

Onley Town Council Minutes of March 4, 2019

VIRGINIA: At a Regular Monthly Meeting of the Onley Town Council held at the Onley Baptist Church, 25501 W. Main Street, on the 4th day of March A.D., 2019:

Council Members Present: Matt Hart, Mayor
Ned Finney, Vice Mayor
Billye D. Custis
Claudia Harmon
Rose Pierson
Susan Rillo
Woody Zember

Staff Present: Jamye Salazar, Town Manager
John Spivey, Chief of Police, OPD
Rachel Kellam, Attorney
Melissa Taylor, Clerk

Call to Order

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

Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance

The invocation was given by Rose Pierson and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Susan Rillo.

Adoption of Agenda

Motion: To add item E. under New Business discussion of Donation in the amount of \$10,000.00 by Woody Zember and seconded by Ned Finney.

Roll Call Vote: Zember-yes; Rillo-yes; Harmon-yes; Pierson-yes; Custis-yes; Finney-yes.

MOTION PASSED

Motion: To adopt the agenda as written with the addition of E. under New Business by Rose Pierson and seconded by Susan Rillo.

Roll Call Vote: Zember-yes; Rillo-yes; Harmon-yes; Pierson-yes; Custis-yes; Finney-yes.

MOTION PASSED

Consideration of Minutes

Motion: To accept the minutes of the February 4, 2019, Regular Meeting by Rose Pierson and seconded by Ned Finney.

Roll Call Vote: Zember-yes; Rillo-yes; Harmon-yes; Pierson-yes; Custis-yes; Finney-yes.

MOTION PASSED

Motion: To accept the minutes of the February 11, 2019, Meeting by Ned Finney and seconded by Susan Rillo.

Roll Call Vote: Zember-yes; Rillo-yes; Harmon-yes; Pierson-abstained; Custis-yes; Finney-yes.

MOTION PASSED

Department Reports:

Police Report & Schedule

Chief Spivey provided Council a copy of the activity log totals and the April 2019 Police schedule. Chief Spivey stated the department is in the process of researching and purchasing new assault rifles switching to a .40-caliber carbine rifle. He noted the plan is to obtain one for testing purposes and then to outfit the entire force. These will replace the current inventory from a .223 (2) to a .40-caliber carbine (5). Chief Spivey pointed out the reason for the switch is safety concerns of the town residents with the standard AR; penetration, and the travel of the AR bullets. Chief Spivey stated Office Coulter attended and completed the Crisis Intervention Training. That makes 100% participation within the Police Department, and all Onley Police Officers are CIT certified. Mayor Hart asked Chief Spivey if other towns have switched from the .223 rifle and what guns are similar towns using (Onancock)? He also questioned why Chief Spivey thinks the .223 round bullet is too high velocity? Chief Spivey responded the bases for this decision (switching caliber rifles) was dwellings in this town are mainly wood or thin metal on a trailer, and .233 round would penetrate them, and a .40 caliber will not do that. He noted a .40 caliber uses a pistol cartridge which is interchangeable with the magazine on the officer's gun belt. Chief Spivey stated going to a .40-caliber weapon will alleviate the concern of the .223 bullet that is a high-velocity round that travels very far and fast and can penetrate many things where a .40 caliber does not. Mayor Hart asked for the Council's opinion on the change of Police Department weapon. Ms. Rillo and Ms. Pierson replied they have complete confidence in Chief Spivey's decision. Chief Spivey said the change in the firearms weapons is purely a safety issue. He noted the .40-caliber weapon would have the capability of responding to the eight soft targets in our area; i.e., hospital, schools, senior living facilities. This weapon would allow the mid-range distance that you would require from a firearm; these guns are accurate up to 100 yards without compromising the safety of the bullets traveling to far. He said the .223 bullet travels very, very far. Ms. Custis asked if Chief Spivey is taking the advice of resident Mr. Tatum and keeping the current guns and if not, how will the department dispose of these guns? Chief Spivey responded the department could keep the guns at the people's request. He said if the department decided to get rid of these guns, they would offer them to other Police Agencies. Mayor Hart asked how many .223 does the town currently have and how many .40 calibers is the department looking to purchase? Chief Spivey responded the town has two .223 rifles in the inventory. He said one .40-calibers would be bought as a test platform to make sure that it does meet the Police Department's needs, stating if it does and he thinks it will, then every officer will be outfitted with a .40-caliber firearm. He said a total of five (.40 caliber guns/one for every officer) would be purchased and outfitted at an estimated cost of \$700.00-\$800.00 each. Chief Spivey explained the gun specifications: a picatinny rail for optical red sight, and foldable front and rear iron sights. Mayor Hart asked if there was money in the Police Department budget to cover the cost of these new guns. Chief Spivey responded "yes". Mr. Bliss stated he concurs with Chief Spivey because he is very familiar with the .223 round. He said at 100 yards a .223 bullet will pierce completely through a quarter inch piece of steel. Mr. Bliss said a .40 caliber is ideal, plus then there is only one caliber of ammunition that the Police Officers will have to carry.

