

Onley Town Council
Public Hearing & Regular Monthly Meeting
Minutes of December 5, 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

Council Members Absent: Matt Hart, Mayor
 Woody Zember

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 6:00pm.

Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance

The invocation was given by Councilwoman Claudia Harmon, 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 Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote: Corbin-yes; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - absent. MOTION PASSED
At this time, Ms. Salazar stated that Mr. Zember is absent tonight due to illness.

Public Hearing – Property Ordinance #003-22

Vice-Mayor Pierson called the public hearing to order at 6:02.

Ms. Salazar read the Rules for Public Participation.

Vice-Mayor Pierson asked if there were any concerns or comments about the proposed ordinance. Mr. Corbin had several questions about the Proposed Property Maintenance Ordinance, specifically referring to wooded lots. After finding the wording that he was looking for within the ordinance, he said he was in favor of proceeding with the adoption.

There were no public comments. No one signed up to speak.

Motion: To adjourn the Public Hearing at 6:07pm by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Brian Corbin. Roll Call Vote: Corbin- yes; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - absent. MOTION PASSED

Regular Monthly Meeting (cont'd)

Old Business

Motion: To accept the Property Maintenance Ordinance #003-22 by Billye D. Custis and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote: Corbin- yes; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - absent. MOTION PASSED

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Mr. Maggard discussed the uses for ARPA funds stating that they must be used specifically for something that can be tracked. He is not certain that fire department donations meet the criteria but added that we may be able to go into a pool with others. Mr. Ferguson has asked Chief James from Onancock Fire Company to gather some numbers on the chassis project. He will forward to Council once received. Ms. Custis asked if we can request financial statements from organizations asking for donations. Ms. Maggard said that we can.

Motion: To ask for a financial statement from any organization that requests a donation from the Town of Onley by Billye D. Custis and seconded by Brian Corbin. Roll Call Vote: Corbin- yes; Custis-yes; Ferguson- abstain; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - absent. MOTION PASSED

New Business

Motion: To hold the first Regular Meeting of the Onley Town Council on Monday, January 9, 2022, at 6:00pm by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Brian Corbin. Roll Call Vote: Corbin- yes; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - absent. MOTION PASSED

Ms. Salazar suggested that all incoming Council Members go to the clerk's off to be sworn-in since the first meeting is later in the month.

Ms. Salazar asked Council to permit her to write-off the tax bills under \$2.00.

Motion: To write-off the tax bills under \$2.00 totaling \$38.54 by Billye D. Custis and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote: Corbin- yes; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - absent. MOTION PASSED

Ms. Salazar reported that Ms. Bliss and Mr. Bowling's terms on the Planning Commission are set to expire on December 31, 2022.

Motion: To re-appoint Debbie Bliss and Don Bowling to the Planning Commission by Billye D. Custis and seconded by Brian Corbin. Roll Call Vote: Corbin- yes; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - absent. MOTION PASSED

Ms. Salazar said that John Dennis' term on the BZA will expire on December 31, 2022.

Motion: To re-appoint John Dennis to the BZA by Claudia Harmon and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote: Corbin- yes; Custis-abstain; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - absent. MOTION PASSED

Mr. Maggard presented Council with a draft job description for the Chief of Police. Several Council members made some suggestions and wanted it noted that we have a working chief - not an administrative chief. Mr. Maggard will bring it back at next month's meeting.

Mr. Corbin asked that Council consider adding some additional holiday lights around town next year.

Motion: To investigate the procedure and the cost to add additional holiday lights along Coastal and Main Street going to the town limit signs by Brian Corbin and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote: Corbin- yes; Custis-abstain; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - absent. MOTION PASSED

Mr. Corbin asked that Council make a final decision about the police department carry-over vacation hours that were discussed at the last meeting. After a small discussion and a poll of the Council, they decided to adhere to the Personnel Policy which states employees can only carry over 40 hours. Lt. Long asked that it be noted that he did not ask Council for consideration of this matter or to make exceptions to the policy.

Commission/Committee Reports

Planning Commission - Ms. Custis stated that Ms. Bliss asked her to report that they are working on the Comprehensive Plan. They have made the first review and they are about to begin the next step.

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Sidewalk Project – Mr. Maggard reported that he has taken over the Sidewalk Project and he has met with Mr. Corbin who has briefed him on where things are at this point. He added that everything has been submitted to VDOT and right now we are waiting for the grants to open in 2023 so we can apply. Mr. Corbin asked to dissolve the committee.

