

Onley Town Council  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
Minutes of March 1, 2021

Regular Monthly Meeting of the Onley Town Council held at the Onley Baptist Church, 25501 W. Main Street, on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of March A.D., 2021:

Council Members Present: Matt Hart, Mayor  
Brian Corbin  
Billye D. Custis  
Bill Ferguson  
Claudia Harmon  
Rose Pierson  
Woody Zember

Staff Present: Jamye Salazar, Town Manager  
Alissa Yoder, Town Clerk  
John Spivey, Chief of Police, OPD  
Jess Long, Sergeant, OPD  
Carl Bundick, Town Attorney

**Call to Order**

Mayor Hart called the meeting to order at 6:00pm

**Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance**

The invocation was given by Rose Pierson and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Woody Zember.

**Adoption of Agenda** – Councilman Zember made a motion to remove 8C. Letter from Arlene Evans from the agenda. Mayor Hart agreed, noting that he assumed the item would fall under closed session. Councilwoman Custis inquired with Mr. Bundick if it would fall under the closed session discussion. After being informed by Ms. Salazar about the circumstance of the item, he stated to council that he believed that due the assumption that no disciplinary action will be taken, the item should be kept on the agenda under New Business. Councilman Zember rescinded his motion.

**Motion: To adopt the agenda as written by Billye D. Custis and seconded by Rose Pierson.**

**Roll Call Vote: Corbin- yes; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember- yes  
MOTION PASSED**

**Consideration of Minutes** – The council was made aware of changes made to the January 4, 2021 minutes at their request. Council was also presented with the minutes of February 1, 2021.

**Motion: To adopt the minutes from the January 4, 2021 with changes made by Rose Pierson and seconded by Bill Ferguson.**

**Roll Call Vote: Corbin- yes; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember- yes  
MOTION PASSED**

**Motion: To adopt the minutes from February 1, 2021 by Woody Zember and seconded by Billye D. Custis.**

**Roll Call Vote: Corbin- yes; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember- yes  
MOTION PASSED**

**Police Report & Schedule (April 2021)** – Chief Spivey presented council with the police report and the April schedule, along with the report for February. Councilwoman Pierson made note that friends of

Onley Town Council  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
Minutes of March 1, 2021

hers had to go to the emergency room when they were stopped by Chief Spivey, and they felt that Chief Spivey was very helpful to them and their situation.

**Motion: To approve the April 2021 Police Schedule by Rose Pierson and seconded by Bill Ferguson.**

**Roll Call Vote: Corbin- yes; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - yes**

**MOTION PASSED**

**Treasurer’s Report – Payables February 2021) – Ms. Salazar presented council with the Treasurer’s Report for February 2021. A copy of this is available at the town office. Councilwoman Harmon inquired about the Seizure Account. Chief Spivey explained what the seizure account is for. Ms. Harmon also inquired about the ETIX account that is open at Atlantic Union Bank in the amount of \$25.00. Chief Spivey explained that that account will be specifically from E-Tickets.**

**Motion: To pay the payables for February 2021 by Billye D Custis and seconded by Rose Pierson.**

**Roll Call Vote: Corbin- yes; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - yes**

**MOTION PASSED**

**CD Maturing at BB&T Bank on 3/4/2021 (\$354,188.49) – Ms. Salazar explained that there is a CD at BB&T that council has 10 days to either roll over or transfer. She noted that she would like to inquire with Taylor Bank about transferring the funds there.**

**Motion: To close the CD at BB&T, put the funds in the Money Market account, check CD rates, and if Taylor Bank has the highest rate, put the funds in a CD at Taylor Bank by Billye D. Custis and seconded by Rose Pierson.**

**Roll Call Vote: Corbin- yes; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - yes**

**MOTION PASSED**

**Town Manager’s Report/Zoning Administrator’s Report/Public Works Report - Ms. Salazar presented council with the Town Manager’s Report/Zoning Administrator’s Report/Public Works Report for February 2021. A copy of this is available at the town office.**

**Attorney’s Report – Mr. Bundick inquired with council about using the town’s stationary for his communication with people on behalf of the town. He also noted that so far, the situations that have come up have gone smoothly. Council agreed to Mr. Bundick’s idea of using the town’s stationary for the town’s communication from him.**

**Property at 25571 E. Main St./New Town Office Committee Report – Ms. Salazar reported to council that a resident in town, Doug Young, wrote a letter of interest for being on a committee. Mr. Young was present and noted that he would be willing to serve on any committee that is needed for the town. Ms. Salazar also noted that Ms. Deborah Bliss submitted a letter of interest for Planning Commission membership. Ms. Salazar opened 2 bids that were received for building the new town office. She announced that Jim Wert’s bid was in the amount of \$579,867.00. She passed the bid details around to council. Ms. Salazar also announced that Berecah Home’s bid was in the amount of \$1,091,500.00. She passed the bid details around to council. Council set a meeting date of March 10 at 6:00pm at the Onley Baptist Church to discuss the details of each bid. Council took a recess from 6:45pm-6:53pm to check if the church is available.**

