

Onley Town Council Minutes of December 5, 2016

VIRGINIA: At the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Onley Town Council held at the Onley Baptist Church, 25501 West Main Street, on the 5th day of December 2016:

Council Members Present: Jack Pierson, Mayor
Dawn Dize
Ned Finney, Vice-Mayor
Matt Hart
Susan Rillo
Woody Zember

Council Members Absent: Ted Bliss

Staff Present: Jamye Salazar, Clerk/Treasurer
John Spivey, Chief, Onley Police Dept.
Rachel Kellam, Town Attorney
John Pavlik, Zoning Administrator

Regular Monthly Meeting

Call to Order

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

Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance

The invocation was given by Susan Rillo and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Woody Zember.

Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Finney asked to add item **8A. ATL Grant** under Old Business.

Motion: To adopt the agenda with the addition by Susan Rillo and seconded by Matt Hart. Roll Call

Vote: Hart-yes; Rillo-yes; Dize-yes; Bliss-absent; Zember-yes; Finney-yes. MOTION PASSED

Patricia White/Accomack County Registrar's Office

In the matter of moving the date and location of town elections, Ms. White explained that the Town attorney needs to formulate two separate ordinances. The first would be to move the election from May to November but it will need to stay on even years meaning that we will vote at the same time as the Presidential election. She added that doing this will mean we have to move the polling location to Nandua Middle School because we can't have voters voting at two locations on the same day. She added that in doing this, the terms of our current Mayor and Council will be extended by six months. In the matter of the Council vacancy recently filled by the appointment of Ted Bliss, she said that we are not required to hold a Special Election – we can choose to but it is not a requirement according to the Code of Virginia. The polling location change will require a public notice for two weeks and a public hearing. Ms. Kellam asked that Council advise her how they wish to proceed with the two ordinances. Council did not wish to have a Special Election, they do want to change the terms/time of election and they do want to change the polling place to Nandua Middle School. Billye D. Custis stated that several years ago, the state mandated that the fiscal year be July – June and she also believes that it is in our charter when our election is held. Ms. White stated that the town will need to look at our charter but that the ordinance can change the charter. Ms. Custis stated that she thinks any changes in our charter has to go through Richmond.

Consideration of Minutes

Ms. Salazar stated that there are several spelling errors that she will correct.

Motion: To accept the minutes of the November 7, 2016 Onley Town Council Public Hearing for Appropriation of Funds for the purpose of building a new Town Hall & Regular Monthly Meeting with the corrections by Ned Finney seconded by Susan Rillo. Roll Call Vote: Hart-yes; Rillo-yes; Dize-yes; Bliss-absent; Zember-yes; Finney-yes. MOTION PASSED

Department Reports

Police Report & Schedule

Chief Spivey stated that Officer Turner will be going on paternity leave for several weeks. There are still some issues with getting the SUV in service but he is working on having it ready by Christmas.

Motion: To approve the January 2017 schedule by Ned Finney and seconded by Susan Rillo. Roll Call Vote: Hart-yes; Rillo-yes; Dize-yes; Bliss-absent; Zember-yes; Finney-yes. MOTION PASSED

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Salazar stated that 2016 tax payments are coming in nicely. In the matter of the \$500,000.00 appropriation, she is working on creating a separate fund for that money so that it does not affect our current budget numbers. At this time, she gave her Treasurer's Report.

Motion: To Pay the November 2016 Payables by Ned Finney and seconded by Susan Rillo. Roll Call Vote: Hart-yes; Rillo-yes; Dize-yes; Bliss-absent; Zember-yes; Finney-yes. MOTION PASSED

Zoning Administrator's Report

A copy of his report will be attached to the minutes.

Attorney's Report

Ms. Kellam stated that she met with Ms. White from the Registrar's Office this month and she has started to draft the public notice that she spoke about earlier. She has also spoke with Mr. Pavlik about a zoning matter.

Public Works

Ms. Salazar stated that the Fall Clean-up was basically completed with one exception. Mr. Simpson has been asked several times to pick up what was missed but as of today that has not happened. The flags were removed and the holiday lights went up and were lit on Thanksgiving night. There was some miscommunication about when the lights were to be up but that was resolved before it even became an issue. She said that she and Mr. Simpson have had a very frank conversation about the quality of his employee's work explaining that we are just not happy with the once a week employee that he is providing. She added that she has told Mr. Simpson that he needs to resolve some of these matters or we will need to look into our options. Mayor Pierson stated that generally we get what we want from Simpson so maybe he is having a rough month. Ms. Salazar agreed that he normally does a good job and she doesn't mean to "throw him under the bus" but these problems need to be addressed.

Ms. Dize said that there is a street light that is out on Virginia Avenue near the Taylor house. She will get the pole numbers to Ms. Salazar tomorrow to have it repaired. Ms. Rillo asked what time the snowflakes come on since it seems to be later than usual. Ms. Salazar will have the electrician look into this matter. She added that Bennie Tatum has been a great help the last two years with taking care of the electrical matters. She would like for Council to consider giving him a gift certificate. Council agreed to have Ms. Salazar purchase a \$100.00 gift card for Mr. Tatum.