Motion: To adopt the April 2019 Police schedule by Ned Finney and seconded by Susan Rillo.

Roll Call Vote: Zember-yes; Harmon-yes; Rillo-yes; Pierson-yes; Custis-yes; Finney-yes.

MOTION PASSED

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Salazar gave her report as of February 28, 2019, reporting the month wasn't over, and some of these figures are subject to change. Ms. Salazar explained the miscellaneous expenses totaling \$125.76 credit card charge (\$94.17 "Onley" car bumper stickers and \$31.59 enlarged park sketch). Mr. Hart inquired on a charge for \$267.78 to the Town of Onancock? Ms. Salazar responded that charge is for the vehicle decals that go on sale this month. Mr. Hart asked if this will be the last year for vehicle decals? Ms. Salazar replied the decal fee should be on next year's County tax bills (2020). At that time, you will no longer have to display a sticker. You will still pay the amount of the decal, which will be added in on your tax bill but you will not have to display it. Ms. Custis stated for the public record that in the bank balance that was given, \$403,320.23 is in the Rainy-Day Fund, which means that the total amount given is not available. Ms. Salazar agreed with Ms. Custis statement. A copy of the reports will be attached to the minutes.

Motion: To pay the payables by Billye D. Custis and seconded by Rose Pierson.

Roll Call Vote: Zember-yes; Rillo-yes; Harmon-yes; Pierson-yes; Custis-yes; Finney-yes.

MOTION PASSED

Town Manager's Report / Zoning Administrator / Public Works Report

Public Works Report

Ms. Salazar stated Simpson's had begun ditch work, storm drain clean up, and cleaning up the roads and curbs. She said it had been a little challenging with all the standing water. Ms. Salazar said she was notified of a lot of dirt and debris inside of the storm drains. Ms. Salazar will contact VDOT about getting drains cleaned out. Ms. Salazar said Hayvon had worked primarily on Forest Road and around the pool area, and that area looks nice. Ms. Salazar received a complaint about a ditch on Caroline Avenue and the ditch along the Railroad Tracks. She noted Hayvon began cleaning up that area but will need to finish once the water goes down. Ms. Salazar said she is going to check with VDOT about getting the median on Route 13 cleaned. With VDOT permission, Chief Spivey has offered to help in this process. Ms. Salazar stated she would like to get some trash containers out around town and this will be a topic once the Beautification Committee is established. This was also a suggestion from Ms. Pierson. She noted there is some liter grant money available for the trash receptacles project.

