

Onley Town Council  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
Minutes of December 6, 2021  
Onley Baptist Church, 25501 W. Main St., Onley VA

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  
  Chuck McPherson, Chief of Police, OPD  
  Jamy Salazar, Clerk/Treasurer  
  Laurie Chamberlain, Town Administrator

**Call to Order**

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

**Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance**

The invocation was given by Councilwoman Harmon and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilwoman Pierson.

**Adoption of Agenda**

Mr. Ferguson noted that he will be discussing the lawn mower purchase - not Mr. Corbin.

**Motion: To adopt the agenda 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

**Presentation – ORA**

Brooke Duer gave an update to the Council on plans for the ORA. She asked that Council let them know in January if the town wants to supplement the cost of resident’s memberships next year.

**Department Reports**

Chief McPherson presented his report. There was a small discussion about holiday scheduling as well as the trend of occasionally issuing warnings in lieu of summonses. Chief McPherson presented Council with three quotes for outfitting the new vehicle with lights and equipment. He recommended that Council accept the quote from Eric Nottingham.

**Motion: To accept the quote from Eric Nottingham in the amount of \$6,304.00 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

**Old Business**

Mr. Bundick asked that Council approve the final version of the proposed charter change so that Senator Lewis can get it to Legislative Services. Council decided to meet on December 13<sup>th</sup> to make final changes. Mr. Bundick advised Council that they must hold a public hearing to sell town-owned property, they will then vote to sell, find a purchaser, and adopt an ordinance to transfer ownership. Council was presented with two versions of the town logo and asked to make a final decision.

Onley Town Council  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
Minutes of December 6, 2021  
Onley Baptist Church, 25501 W. Main St., Onley VA

Ms. Custis expressed concern that the gray option was not proposed or agreed upon at last month's meeting when there were about 20 residents in attendance.

**Motion: To adopt the town logo containing the gray background by Brian Corbin and seconded by Rose Pierson. Roll Call Vote:** Corbin- yes; Custis-no; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – no; Pierson – yes; Zember - no. Mayor Hart voted to break the tie – yes. MOTION PASSED

Debbie Bliss reported that the Planning Commission's zoning review is now nearing an end. They have started to investigate short term rentals and plan to have something for Council by February.

Ms. Salazar reported that we have 48 Food Lion gift cards left, along with two that did not work for a total of 50 cards.

**Motion: To donate 10 gift cards each to the following organizations: Light House Ministries, ESCADV, The Food Bank, SPCA, and Onley Baptist Church Food Pantry by Billye D. Custis and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote:** Corbin- yes; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Mayor Hart gave an update on ARPA funds stating that the restrictions are tight on how they may be spent. He said that (at this time) the only thing that we can use the funds for is employee bonuses, but that will be up to Council to decide if they want to do that as well as work out the details.

#### New Business

Council agreed to light the tree at McMath Park but to hold no holiday events this year.

After discussing the sale of vehicle decals, the following motion was made:

**Motion: To repeal the ordinance regulating the sale of vehicle decals by Brian Corbin and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote:** Corbin- yes; Custis-no; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Mr. Ferguson (Public Works Committee) has found a commercial lawn mower for \$7,500.00. He presented Council with the information and recommended that Council approve the purchase.

**Motion: To purchase the lawn mower presented in the amount of \$7,500.00 by Brian Corbin and seconded by Bill Ferguson.**

At this time (7:37pm), Council recessed until 7:42pm.

**Roll Call Vote (on above motion):** Corbin- yes; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Ms. Salazar stated that Council has received a letter of interest in serving on the BZA from Deborah Bliss. There are currently two vacancies. She added that Scott Doughty's term will expire on December 31, 2021.

**Motion: To appoint Deborah Bliss to the BZA and seconded by Rose Pierson. Roll Call Vote:** Corbin- yes; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

**Motion: To re-appoint Scott Doughty to the BZA 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

Ms. Salazar asked Council to approve the write-off of tax bills under \$2.00 totaling \$65.03.

**Motion: To write off the tax bills under \$2.00 for a total of \$65.03 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

Onley Town Council  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
Minutes of December 6, 2021  
Onley Baptist Church, 25501 W. Main St., Onley VA

**Committee Reports**

**Community Spirit Committee** - Ms. Pierson reported that they placed signs around town to honor our residents that are veterans. She added that they are planning a mad-hatter tea party in the spring.

**COVID-19 Committee** - Mr. Ferguson reported that their business was handled earlier in the night.

**Town Office Bldg. Committee** - Mr. Corbin stated that there has been no response (from Mr. Wert) to the letter that was sent to him last month. He reported that there may be a property in town that could be purchased and converted to a town office, but he is still working on that.

