

**Onley Town Council
Regular Monthly Meeting
Minutes of July 11, 2022
Onley Town Office, 25308 Lankford Highway, Onley VA**

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

Council Members Absent: Matt Hart, Mayor

Staff Present: Carl Bundick, Town Attorney
 Lt. E. Jess Long, OPD
 Jamye Salazar, Interim Town Manager

Call to Order

Vice-Mayor Pierson 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 Vice-Mayor Pierson.

Adoption of Agenda

Motion: To adopt the agenda 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

Old Business

Council asked the Planning Commission to review Ordinance(s) #004-06 and #004-17. They feel that the ordinances are very similar and some things from each ordinance may overlap. **Motion: To hold off on any enforcement that was stated in the letters that were sent to property owners dated April 12, 2022, and after, until a complete list of property violations can be made by the Zoning Administrator and all letters be sent at the same time by Claudia Harmon and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote:** Corbin- yes; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – did not vote; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Motion: To have the Planning Commission review the Comprehensive Plan by Woody Zember and seconded by Brian Corbin. Roll Call Vote: Corbin- yes; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – did not vote; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

At this time, Vice-Mayor Pierson introduced our Accomack County Board of Supervisors representative, Jackie Phillips. She explained that he will be attending our meetings quarterly to keep us updated. Ms. Salazar asked Vice-Mayor Pierson if she is voting tonight since it has not been clear in the last couple of motions. Ms. Pierson responded that she will be voting.

Motion: To accept the estimate from Shore Cleaning Services (Preston Ewell) to clean the new town office by Brian Corbin and Woody Zember. 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 July 11, 2022**

Onley Town Office, 25308 Lankford Highway, Onley VA

After a discussion about the town-owned property on Front Street, Council decided to have a professional contact of Ms. Custis access the property and make the most cost-effective recommendation. Once they have that information, they can proceed with bids from contractors.

New Business

Ms. Salazar explained that Ordinance #001-22 gives our police department the authority to issue traffic summons and must be adopted each year. **Motion: To adopt Ordinance #001-22 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

Ms. Custis gave an update on the issues at McMath Park. She said that she, Mr. Corbin, Ms. Salazar and Mario Hernandez have met at the park and that a lot of the issues have been taken care of, but there are still a few things that are being worked on at this time. She suggested Council create a Park Commission and ask a McMath family member to serve. No further action was taken at this time.

Lt. Long presented Council with some rough plans for the renovations at the Onley Police Department, adding that it is a work in progress and there are some things within the plans that need to be changed. Ms. Salazar reported that she has been unable to reach anyone at the temporary employment agency. Council instructed Ms. Salazar to contact ESCC and ESAAA.

Committee Reports

Town Office Building Committee – Mr. Corbin reported that they have contacted a surveyor, Craig Crockett, and he has placed stakes at the property. **Motion: To authorize the Building Committee to hire North Point Surveyors to survey the property for \$1,500.00 by Brian Corbin.**

At this time, Ms. Custis asked Mr. Bundick's opinion and further stated that we have already surveyed the property. Mr. Bundick suggested that Council have the boundaries re-established. Council asked Mr. Bundick to help Mr. Corbin with the survey issues. **Mr. Corbin rescinded his motion at this time.** Mr. Corbin reported that VDOT has suggested that we hire a civil engineering firm.

Motion: To advertise for a civil engineering firm by Brian Corbin and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote: Corbin- yes; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Sidewalk Project Committee – Mr. Corbin reported that the sidewalk in town is being done free of charge by VDOT. He stated that we need proposal writers for the safety features and the Coastal south sidewalk. Mr. Bliss said we also need a resolution to do sidewalk work. Mr. Bundick offered to talk with Chris Isdell and get the resolution started. He might also like help from the civil engineering firm. Mr. Corbin said we also need a resolution to start the no right turn on red movement at the stoplight.