Zoning Administrator Report

Ms. Salazar reported she approved a Sign Permit Application for Union Bank at the branch location on Route 13, a shed permit for a business on Onley Road, and a roof permit (shed/garage) for a residence on Caroline Avenue. Ms. Salazar contacted Tom Brockenbrough, Accomack County to get an updated Zoning Map. She noted at least three properties in town are zoned incorrectly because of zoning changes. Ms. Salazar will need to locate the map data file to get an updated Zoning Map. Ms. Salazar noted the town might have to have another Zoning Map completed from scratch at a cost to the town. Ms. Salazar will meet tomorrow with the previous Zoning Administrator, John Pavlik to find the required information; but he thinks the Zoning Map was completed prior to his (Mr. Pavlik) employment. Ms. Salazar researched the requirements regarding a 256 square foot structure, and determined that it does require a Zoning Permit. She noted per the towns Zoning Ordinance there is no mention of size. Ms. Salazar said going forward a permit will be required for that square footage because the Zoning Ordinance doesn't specifically state a size. Ms. Salazar also pointed out that all roof work requires a permit no matter the size. Ms. Salazar noted she declined a request to advertise employment opportunities by Perdue as the signs didn't meet the towns Zoning requirements.

Town Manager's

Ms. Salazar reported the Eastern Shore Communications sign was removed from the pole at the Town Office last week. Ms. Salazar is still waiting on a re-schedule date for the auditors. Ms. Salazar received a complaint about Moore's property "port-a-potty" business on Burton and Rogers Street. The complaint has been resolved; the portable potties have been moved behind the fence. Ms. Salazar reports working with Ms. Kellam in the matter of the delinquent Meals Tax. Ms. Salazar stated that Ms. Kellam devised an agreement with the business owner and it will be in place as long as the monthly meals tax is paid on time with an additional \$200.00 each month until the remaining balance is paid in full. Ms. Salazar said the business owner has signed the agreement. Ms. Salazar reports another business was two months delinquent on Meals Tax. She had a Police Officer hand deliver a notice to the business last week. Ms. Salazar said as of today the business is current with Meals Tax payments. Ms. Salazar said payment was made on the returned deposit item of a tax payment from December. Ms. Salazar stated she spoke with a company who represents a bank from Maryland about the possibility of another bank branch coming to the town. She said she doesn't have many details at this time. There hasn't been any follow up since that original conversation. Ms. Salazar said she spoke with Doug Jones of Accomack County Public Safety about the Code Red Phone System. That is about receiving alerts on your home and cell phones in case of disasters or emergencies; and is a program that the Accomack County has put in place. Ms. Salazar noted she received informational flyers about the program and will make an announcement in the newsletter to get the word out to the residents. Ms. Salazar researched different ways to advertising the Monthly Council Meetings for more resident involvement. She spoke with Pat Parker at the request of a Council Member about pricing to advertising on the LED sign at Chesapeake Square. She reports the rate (in her opinion) is a little more than what the town is willing to spend. Ms. Salazar noted she made that decision but will revisit at Council request. She spoke with ES Post representatives, and they gave her a pricing quote of \$30.00 monthly for adverting the Monthly Council Meeting. Ms. Salazar stated she calls weekly to VDOT about getting the curb repaired on West Main Street. Ms. Salazar is in the process of submitting the Aide to Locality Grant. She noted she had received the required information from Tasley Fire Department but is still waiting on data from Onancock Fire and Melfa Fire Departments. Ms. Salazar pointed out that the Chief from Onancock called today and he will have the information to the Town Office by the end of the week. Ms. Salazar stated she never received the required information from Melfa Fire Department last year. Ms. Salazar stated she had received several property complaints. Properties locations: one on Rogers Street, one on Onley Road, one on Caroline Avenue, two on Coastal Boulevard, and one on Lankford Highway. Ms. Salazar stated letters were written to the property owners, and some of the issues have been resolved. Ms. Salazar said the property owner on Onley Road had not attempted to clean up their property at all. She noted concern with that property indicating their thirty-day notice for clean-up expires the end of this week. Ms. Salazar will work with Ms. Kellam on this matter. Ms. Salazar stated decals go on sale March 15, 2019, and need be displayed on or before April 15, 2019. Ms. Salazar contacted the Haitian Market about the tattered Open Flag. They have removed the flag and have ordered a new replacement flag. Ms. Salazar reports that her new computer (under warranty) had to be sent out for repair. She can use the extra office computer but that has left Mayor Hart without the use of a computer in the office. She notes her computer should be back anytime. Estimated time for repair is ten days. Ms. Salazar received a report (from Accomack County) of an illegal tax service business being conducted out of a home on Coastal Boulevard. She will contact the property owner (property is a rental property) and will investigate the business further. Ms. Salazar noted that Mike Davis (Davis Disposal) stopped by the office with a complaint of residents putting loose trash in the trash containers without bagging. Ms. Salazar explained two problems with the non-bagged garbage: 1. Davis Disposal - landfill drop off and 2. the town having loose trash flying out of the containers causing liter on the streets. Mr. Davis provided an instructional insert that Ms.

