

Onley Town Council
Public Hearing – Proposed Charter Changes
December 27, 2021, 6:00 pm
Onley Baptist Church, 25501 W. Main Street, Onley, VA

MINUTES

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

Staff Present: Carl Bundick, Town Attorney
 Laurie Chamberlain, Town Administrator

Call to Order, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Matt Hart called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Councilman Zember gave the Invocation and Councilman Corbin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adoption of Agenda. Mayor Hart asked for a motion to adopt the Agenda. Councilwoman Pierson so moved, Councilman Zember seconded. Roll call vote: Corbin Yes ; Custis Yes ; Ferguson Yes ; Harmon Yes; Pierson Yes; Zember Yes. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Rules for Public Hearings read by Laurie Chamberlain, Town Administrator.

Presentation of Proposed Charter Changes. Town Attorney Carl Bundick described the changes made and stated he needs a copy of the minutes showing voice votes as soon as possible to submit to Sen. Lewis for Legislative Services, which will then return it to Council for review and then to be voted into law by the General Assembly and signed by the governor.

Public Comments Regarding Proposed Charter Changes. Deborah Bliss stated she believes the hearing is illegal due to insufficient notice and lack of availability of the draft Charter because she has been working 9:00 to 5:00 on a project, and the Town Office is only open 10:00 to 4:00. The draft Charter is not available on the town website. Arlene Evans commented that she hoped that the new Town Charter, once formally approved, will be followed properly going forward. Discussion - Mayor Hart responded that any Council member would have gladly provided Ms. Bliss with a copy if she had asked. Proper notice was given in the newspaper and on the website but Town staff did not post the draft to the website for technical reasons. However, copies were available in the Town Office. Councilwoman Harmon said she is concerned that Ms. Bliss never reached out to us. Mayor Hart added that we are doing our best at this point; we can work on things like the website in future.

Adjourn Public Hearing. Mayor Hart asked for a motion to adjourn the public hearing. Ms. Pierson so moved, and Mr. Ferguson seconded. Roll call vote: Corbin Yes; Custis Yes; Ferguson Yes; Harmon Yes; Pierson Yes; Zember Yes. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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Proposed Charter Changes. Mayor Hart asked for a motion to accept the Charter changes. Ms. Pierson so moved, then Ms. Custis said the motion needed to confirm the last draft amendment received by Council, which she had dated and timed at 12/10/21 at 2:10pm. Ms. Pierson rescinded her motion and Ms. Custis moved as follows: I make a motion that Council send the final draft of the Onley Town Charter received 12/10/21 at approximately 2:10pm and to the General Assembly for approval. Ms. Pierson seconded the motion. Mr. Bundick confirmed it was the correct version. Ms. Harmon thanked Ms. Custis for dating and timing receipt of documents. Mayor Hart thanked Council for making these changes. Mr. Bundick commented that when the document comes back from Sen. Lewis, he will send it to the Town Office for distribution to Council. Roll call vote: Corbin Yes; Custis Yes; Ferguson Yes; Harmon Yes; Pierson Yes; Zember Yes. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Adjourn. Mayor Hart asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Custis so moved, and Ms. Pierson seconded. Roll call vote: Corbin Yes; Custis Yes; Ferguson Yes; Harmon Yes; Pierson Yes; Zember Yes. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. Mayor Hart adjourned the meeting at 6:13pm.

Respectfully submitted,

_____ (date) _____
Laurel Chamberlain
Town Administrator

_____ (date) _____
Matthew D. Hart
Mayor