Golf Cart Committee – After some discussion, Council asked to add insurance requirements to the Golf Cart Ordinance. They also requested uniformity where it reads "golf cart/slow moving vehicle" throughout the document. There was also a discussion about whether golf carts should be driven after sunset. **Motion: To add adequate liability coverage to the Golf Cart Ordinance as per the Code of Virginia and add the golf carts be prohibited from carrying passengers in the cargo area by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Brian Corbin. Roll Call Vote:** Corbin- yes; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Public Works Committee – Mr. Ferguson reported that he has not re-done the SOP's since some major changes will need to be made in lieu of the recent addition of a Town Manager. At this point, Mario has been told to get his daily orders from Ms. Salazar.

**Onley Town Council
Regular Monthly Meeting
Minutes of July 11, 2022**

Onley Town Office, 25308 Lankford Highway, Onley VA

Personnel Committee – Ms. Custis reported that the Personnel Committee has not met. Ms. Salazar reported that at last month’s meeting, she said that she didn’t believe Ms. Evans wished to continue serving on the Personnel Committee. She stated that Ms. Evans has since sent an email and stated that she does wish to continue serving. Ms. Salazar apologized for the misunderstanding.

Community Spirit Committee – Ms. Pierson reported that they would like to create a welcoming committee for new residents moving to town. They are planning to honor veterans with a yard sign for Veterans Day. Ms. Custis suggested a lunch at the park. Ms. Pierson said they will consider it, but they cannot commit at this time.

Town Manager Search Committee – Ms. Custis reported that they have created an ad for the position to run in various places. **Motion: To run the Town Manager job ad in the newspaper 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

Department Reports

Police Report & Schedule

Lt. Long presented Council with the August schedule. In the matter of the currently ordered patrol vehicle, it should be delivered in 8-12 weeks. He did find a Dodge vehicle at a dealership in Bedford that is available at this time, but he will need to act quickly, approximately 24 hours. Council instructed Lt. Long to find a vehicle and gather the necessary information. Mr. Bundick suggested that rather than adjourning the meeting, we recess until Lt. Long has the information to present.

Lt. Long told Council that as of July 1, 2022, the highway safety grant hourly rate must be paid at a rate of time and a half of the officer’s hourly rate. He presented Council with a policy to that effect.

Motion: To adopt the Town of Onley’s Police Department Overtime Policy for Highway Safety Grant by Brian Corbin and seconded by Billye D. Custis. Roll Call Vote: Corbin- yes; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Lt. Long stated that he and his department have been working on the speeding problem/complaints on Pennsylvania Avenue. He asked Council to consider the purchase of speed deterrent signs for Pennsylvania Avenue as well as several other streets in town. After presenting them with several sign options, Council asked Lt. Long to research grants for the purchase of the signs.

Lt. Long told Council that the Community Spirit Committee has agreed to help fund the National Night Out on August 2, 2022. He said that it will be nice if Council Members can help.

Motion: To use \$1,500.00 from the Community Spirit funds to support the NNO event 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 accept the August 2022 schedule 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

Treasurer’s Report

Ms. Salazar gave her report. A copy is available upon request. **Motion: To pay the payables 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

Interim Town Manager Report

Ms. Salazar gave her report. A copy will be attached and is available upon request.

**Onley Town Council
Regular Monthly Meeting
Minutes of July 11, 2022**

Onley Town Office, 25308 Lankford Highway, Onley VA

Ms. Custis asked Ms. Salazar to remember the issue with the apartment behind Maranatha Store.

Attorney's Report

Mr. Bundick has worked with Ms. Salazar on ordinances, overtime policies, zoning issues and the mosquito contract. He added that it is working very well with Ms. Salazar as Interim Town Manager.

Consideration of Minutes

Ms. Salazar stated that the changes that were made to the May 2nd minutes are in red. She added that the section that reads "Tomorrow, I will not be working in the office" should read "As of tomorrow, I will not be working in the office".