**Motion: To rescind the motion (from March 10, 2021) to accept the bid from Jim Wert to construct a new town office 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**

**Public Works Committee** – Mayor Hart reported that our new public works employee is working out very well. He has worked on cleaning up the town. He and Dean Savage have also worked together on park projects and installing the holiday decorations. Ms. Custis and Mr. Bliss volunteered to serve on the Public Works Committee.

**Motion: To appoint Billye D. Custis and Ted Bliss to serve on the Public Works Committee by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Woody Zember. Roll Call Vote: Corbin- yes; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED**

**Golf Cart Committee** – Ms. Pierson reported that the state of Virginia has changed its definition of a golf cart and therefore, the town has changed their ordinance and VDOT land application to match. They are planning to have the VDOT map, showing where golf carts are allowed, enlarged and laminated.

**Sidewalk Project Committee** – Mr. Corbin reported that he has reached out to A-NPDC about the original project from 2017. They will see what they can find about this project. He said that he was told that there were several meetings, but that was five years ago. He also spoke with Chris Isdell and Tom Springs at VDOT, and they have given him VDOT’s perspective on how we could make this happen. He added that there is a process for having lines painted on the road at the stoplight intersection in town to assure the safety of pedestrians. They are also researching that as well.

**Department Reports (cont’d)**

Ms. Salazar presented her written Treasurer’s report. For the sake of time, she did not read it but asked if there were any questions. Ms. Salazar and Mayor Hart answered numerous questions about the accounts payable report from Ms. Custis and Ms. Harmon.

**Motion: To pay the November 2021 payables by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Rose Pierson. Roll Call Vote: Corbin- yes; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED**

Mayor Hart said that he has nothing new to report for zoning. He has worked with Ms. Salazar and Mario on numerous things this month.

Mr. Bundick asked that Council consider re-appointing him to the position of Town Attorney at next month’s meeting.

**Consideration of Minutes**

**Motion: To accept the minutes of the October 4, 2021, Regular Monthly Meeting 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**

Onley Town Council  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
Minutes of December 6, 2021  
Onley Baptist Church, 25501 W. Main St., Onley VA

**Motion: To accept the minutes of the November 1, 2021, Regular Monthly Meeting by Rose Pierson and seconded by Brian Corbin. Roll Call Vote: Corbin- yes; Custis-no; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED**

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**Council Comments**

Ms. Pierson thanked everyone for attending and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mr. Ferguson thanked the employees and police officers for their hard work.

Ms. Harmon said that she feels that we have come a long way this year with working together. She asked that everybody remain true to what they feel is right.

Mr. Zember said it was a good meeting and he feels that Council is getting closer to coming together on some things.

Mr. Corbin said that the sidewalk committee findings were much better than he expected, and he is looking forward to moving forward. He agreed with Mr. Zember that it feels like everyone is working harder at getting together on some things.

Ms. Custis thanked everyone for the treats and stated she would see everyone next week.

**Closed Session**

**Motion: To go into Closed Session (8:50pm) 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 Police Department’s Take-Home Vehicle Policy; 2: Discussion or consideration of Public Works matters pertaining to employment status of Public Works employee; 3. Discussion or consideration of personnel matters pertaining to Police Department, General Government & Public Works holiday bonuses; 4: Discussion of Early Pay for Council Member(s) 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**

**Open Session & Certification of Closed Session**

**Motion: To return to Open Session (9:22pm) by Billye D. Custis and seconded by Woody Zember. 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: Custis-yes; Finney-yes; Harmon-yes; Pierson-yes; Rillo-yes; Zember-yes; Hart-yes.**

**Motion: To have the Town Attorney get a new copy of the Take Home Vehicle Policy next week for Council to vote on 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**

**Motion: To give the Public Works employee (Mario Hernandez) a pay increase to \$20.00 per hour working 32 hours per week with no benefits 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**

Onley Town Council  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
Minutes of December 6, 2021  
Onley Baptist Church, 25501 W. Main St., Onley VA

**Motion: To give the following holiday bonuses: Coulter & Long (\$200.00), Salazar (\$150.00) and everyone else \$100.00 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**

**Motion: To give John Dennis a holiday bonus of \$100.00 by Claudia Harmon and seconded by Rose Pierson. Roll Call Vote: Corbin- yes; Custis-abstain; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED**

**Adjourn**

**Motion: To adjourn at 9:26pm 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**

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamye Salazar, Clerk/Treasurer

Matthew Hart, Mayor