Motion: To dissolve the Sidewalk Committee by Brian Corbin and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote: Corbin- yes; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - absent. MOTION PASSED

Public Works – Mr. Ferguson said that he has met with Mr. Maggard about the need for some equipment.

Community Spirit – Ms. Pierson reported that they are holding a Fire Prevention Workshop on December 12th at 6:00pm at St. Peter’s church.

Department Reports

Police Report & Schedule

Lt. Long reported that he has hired a new officer who will begin work on January 1st. He assured Council that the hiring process was followed to the letter. The building renovation process is coming along nicely and the RFB has been sent to the newspaper. He said that most of the new police equipment has been received and they are in the process of training. There is still a hold-up with the purchase of the new vehicle from Sheehy, but the new Durango (currently at Nottingham’s) should be ready around December 15th. The department has plans to take some classes through the FBI in the coming year.

Motion: To accept the January 2023 schedule by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Brian Corbin. Roll Call Vote: Corbin- yes; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - absent. 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 - absent. MOTION PASSED

Town Manager/Zoning Report

Mr. Maggard gave his report noting that he believes that we can use ARPA funds for the purchase of a dump trailer. He presented Council with several options for the purchase. Council asked Mr. Maggard to research the towing weight limit for the current public works truck. He reported that we picked up about three tons of debris during the clean-up. He has also handled several issues with chickens in town. In the matter of the town-owned property on Front Street, he asked Council what the issues are with the property. He will get the contractor information from Ms. Custis.

Attorney’s Report

Mr. Bundick reported that we are headed to court with Alpine Nutrition. They have missed the deadline of December 1st to pay the delinquent meals tax and acquire a business license.

He is working on the letter to the landlord of the tenant in the first-floor apartment. He is also working on delinquent real estate letters.

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Consideration of Minutes

Motion: To adopt the minutes of the November 7, 2022, Regular Meeting by Billye D. Custis and seconded by Brian Corbin. Roll Call Vote: Corbin- yes; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - absent. MOTION PASSED

Motion: To adopt the minutes of the November 15, 2022, Budget Workshop by Billye D. Custis and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote: Corbin- yes; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - absent. MOTION PASSED

Public Comments

Ned Finney congratulated everyone that won the election. He thanked Vice-Mayor Pierson for taking over and running the meetings for the last six months. He would like to see Mr. Ferguson appointed a liaison to speak with the church and hopefully come to an agreement that allows the use of their parking lot.

Council Comments

Mr. Corbin listed some of the things that have been accomplished over the last six months and thanked everyone that was involved and helped.

Ms. Custis agreed with Mr. Corbin, stating that the last few months have been much better than the first year and a half. She once again welcomed Mr. Maggard, adding that she is grateful that he is here. She thanked everyone for allowing her to serve.

Ms. Harmon stated that it has been a privilege to serve on this Council although she hasn't always looked at it that way. She agreed that the first part of this last term was not great, but it has gotten much better. She asked that the incoming Council take their duties seriously and understand that you and this town are very blessed. She reminded them to do things with the town's best interest at heart – and not their own.

Mr. Ferguson stated that we have learned that we can disagree without animosity. He thanked our work family. He thanked the outgoing Council members for their hard work.

Ms. Pierson thanked everyone and pointed out that we have equipped our police department with some top-of-the-line equipment. She thanked everyone.

Closed Session

Motion: To go into closed session (7:17pm) 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, General Government & Public Work's holiday bonuses by Billye D. Custis and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote: Corbin- yes; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - absent. MOTION PASSED

Open Session & Certification of Closed Session

Motion: To return to open session (7:35pm) by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Brian Corbin. Roll Call Vote: Corbin- yes; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - absent. 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 – absent.

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Motion: To give the following holiday bonuses: All three police officers and Jamye Salazar - \$200.00, Mario Hernandez and Greg Maggard - \$100.00 and Dean Savage - \$50.00 by Billye D. Custis and seconded by Brian Corbin. Roll Call Vote: Corbin- yes; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember – absent.

Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn (7:37pm) by Billye D. Custis and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote: Corbin- yes; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - absent. MOTION PASSED

Respectfully Submitted,



Jamye Salazar, Clerk/Treasurer