**Motion: To appoint Doug Young to the building committee by Brian Corbin and seconded by Woody Zember.**

**Roll Call Vote: Corbin- yes; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - yes**

Onley Town Council  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
Minutes of March 1, 2021

**MOTION PASSED**

**Motion: To have a meeting on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 6:00pm at the Onley Baptist Church for the discussion of the bids for the new town office by Billye D Custis and seconded by Rose Pierson.**

**Roll Call Vote: Corbin- yes; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - yes**

**MOTION PASSED**

**George N. McMath Park Committee Report** – Ms. Salazar noted that although the committee signs are posted, no one is interested in serving at this time. Mayor Hart stated that he would like the park gates to be open 24/7 due to no one being able to unlock the gates early enough for walkers. Chief Spivey noted that there should be lights installed in the park for nighttime patrol. Councilwoman Harmon and Councilman Zember stated that they would like to see the gates locked at night. Mayor Hart inquired with Chief Spivey if officers could open the park when day shift officers come in. Chief Spivey stated that they can do that. Council also discussed the flooding issues at the park. Councilman Ferguson noted that he has had success with VDOT and recommended a number for immediate response from VDOT. Ms. Salazar requested help from Councilman Ferguson regarding the matter. Council continued to discuss flooding at the park. Chief Spivey inquired about putting out an RFP regarding the lighting at the park. Councilman Corbin stated that due to a committee no longer being established for the park and after speaking with Ms. Salazar, he believed it would be best to let someone else handle the maintenance. Council discussed the possibility of Simpson’s continuing with the park maintenance, along with the possibility of an RFP being posted.

**Motion: To post an RFP for park lighting by Rose Pierson and seconded by Woody Zember.**

**Roll Call Vote: Corbin- yes; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - yes**

**MOTION PASSED**

**Motion: To type up Billye D Custis’s maintenance list, submit the list to Simpson’s, and inquire with Mr. Simpson about a monthly cost for maintaining the park by Brian Corbin and seconded by Rose Pierson.**

**Motion Rescinded by Brian Corbin and Rose Pierson.**

**Motion: To send an RFP for park maintenance with Billye D. Custis’ list by Rose Pierson and seconded by Brian Corbin.**

**Roll Call Vote: Corbin- yes; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - yes**

**MOTION PASSED**

**Motion: To turn over the management of the park to the town manager by Brian Corbin and seconded by Claudia Harmon.**

**Roll Call Vote: Corbin- yes; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - yes**

**MOTION PASSED**

**Community Spirit Committee** – Councilwoman Pierson stated that the committee has developed a mission statement and requested council’s opinion on starting a community Facebook page. Ms. Deborah Bliss, also a member of the committee, further explained the page to council. Councilwoman Pierson asked if council has any objections to the Facebook page. Mr. Bundick explained the liability issues that come from the committee and noted that if information is given only, the town should be safe. Council discussed the Facebook page with Chief Spivey, who noted the regulations and liability for town-related pages. Councilwoman Pierson stated that she believed that due to the discussion this evening, the Committee will not pursue developing a Facebook page.

Onley Town Council  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
Minutes of March 1, 2021

**COVID-19 Relief Committee** – Councilman Ferguson and Ms. Bliss provided council with information on distributing sanitizer and face masks to residents of the town. He noted that the committee would like to distribute gift cards to Food Lion for the next budget year as well. Council discussed the details of the distribution with the committee, along with using the Rainy-Day Fund.

**Motion: To give the COVID-19 Relief Committee the money in the budget designated for COVID-19 relief by Rose Pierson and seconded by Woody Zember.**

**Roll Call Vote: Corbin- yes; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - yes**

**MOTION PASSED**

**Discussion of Public Works RFP** – Ms. Salazar reminded council that the RFP that was given to them for public works should be used to update for the next public works RFP.

**Discussion of Employee Drug Testing** – Ms. Salazar stated that after speaking to the staff at Rural Health, she recommends that unless there is cause for concern, the town should wait to drug test employees until after COVID.

**New Business**

**New Agenda Format** – Councilman Corbin explained that to reduce any confusion during meetings, he would like to see the name of the person that requested items to be on the agenda next to the items. Mr. Bundick also explained to council what a consent agenda is and noted that council can implement a consent agenda if they wish to do so.

**Motion: To modify the monthly agenda format that if anyone has a requested line item on the agenda, the name of that person is next to the item by Brian Corbin and seconded by Rose Pierson.**

**Roll Call Vote: Corbin- yes; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - yes**

**MOTION PASSED**

**Letter from George McMath** – Mayor Hart presented council with the letter George McMath sent to him. He noted that he believed it was a well-written letter and he will be writing a letter back and give the letter to Ms. Salazar to give to Mr. McMath.