Salazar will include with the upcoming Town Newsletter. Ms. Salazar received a hand out about the upcoming mosquito season (standing water, breeding grounds) from the Accomack County Health Department, and this information includes three languages (English, Spanish, and French Creole). She will also include this information in the upcoming Town Newsletter. Ms. Salazar stated the Town's Charter change was approved and is now awaiting Governor Northam's approval. Ms. Salazar noted the Onley Recreational Pool applications are in the town office for the upcoming season, and she has already signed and approved one for a town resident. Ms. Salazar reported a Representative from Oceanic came by the office to deliver information about off-shore drilling and ask that the town adopt a Resolution opposing off-shore drilling and offered to do a presentation before Council. Ms. Salazar will do additional research and report back to the Council with more information. Ms. Salazar stated that on February 21, 2019 the supplemental tax bills were mailed out. Ms. Salazar received and completed a large FIOA request that took several days. Ms. Salazar reports she completed the VML questionnaire which is a benefit to the town by lowering insurance premiums. Ms. Salazar said she researched (at a request of a resident) the Ordinance about free vehicle decals to the volunteer fire department members. The Ordinance specifically mentions members of the Onley Volunteer Fire Department, which no longer exists. She said this will be discussed further down on the agenda. Mr. Finney said he contacted WESR (Charlie Russell) and was quoted a price of \$13.00 to advertise the Town's Monthly Council Meetings over the air. Mr. Hart asked Ms. Salazar the price to advertise on Facebook. Ms. Salazar responded she was not aware of any cost to advertise on Facebook. Mayor Hart stated he is in favor re-instating the Town's Facebook page.

Attorney's Report

Ms. Kellam gave her report stating the Town's Charter passed in the Senate and the House and is now awaiting the Governor's signature. Ms. Kellam prepared a delinquent Meals Tax letter for a business in town. Ms. Kellam reviewed the Onley and Onancock Mutual Aide MOU and had discussions with Chief Spivey and the Town Manager. Ms. Kellam met with Chief Spivey. Ms. Kellam noted she reviewed a few paragraphs for the Planning Commission.

Planning Commission Report

Ms. Bliss reported that Ms. Kellam reviewed several paragraphs for the Planning Commission. Ms. Bliss stated the Planning Commission completed the review of the definitions within the Zoning Ordinance, as of now. Ms. Bliss note the Planning Commission will move forward and begin reviewing Ordinances. Ms. Bliss pointed out that Airbnbs were approved last fall by Council as a home business. She said the Planning Commission is looking into regulations for Airbnbs. Ms. Bliss stated that it needs to be determined if the Planning Commission is doing a re-write or an update on the town Ordinances. She said she would work with Ms. Salazar about what needs to be completed on the Ordinances.

