

**Onley Town Council
Regular Monthly Meeting
Minutes of November 7, 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
 Greg Maggard, Town Manager
 Jamye Salazar, Clerk/Treasurer

Call to Order

Vice-Mayor Pierson called the meeting to order at 5:58pm.

Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance

The invocation was given by Councilwoman Billye D. Custis, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Brian Corbin.

Adoption of Agenda

Motion: To adopt the agenda 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

Old Business

Mr. Corbin had several questions about the Proposed Property Maintenance Ordinance. Ms. Bliss offered some explanations about the specific wording. Ms. Custis asked that the proposed ordinance state that we are repealing both previous ordinances. Council agreed.

Motion: To send the Proposed Property Maintenance Ordinance to Public Hearing 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

Ms. Salazar stated that we did not receive any responses to our RFP for the park filtration system. Council agreed to allow Doug Young and/or Adam Simpson to oversee the project using the town’s Public Works employees. They decided to wait until the spring to move forward with the project.

Ms. Salazar told Council that HRSD does not have any need at this time for the town-owned property on Front Street, however if the town plans to join HRSD in the future, that parcel could be used.

Motion: To maintain ownership of the town-owned property on Front Street and bring it to a safe standard by Claudia Harmon and seconded by Billye D. Custis. Roll Call Vote: Corbin- no; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – no; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Motion: To hire Chase Byrd to demolish the concrete pad on the town-owned property at a cost of no more than \$2,000.00 by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Woody Zember. Roll Call Vote: Corbin- no; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

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Lt. Long reported that the only changes that have been made to the police office renovation plan has been the elimination of some construction. It has been submitted to Accomack County and they are waiting for their approval.

Ms. Salazar said that there were some concerns about the preliminary Hazard Mitigation Plan and those changes have been made by Ashley Mills from A-NPDC. She added that there were a couple of things that Council needs to decide on – not A-NPDC. She noted that the current plan was already submitted to FEMA (by A-NPDC) and she is not sure the changes can even be made.

Motion: To adopt the Resolution/ESVA Hazard Mitigation Plan 2021 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

Mr. Ferguson distributed some information to Council in reference to ARPA funds and fire companies. He would like Council to consider giving a portion of ARPA funds to our local companies.

New Business

Motion: To appoint Greg Maggard to the position of Town Manager 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

Motion: To appoint Jamye Salazar to the position of Clerk/Treasurer 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

Ms. Salazar stated for the record that her salary will now return to the salary that she was previously earning as Clerk/Treasurer.

Mr. Corbin stated that the Council recently received a letter from the Tasley Fire Company (a copy will be attached). He is concerned that they are having some financial difficulties. At this time, Asst. Chief Glenn Smith from Tasley Fire Company spoke about the needs of the fire company, specifically about a plan to hire their own paid employees. He also urged Council to ask the County why they aren't adequately funding their company. There was much discussion about this matter.

Motion: To commit \$65,000.00 to Tasley Fire Company's proposal depending on Accomack County, the Town of Accomac and the FEMA grant matching funds by Brian Corbin and seconded by Woody Zember. Roll Call Vote: Corbin- yes; Custis-no; Ferguson- abstain; Harmon – no; Pierson – yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Ms. Salazar reported that A-NPDC has requested that Deborah Bliss serve as the town's representative on the ES Rails to Trails Working Group.

Motion: To appoint Deborah Bliss as town representative on the ES Rails to Trails Working Group by Brian Corbin and seconded by Woody Zember. Roll Call Vote: Corbin- yes; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Ms. Salazar asked that Council consider amending the 2022-2023 budget. Her biggest concern is that we are spending ARPA funds and we haven't incorporated them into the budget. Council set a budget workshop meeting for November 15th at 5:00pm.

Committee Reports

Planning Commission – Ms. Bliss reported that they met with Mr. Corbin in October to work on the property maintenance ordinances. They continue to work on the Comprehensive Plan.

Sidewalk Project Committee – Mr. Corbin reported that the VDOT resolutions have been submitted to VDOT and they replied via email that they have been received.