Motion: To accept the minutes of the May 2, 2022, Public Hearing(s) & Regular Monthly Meeting with corrections by Brian Corbin and seconded by Billye D. Custis. Roll Call Vote: Corbin- yes; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Motion: To accept the minutes of May 26, 2022, Emergency Meeting by Brian Corbin and seconded by Woody Zember. Roll Call Vote: Corbin- yes; Custis-abstain; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Motion: To accept the minutes of the June 6, 2022, Public Hearing(s) & Regular Monthly Meeting by Claudia Harmon and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote: Corbin- yes; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Motion: To accept the minutes of the June 27, 2022, Special Meeting by Claudia Harmon and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote: Corbin- yes; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Public Comments

Debbie Bliss thanked Mr. Joynes for joining the BZA and said we need to call a meeting. She asked Mr. Bundick how things are going with finding an ARPA expert. He replied that he is still working on that issue. She suggested implementing a charge for FOIA requests.

Michael Joynes thanked the police for a good job. He asked if we are planning to hire two more officers, stating that he is in favor of it. He expressed concern about the group of people living in the Onley Baptist Church. He asked if we know what is going into the old church office. He stated that he has no problem with a mission, but he has concerns about outreach programs housing troubled youths and/or minor-aged sex offenders. He also spoke against the installation off a basketball court on that property. Lastly, he said that he did speak to one of the individuals at the church about creating the parking problem at the post office.

Ned Finney thanked the Council for what they have done. He said he knows that the mayor and a few citizens don't think they are doing a good job and he knows they take heat for that. He added that Councilman Zember told him that there was a scene with the mayor at the park and days later, Mayor Hart called and cursed at Mr. Zember on several occasions. He said that he is glad Ms. Salazar is back.

Council Comments

Mr. Zember acknowledged what Mr. Finney said and agreed that it happened. He said that he has never been spoken to so badly in his life and he will not tolerate it moving forward. He said that Mayor Hart's Facebook posts are being construed. He said he simply told the mayor that he would get more flies with honey than vinegar. He did not tell the mayor that he agreed with him, and he does not want the town to go against the church. He thanked everyone for attending.

**Onley Town Council
Regular Monthly Meeting
Minutes of July 11, 2022**

Onley Town Office, 25308 Lankford Highway, Onley VA

Ms. Harmon thanked the public for coming. She said that she has had a peace for the last eight days with the interim town manager being in place. She is also very upset about some of the things on Facebook. She would like to talk with the citizens privately about why she has chosen not to run in the election. She said that she loves this town, and she is very thankful to be a resident.

Mr. Ferguson thanked everyone for their hard work. He agreed that there are a lot of misquotes and misinformation being put on Facebook. There has been some trashing of people on Facebook and then blocking them so they can't reply. He is concerned that there is an attempt to muddy the waters with our interim town manger and he wants Council to stick together and not allow that to happen. In the matter of the parking issue, he said that he suggested a compromise to the mayor, and he immediately refused.

Ms. Custis said that she wonders if anyone can write a letter to the Eastern Shore Post or WBOC and have them print it without them checking the facts. She made the decision last November to not run in the next election and she doesn't know why she cannot be left alone at this point. She said that she loves this town, and she has done the best that she can for the town. She said that she is not guilty of the things that she has been accused of on Facebook. She is grateful that there is a lot less drama with Ms. Salazar in charge. She said that it is always nice when citizens share their concerns but asked that some citizens remember to do it without being vicious.

Mr. Corbin stated that Facebook has an influence and read an excerpt of a post written by Mayor Hart referencing the parking situation with the church. He stated that the Council felt that it was none of the town's business to get into a squabble with the church, adding that it is a matter between two private property owners.

Ms. Pierson thanked everyone for their patience while she ran the meeting tonight. She welcomed back Ms. Salazar.

Ms. Bliss stated that she and Mr. Finney have agreed to run clean campaigns and to behave like adults.

Closed Session

Motion: To go into closed session (8:09pm) 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: retroactive pay for Lt. Long; hiring a Chief of Police 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

Open Session & Certification of Closed Session

Motion: To return to open session (8:23pm) by Billye D. Custis and seconded by Brian Corbin. 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. MOTION PASSED

Recess

Motion: To recess at 8:27pm until Tuesday, July 19, 2022, or sooner if meeting needed before then by Brian Corbin 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 July 11, 2022
Onley Town Office, 25308 Lankford Highway, Onley VA**

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamye Salazar, Interim Town Manager

Matthew D. Hart, Mayor