Ms. Custis asked if she could ask a question regarding the Treasures Report. Mayor Hart granted permission. Ms. Custis asked on the Purchase Journal what is the expense for Patrick A. Robbins for \$240.00. Ms. Salazar referred the question to Chief Spivey. Chief Spivey responded for "defense attorney fees" at \$120.00 per charge and there were two charges. An error on Chief Spivey caused these charges. The summons books come preprinted and this issue comes from the way the summons was written. Chief Spivey stated win or lose for a J&DR Court case we are responsible for those fees.

Old Business

Property at 25571 E. Main Street / New Town Office

Mayor Hart asked for Ms. Pierson to provide her budget figure for the new building so that it can be factored into the average expense. Ms. Pierson gave her amount of \$500,000.00 on the expenditure amount for the new town building. Ms. Pierson continued with her amount of \$150,000.00 on the expenditure amount for George McMath Park.

Mayor Hart stated on record that Ms. Pierson had given Mayor Hart and Councilwoman Custis permission to speak on her behalf during last month's meeting during her absence. Ms. Pierson responded " Yes." Mayor Hart stated in the future if a Council Member is unable to make a meeting to please put in writing your thoughts so they could be read aloud by the Mayor or the Town Manger.

Mayor Hart stated to keep the town residents up to date there will be three committees formed tonight: New Town Office, George McMath Park, and Beautification Committees.

George N. McMath Park

Mayor Hart said he sent (or a copy) an email from Elizabeth Byam (donator of the six parcels of land for the town park) to the Council Members. He said she would be having the property appraised which is the first step of the donation process. Mayor Hart stated he has been instructed to hold off until the committee was formed. Mayor Hart said Ms. Byam approved of the \$137,000.00 budget and that the basketball court would be eliminated from the plans and will be replaced with playground equipment. Mayor Hart stated on record he feels that the town should go ahead and accept the land donation and begin to move forward with the park. Ms. Pierson agrees with Mayor Hart to accept the land and then set up the Park Committee. Ms. Harmon read a statement from the email and asked what the tribute would involve. Mayor Hart responded it would be an entrance sign as you enter the park to pay tribute to Mr. McMath, but he would get clarification from Ms. Byam. Ms. Rillo stated once she had donated the land, she should no longer have a say. Mayor Hart responded out of common courtesy he would like to keep Ms. Byam informed of the process as she did donate the property. Ms. Rillo asked if she was hiring an appraiser? Mayor Hart responded she is hiring her own appraiser and the land would have to be donated within 60 days of the appraisal being completed. Mr. Finney stated he has a problem with not knowing how much is going to be spent on the park, not phase amounts, but a total price. Mr. Finney said there is still a lot to know about the park. Mayor Hart stated there is no legal binding with Ms. Byam; her only request was that the park would pay tribute to her father. Mr. Zember said there is still no mention of the cost of the items being discussed to put in the park. He noted being placed on the spot at last month's meeting for the amount we want to spend shouldn't have been done, without having figures as to what things cost, i.e., playground equipment. Mayor Hart responded that a budget has to be set for anything you do. Mayor Hart replied he was trying to establish a figure that the Council is willing to spend during February's meeting to begin the budget process. Ms. Pierson said she thought this was the reason for setting up Committees. She said a figure was established on how much to spend and once the Committee is formed, the Committee will determine where the money will be spent based on what will best suit the park. Mr. Finney said before anything is done about the park, he thinks the Park Committee should be established. Ms. Custis replied she couldn't understand why the Council is arguing about land that is going to be donated. She said they want to give this land to the town for a park and it cost nothing except the land. Ms. Custis stated that everyone agreed to put an initial \$137,000.00 into the next budget to start the park. She said there needs to be a Capital Budget for the park and the new building. Ms. Pierson replied this doesn't prevent the

town from accepting the land. Mayor Hart said he thinks everyone would agree the town needs a park.

Motion: To accept the parcels of land as donated by the McMath family by Rose Pierson and seconded by Woody Zember.