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Public Works Committee – Mr. Ferguson reported that things seem to be going well but he is planning to meet with Mr. Maggard to discuss the needs of the department. He would like to paint the mosquito truck in the future.

Personnel Committee – Ms. Harmon reported that they had a meeting in early October to review policies, but they have chosen to wait until the new Town Manager is in place since that is one of the duties of his position.

Community Spirit Committee – Ms. Pierson reported that the committee held a very informative event about scams, that included the Accomack County Treasurer, a representative from ACSO and two employees from First Horizon Bank. They are now planning another presentation about fire prevention. Lastly, they distributed the Veterans Day signs, thanking our veterans for their service.

Department Reports

Police Report & Schedule

Lt. Long presented his report, including a revised December schedule. He presented Council with several estimates for items/services that he would like to purchase. Copies will be attached. Ms. Custis questioned the revised schedule, noting some days have no coverage and some almost too much. Lt. Long responded that we are short-staffed, and to get everyone their time off, there will be some overlapping time. There was a discussion about vacation carry-over. Several members of Council feel that this is a problem that we face every year and it is up to the employee to track and use their time.

Motion: To accept the December 2022 schedule by Brian Corbin and seconded by Woody Zember. Roll Call Vote: Corbin- yes; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Motion: To purchase four vests for a total of \$4,752.00 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

Motion: To purchase four weapons at a cost of \$479.00 (or less) each 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

Motion: To remove the decals from the 2017 Ford Explorer at a cost of \$427.00 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

Lastly, Lt. Long gave an update on the two new vehicles, stating that one is being outfitted for use, the other is still on order.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Salazar gave her report. A copy is available upon request.

Mr. Corbin asked about delinquent taxes. Ms. Salazar gave an update on that, adding that we only have one business that she feels we need to take legal action against. Mr. Bundick spoke about delinquent real estate taxes, adding that he can handle those matters.

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

Ms. Salazar said that she has been researching better investment rates and thought she found some but unfortunately that did not work out as they were unable to collateralize our money. She did tell Council of a special that was currently being offered at Shore United Bank.

Motion: To close the money market account at PNC Bank and purchase a 15-month CD in that amount at Shore United Bank with a rate of 2.25% by Brian Corbin and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call

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Interim Town Manager/Zoning Report

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

Motion: To remove the portable bathroom and hand wash station at McMath Park indefinitely 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

Attorney’s Report

Mr. Bundick reported that he worked on the Town Manager’s contract last month. He plans to get to work on the delinquent taxes this month.

Mr. Maggard thanked Council for the opportunity, said that he and his family are happy to be here, and he and Ms. Salazar are already making progress.

Consideration of Minutes

Motion: To accept the minutes of the September 28, 2022, Special Meeting 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

Motion: To accept the minutes of the October 3, 2022, Regular Monthly Meeting 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

Motion: To accept the minutes of the October 12, 2022, Special Meeting 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

Motion: To accept the minutes of the October 19, 2022, Special Meeting 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

Public Comments

John Dennis asked that Council consider having the curb painted at the corner of Coastal Blvd and East Main Street in front of the old coffee shop. Mr. Maggard will investigate.

Glenn Smith spoke again and reiterated his request for Tasley Fire Company.

Ned Finney encouraged everyone to vote tomorrow.

Council Comments

Mr. Corbin had no comment.

Ms. Custis thanked everyone for coming and wished all the candidates good luck tomorrow.

Mr. Zember thanked everyone for coming.

Ms. Harmon said she prays that the candidates that are running tomorrow have the town in their heart and are running for the right reasons.

Mr. Ferguson welcomed Greg Maggard. He thanked Ms. Salazar for stepping up and helping in our time of need.

Ms. Pierson thanked everyone for coming.

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Closed Session

Motion: To go into closed session (8:05pm) 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, specifically related to appointing/hiring a Chief of Police; 2. Discussion or consideration of possible litigation concerning a Zoning Issue – pertaining to an illegal apartment in the back of a first floor business 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 (8:27pm) 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

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**

Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn at 8:27pm 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

Respectfully Submitted,



Jamye Salazar, Clerk/Treasurer