn at 7:43pm by Ned Finney and seconded by Susan Rillo. Vote: Chance-absent; Dize-yes; Finney-yes; Gardner-yes; Rillo-yes; Strautz-yes MOTION PASSED

Jamye Salazar, Treasurer

Jack Pierson, Mayor