Discussion: Mr. Finney asked for the Town Attorney Rachel Kellam's opinion. Ms. Kellam replied the town needs to make sure there are no contingencies. She said when reading the email, there was verbiage about "something that will honor my father." Ms. Kellam noted everyone (Town and Ms. Byam) needs to have the same understanding and she needs to be comfortable with the amount of money put aside will honor her father. Ms. Kellam said if there are truly no contingencies on giving the town the land, then yes, of course, accept the land. But if there are contingencies, they will need to be known.

Before a vote was taken Mayor Hart recommended to Ms. Pierson to rephrase her motion to instruct the town attorney to work with Ms. Byam on donations and satisfying any contingencies. Ms. Pierson agreed and asked if she should restate her motion. Mayor Hart responded "No".

Ms. Salazar suggested putting Ms. Kellam and Ms. Byam in contact to discuss the transfer of the land. Ms. Kellam responded she would make contact with Ms. Byam and report back to Council of any contingencies and Council can decide at that point how to proceed.

Mayor Hart noted if there are no contingencies the land will be accepted and if there are contingencies for Ms. Kellam report those to the Council. Ms. Kellam responded "Yes".

Roll Call Vote: Zember-yes; Rillo-yes; Harmon-yes; Pierson-yes; Custis-yes; Finney-yes.

MOTION PASSED

New Business

Spring Clean-up

Ms. Salazar will select the date for the spring clean-up and will advertise in the upcoming Town's Newsletter at the Council's request.

Set date for 2019-2020 Budget Workshop

Date set for March 25, 2019, at 6:30pm at the Onley Baptist Church.

Review of Ordinance 005-010 Regarding Local Vehicle Tax

Mr. Bliss stated during February business meeting of the Tasley Volunteer Fire Department there was a conversation regarding Accomack County giving Volunteer Fire Department Members a dispensation (price of a vehicle sticker/tag) to all volunteers in the County "except" for the ones living in a town. He said to his knowledge there are three members of the Tasley Fire Department residing in the Town of Onley. However, there could be other residents running with other departments that should be considered for this benefit also. Mr. Bliss referenced the 005-010 (not on the town's website) which is an amendment to 003-010 (no copy available) which is the Town's Ordinance that speaks to decals for Onley Volunteer Fire Department members (that no longer exists). Mr. Bliss asked the Council to consider giving a free sticker or the price of a decal to residents who can provide documentation from the Volunteer organization of which they belong. Mr. Hart stated he is in favor but has concerns about getting this completed this year being so close to the deadline. There was a discussion about the decal reimbursement process in the future once the decal price is included

on the tax bills. Ms. Salazar responded she would contact Accomack County and research their procedure. Ms. Custis said it was too late this year because an Ordinance will need to be put in place. Ms. Kellam stated Council would need to decide how the Ordinance should be worded, i.e., just fire department or just for EMT's. Ms. Salazar responded that in the past the company (Onley Vol. Fire & Rescue) would provide a roster of the active members as a way to verify membership of the town residents. Ms. Custis said if you offer the benefit to one department you will need to provide to all departments that service the Town of Onley. Departments in the surrounding area are Tasley, Onancock, Melfa, etc. Ms. Rillo asked if this benefit applies to every vehicle owned by the member? Multiple responses "no only one decal per household". Ms. Kellam suggested completing a fact-finding with the County (before a motion) of their process and bring information back to the Council. Ms. Salazar will contact the County for further information and will add as an agenda item for next month's meeting. Ms. Kellam asked for clarification: active emergency services personnel and one vehicle. Ms. Custis responded "correct".

Discussion of Grants

Mayor Hart asked for this to be added to the agenda. He said that per the news media, Parksley, has applied for a \$700,000.00 grant and he suggested looking into this option for the Town of Onley in the future. Ms. Pierson stated she is very excited for Parksley. She said the downtown revitalization project is lovely, and she feels the Town of Onley could undoubtedly use a grant like this. Ms. Pierson has reached out to Kurt Smith for further information about how the Town of Onley could apply for this type of grant. She hasn't heard anything back from him at this time. Ms. Salazar responded that Kurt Smith works for the ANDCP which is the same organization working on the Sidewalk Grant. Ms. Salazar stated the town has a grant writer (Kristie Finney) who would be happy to help in any way possible. Mayor Hart asked that this topic be on next month's agenda for future discussion. Ms. Bliss stated that State grants would open up again on July 1, 2019, the beginning of the new fiscal year and one grant to look into is one for the park.