Planning Commission Report

Rose Pierson said that they are continuing to work on and review zoning changes. They are also looking into making some statistical changes to the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Hart asked what changes they are considering in reference to signage. Mrs. Pierson said that she will be submitting that to Council shortly.

Old Business

Mayor Pierson stated that there is a new Fire Commissioner on the Board of Supervisors. He asked if anyone has spoken with him about the issues or the money at the OVFD. Mayor Pierson asked if they have a fire truck and if they are able to provide fire service. Mr. Finney said that he thinks they have one now. Mayor Pierson said he is not in favor of giving the OVFD any money when we are not sure what their plans are or what they are doing right now. However, if they are not locking up, he would like to give them the grant money. In the matter of purchasing smoke alarms and fire extinguishers, Mr. Finney spoke with C. Ray Pruitt and Mr. Pruitt advised against this saying that the town could be held liable should one of them malfunction.

Motion: To split the \$11,000.00 ATL grant money between Onancock and Tasley Fire Departments by Ned Finney. There was no second to the motion. MOTION FAILED

Mr. Hart said that the last time we tried to give this money to Onancock and Tasley, Ms. Salazar said that we could not do so since the OVFD was providing fire protection and we were required to give it to them. Ms. Salazar stated that is correct and she feels we need to find out if they are indeed still providing fire protection to the town before we give the grant money to anyone else. Mr. Zember asked how long we have to make a decision about the money. Ms. Salazar said that she needs to complete an Accounting Report in January. Mr. Finney said that they owe us \$7,500.00 for pagers and President John Roache has made the offer to reimburse the town but Mr. Finney declined for now because he did not know how the rest of the Council feels about this matter. Ms. Dize asked that Ms. Salazar find out if we can split the money between Onancock and Tasley. Ms. Salazar agreed.

Mayor Pierson stated that he would like to find out what type of building each Council member has in mind for our Town Office. He presented each member with a blank paper before the meeting and asked that they write their preference along with their name and return it to him.

New Business

Chief Spivey presented Council with some information on the possibility of acquiring high speed internet for not only the town office but also the residents and businesses in Onley. A copy of that information will be attached to the minutes. There was much discussion about this matter. Mr. Hart volunteered to take over this matter and acquire some more information.

Public Comments

There was no public comment.

Council Comments

Mr. Hart thanked Chief Spivey for looking into the internet options. Mayor Pierson asked Mr. Zember to work with Mr. Hart about this matter. Mr. Hart likes the idea of moving the election to the fall and the possibility of getting the town office started. He wished everyone a happy holiday and thanked the employees for all they do.

Ms. Rillo wished everyone a Merry Christmas and added that the holiday lights look good but she does want the other issues with public works resolved.

Ms. Dize wished everyone a wonderful holiday. She welcomed Ms. Kellam as the Town Attorney.

Mr. Zember wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He would like to see the issues with the OVFD resolved in the coming year. He thanked all of the employees adding that it's nice to

come in the town office and see such knowledge. He thanked the Mayor and the other Council Members for all they do and how they unite together.

Mr. Finney thanked Joel Parks adding that she has been a nice addition to the town office and a big help to Jamye. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Closed Session

Motion: To go into Closed Session at 7:48pm in accordance with Section 2.2-3711(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 Dept. & General Government, specifically related to holiday bonuses by Dawn Dize and seconded by Ned Finney. Roll Call Vote: Hart-yes; Rillo-yes; Dize-yes; Bliss-absent; Zember-yes; Finney-yes. MOTION PASSED

Open Session & Certification of Closed Session

A roll call vote was taken before 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; Bliss-absent; Dize-yes; Finney-yes; Hart-yes; Rillo-yes; Zember-yes.

Motion: To return to Open Session at 8:13pm by Dawn Dize and seconded by Susan Rillo. Roll Call Vote: Hart-yes; Rillo-yes; Dize-yes; Bliss-absent; Zember-yes; Finney-yes. MOTION PASSED

Motion: To give the following holiday bonuses: Chief John Spivey - \$600.00, Sgt. George Bennett - \$400.00, Officer Jess Long and Officer Aaron Turner - \$300.00, Jamye Salazar - two weeks pay, Joel Parks and John Pavlik - \$200.00, Robert Watson - \$100.00 and Rachel Kellam - \$150.00 by Susan Rillo and seconded by Matt Hart. Roll Call Vote: Hart-yes; Rillo-yes; Dize-yes; Bliss-absent; Zember-yes; Finney-yes. MOTION PASSED

Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn at 8:16pm by Ned Finney and seconded by Susan Rillo. Roll Call Vote: Hart-yes; Rillo-yes; Dize-yes; Bliss-absent; Zember-yes; Finney-yes. MOTION PASSED

Respectfully submitted by,

Jamye Salazar
Clerk/Treasurer

Jack Pierson
Mayor