**Letter from Arlene Evans** – Mayor Hart noted that a letter of complaint was given to the town from Arlene Evans regarding the handling of issues with T&W Block, Ms. Salazar and Chief Spivey. Ms. Salazar refuted claims that were made in the letter that was submitted. Chief Spivey also defended his actions taken with Ms. Evans; however, he did note that he did not follow up with Ms. Evans but did follow-through with her request. Councilwoman Custis refuted claims from Ms. Evans' letter as well. Ms. Evans noted who she spoke to at DEQ and what she was told by them. She also discussed the time that T&W starts, noting that they start at 4:00am and the noise is excessive. Councilwoman Custis commented on her experience with T&W Block, saying she lived near T&W and did not have problems. Ms. Evans inquired if council would like to start a petition with her neighbors, and that she believes that they feel similar to her and she is speaking on their behalf. Mr. Evans spoke with Chief Spivey and Mr. Bundick about the legalities of what can be done to resolve the issues. Mayor Hart noted that the council wants to work with them, but “we don’t want to overstep our bounds by doing something that’s not legal”.

**Speed Limit Reduction** – Mayor Hart stated that he discussed reducing the speed limit in town with Ms. Salazar, and she told him that it has been unsuccessful. Councilwoman Custis noted that if they come

Onley Town Council  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
Minutes of March 1, 2021

and do the speed test and a certain percentage of people are speeding at the spot that is being requested to be reduced, it would be considered a speed trap. Council discussed the speed limit with Chief Spivey.

**Motor Vehicle Decal Sales** – Ms. Salazar inquired with council if they would like to sell decals this year. She also noted that Accomac is planning to add the decal sales to all taxes for next year.

**Motion:** To use COVID relief for the 2021 motor vehicle decal sales by Brian Corbin and seconded by Rose Pierson.

**Roll Call Vote:** Corbin- yes; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - yes  
**MOTION PASSED**

**Set Date for 2021-2022 Budget Workshop** – Council set the date of Monday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00pm at the Onley Baptist Church for the 2021-2022 Budget Workshop.

**Public Comments** – Ned Finney inquired with council if they are making themselves exempt for the monetary COVID-19 relief. Ms. Salazar noted that the other town councils that provided similar relief made themselves exempt. The council and Mayor agreed that they would do the same.

Mr. Finney also noted that he is not sure if T&W Block is industrial or residential. Council discussed T&W Block with Mr. Bundick and John Dennis.

**Council Comments-** Councilman Zember stated that the meeting went well tonight. He commended Ms. Salazar for how she handled the situation with Ms. Evans. Mr. Zember also noted that there are big issues to tackle in the future, but all are heading in the right direction. He also commended Mr. Bundick for his quick responses.

Councilman Ferguson praised the town employees for their work and noted that he is excited about everything that is happening. Mr. Ferguson also commended Mr. Bundick.

Councilwoman Harmon also thanked Ms. Salazar, Chief Spivey and Mayor Hart for how they handled the situation with Ms. Evans. She reminded council that it is important that we all use our talents and gifts for the good of the town.

Councilwoman Pierson thanked everyone for the good job they did at the meeting and stated that she believed the meeting went well. She also thanked Mr. Bundick.

Councilwoman Custis agreed that the meeting went well and that the council is making progress. She also thanked everyone.

Councilman Corbin agreed that Ms. Salazar and Chief Spivey “performed excellent under pressure”. Mr. Corbin also thanked everyone.

**Closed Session**

**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 Personnel Matters pertaining to the Police Department related to complaint(s) against officers, recent issue with ACSO and an attendance issue at 9:06 pm by Billye D. Custis and seconded by Rose Pierson.

**Roll Call Vote:** Corbin- yes; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - yes

Onley Town Council  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
Minutes of March 1, 2021

**MOTION PASSED**

**Open Session & Certification of Close Session**

**Motion: To return to Open Session at 9:28pm by Billye D. Custis and seconded by Rose Pierson.**

**Roll Call Vote: Corbin- yes; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - yes**

**MOTION PASSED**

A roll call vote was taken 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:

**Roll Call Vote: Corbin- yes; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - yes**

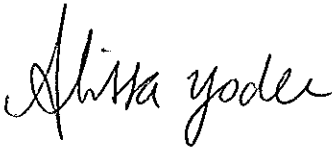
**Adjourn**

**Motion: To adjourn at 9:29pm by Rose Pierson and seconded by Billye D. Custis.**

**Roll Call Vote: Corbin- yes; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - yes**

**MOTION PASSED**

Respectfully Submitted,



Alissa Yoder, Clerk



Matthew Hart, Mayor