Discussion of Donation of \$10,000.00

Mr. Zember asked for this to be added to the agenda. He asked if there is still \$10,000.00 available in the budget for donations? Ms. Salazar verified that amount to be correct. Mr. Zember stated that he would like to see an additional donation made to the Fire Departments. Ms. Custis said the Onley Recreational Pool donation would come out of the donations on the budget. Ms. Salazar replied the donation last year to the ORA was \$3,800.00 and was paid out in July 2018, from the previous year's budget, to allow members time to complete their membership. Ms. Salazar noted Chief James from Onancock Fire Department asked to be put on the April 2019 agenda to provide the Council with updates and statistics of what their company does for the Town of Onley. Mayor Hart said there was a discussion during Council goals session to include additional donations in the upcoming budget for Fire Departments. Mr. Zember said anything that the Council can do to help the Fire Departments is an advantage for them as well as the town. Mr. Finney said this can be discussed again once the ORA has been paid.

Public Comments

Mr. Dennis – no comment at this time.

Mr. Bliss stated the meeting tonight was great as it should have been for years. He questioned Mayor Hart by stating if he (Mayor Hart) is receiving documentation to represent other Council Members that documentation doesn't allow you to have a vote. Mayor Hart responded "right." Mr. Bliss made a complaint with how Simpson's employees park along the streets, block traffic and cause traffic congestion, this happened again

today. Ms. Salazar asked if he was sure it was Hayvon because he wasn't in town today. Mr. Bliss responded it was a Simpson's truck, can't be certain if he was working for the town, but it was a Simpson's truck with two people. Mr. Bliss noted having dealt with VDOT on flushing drains, it is very costly. He said VDOT charges a lot of money like \$10,000.00 per day and recommends getting something in writing with VDOT. Mr. Bliss commented once the property designated for the park becomes town property (on the same day) it will need to be covered under the town's liability insurance.

Ms. Gordy congratulated the Council on conducting a great meeting. She asked the Council to consider getting microphones for the hearing-impaired residents in the audience. Ms. Gordy stated she is on the ANDPC Board and she thinks it would be great for Elaine to come and speak to Council as to what is available to the town. She noted there is a cat problem in town and asked for the town to look into what means are available to reduce the cat population. She thanked everyone for a great meeting and stated she has enjoyed what part she has heard.

Mayor Hart added he wants to make sure once the parks construction is underway, he wants to make sure there is something there to honor Ms. Gordy for her years of service to this district.

Mr. Wardius asked for Council to consider getting an amplifier for the hearing-impaired.

Mr. Mather asked during the Spring Clean-up if the town could provide a shredding service to dispose of important documents, even if it is at a cost to residents. Mr. Bliss suggested contacting the hospital because they have a company that offers a shredding service. Mr. Bliss said that it is a benefit that could be beneficial to town residents, saying a shredding service can't be that expensive. Ms. Salazar asked for clarification about adding to next month's agenda. Mayor Hart responded "no" that Mr. Bliss instructed Mr. Art (Mather) to contact the hospital.

Council Comments

Ms. Harmon stated she is very thankful so many people are in attendance tonight and hearing the discussion first hand. She said after the February meeting she left feeling very upset. Ms. Harmon said when she decided to put her name on the ballot she never thought of politics and never thought of being a politician. She said she wanted to run for Council to be a part of the town, to have a voice and to use a calm mind. Ms. Harmon stated what she would like to see come out of the Committees is the facts, and not opinions. She said when the information is presented, she wants that information presented as a town and that all the information presented be the truth. Ms. Harmon stated she is thankful for what has been put in place tonight. Ms. Harmon once again thanked everyone in the audience for coming out tonight.

Ms. Pierson thanked everyone in attendance. Ms. Pierson said it is helpful to hear residents' feedback on the Council's discussions. Ms. Pierson said she thought it was an excellent meeting tonight. She once again thanked everyone for coming.

Ms. Custis thanked everyone for coming out tonight, saying it is nice to see so many people in the audience. Ms. Custis stated she likes to hear everyone's comments; it does help with making decisions. She said it is also nice to hear what the townspeople would like. Ms. Custis once again thanked everyone in attendance and thanked her fellow Council Members.

Ms. Rillo thanked everyone in attendance this evening. Ms. Rillo noted it is nice to hear everyone's comments. She thanked all the town employees and town Attorney adding everyone does a great job. She thanked her fellow Councilmembers and the Mayor. Ms. Rillo said she agrees with Ms. Harmon with presenting the truth and the facts. That is what helps the Council make the right decisions.

Mr. Zember thanked everyone in attendance. He said the audience's comments have been educational. Mr. Zember reported the meetings are getting more peaceful. Mr. Zember stated if all Council Members can reign in our opinions and not get agitated, he said six different opinions can equal great things for the town. Mr. Zember once again thanked everyone for coming out, and he thanked his fellow Council Members.

Mr. Finney opened by stating that everyone needs to work together, the Council and the public. He thanked everyone for coming out tonight. He thanked all the town employees, everyone does an excellent job, and some go above and beyond. Mr. Finney stated committees are being formed tonight; he hopes they will make the best decisions for the town. He once again thanked everyone for coming and said it is nice to see more and more people at each meeting.

Closed Session – 8:07 pm

Motion: To go into Closed Session 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 matters pertaining to General Government, specifically related to appointments to the following committees: New Town Office Building, George N. McMath Park & Town Beautification by Susan Rillo and seconded by Billye D. Custis.

Roll Call Vote: Zember-yes; Rillo-yes; Harmon-yes; Pierson-yes; Custis-yes; Finney-yes.

MOTION PASSED

Open Session & Certification of Closed Session – 8:29 pm

Motion: To return to Open Session by Billye D. Custis and seconded by Rose Pierson.

Roll Call Vote: Zember-yes; Rillo-yes; Harmon-yes; Pierson-yes; Custis-yes; Finney-yes.

MOTION PASSED

A roll call vote was taken after reconvening in Open Session, at which time each member certified by his/her vote that only the matters previously disclosed were discussed during Closed Session:

Roll Call Vote: Zember-yes; Rillo-yes; Harmon-yes; Pierson-yes; Custis-yes; Finney-yes; Hart-yes.

MOTION PASSED

Mayor Hart stated Council is back in Open Session.

Motion: To appoint the following people to the appropriate Committees by Billye D. Custis and seconded by Rose Pierson.

Committee Appointments:

New Town Office Committee:	George N. McMath Park Committee:	Beautification Committee:
John Dennis	Billye D. Custis	Claudia Harmon
Brian Corbin	P. Bryan Daffin	Laurice Hohlt
Benny Tatum	Leslie Mason	Woody Zember
Rose Pierson	Rose Pierson	Jamye Salazar
Matt Hart		

Roll Call Vote: Zember-yes; Rillo-yes; Harmon-yes; Pierson-yes; Custis-yes; Finney-yes.

MOTION PASSED

Mayor Hart stated the person at the top of each committee will notify the other members chosen.

Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn at 8:31 pm by Susan Rillo and seconded by Billye D. Custis.

Roll Call Vote: Zember-yes; Rillo-yes; Harmon-yes; Pierson-yes; Custis-yes; Finney-yes.

MOTION PASSED

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Taylor
Clerk

Matthew D. Hart
Mayor