

Onley Town Council
Regular Monthly Meeting
Minutes of April 3, 2023
Onley Town Office, 25308 Lankford Highway, Onley, VA

Council Members Present: Ned Finney, Mayor
Daniel Bloxom
Brian Corbin
Bill Ferguson, Vice-Mayor
Katelyn Hill
Rodney Lang
Woody Zember

Staff Present: Carl Bundick, Town Attorney
E. Jesse Long, Chief of Police, OPD
Jamy Salazar, Interim Town Manager

Call to Order

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

Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance

The invocation was given by Councilman Zember, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Bloxom.

Adoption of Agenda

Motion: To switch items 5A and 5H so that the ARPA funds are discussed at the beginning of the meeting by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Kate Hill. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson-yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Motion: To adopt the agenda by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Woody Zember. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Old Business

Glenn Smith from Tasley Fire Department and Bryan Applegate from Onancock Fire Company spoke about their department’s plans for spending any ARPA funds that may be donated to them.

Ms. Salazar presented Council with a preliminary budget for spending ARPA funds that was started several months ago by Council and Mr. Maggard. Council made their final decisions about how to spend the funds. (A copy will be available upon request)

Mr. Corbin gave an update on the sidewalk project. He stated that he is okay with deleting the addition of new sidewalks on Coastal Blvd. and decreasing the amount of ARPA funds dedicated to the sidewalk project to \$75,000.00. After much discussion, Council agreed.

Council agreed to use a portion of the ARPA funds for a new piece of playground equipment.

Ms. Salazar reported that we received no bids for the fencing in response to our RFB of last month.

Council agreed to allocate \$20,000.00 of ARPA funds for fencing.

Chief Long asked Council to consider allocating some funds towards the purchase of e-ticket equipment and possibly a town surveillance system. Council agreed to the e-ticket equipment but not the surveillance cameras.

Council agreed to donate \$30,000.00 to Tasley Fire Department and \$60,000.00 to Onancock Fire Company from ARPA funds.

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Motion: To send the final ARPA budget to public hearing by Brian Corbin and seconded by Rodney Lang. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- abstain; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Ms. Salazar stated that we received six bids for the 2012 Dodge Charger. She said that they were all received before the bid deadline, and she opened them in the order received. The bids are as follows: Gary Kromer - \$4,750.00, Jeff Hutchinson - \$1,776.00, Linwood Gladding - \$1,200.00, Nicholas Bennett - \$1,000.00, D.L. Williams - \$3,650.00, Juan Gonzalez - \$1,500.00.

Motion: To accept the bid from Gary Kromer in the amount of \$4,750.00 by Rodney Lang and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Chief Long said that the ACSO Mutual Aid Agreement that Lt. Taylor presented to us a couple of months ago is the most recent – it just needs to be signed by him with Council’s approval. Ms. Salazar added that she was tasked with finding out about the liability for the officer when responding to a call to assist another agency. She told Council that per VRSA, every town carries the liability for their own officer(s) regardless of where they are responding.

Motion: To continue the current Mutual Aid Agreement with ACSO (with updated signatures reflecting our current Police Chief) by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Daniel Bloxom. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

The playground equipment was discussed earlier in the night.

Council will come back on Monday, April 10th at 6:00pm for a Budget Workshop.

Ms. Salazar presented Council with a draft Speed Study Resolution for VDOT. A copy is available upon request. Mr. Lang asked if Coastal Blvd. can be included in the study. Ms. Salazar stated that at Council’s request from last month’s meeting, she only included East and West Main Street and Pennsylvania Avenue. She said that we would need to make another request to include Coastal Blvd.

Motion: To adopt the VDOT Speed Study Resolution by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Rodney Lang. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

New Business

Chief Long presented Council with a proposed fire lane ordinance for their consideration. He added that we have had a lot of discussion about this matter lately. Mayor Finney noted that while Four Corner Plaza is private property, the town has been given permission from the property owner to pursue this matter. Council asked Mr. Bundick to review the proposed ordinance and make suggestions at next month’s meeting. He will also prepare a written permission letter for the property owner(s).

Ms. Salazar told Council that AAA will be having a Family Safety Day Event on April 15th from 11:00-2:00 here at the plaza and our police department will be participating along with other local agencies. Council asked Ms. Salazar to put a discussion of committees on the agenda for next month’s meeting.

Motion: To split the ATL grant (\$15,000.00) equally between Tasley & Onancock Fire Companies by Rodney Lang and seconded by Daniel Bloxom. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- abstain; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Mr. Bloxom asked Council to consider donating \$500.00 to the Central Accomack Little League.

Motion: To give \$1,000.00 to the CALL providing they give us a financial statement by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Woody Zember. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Ms. Salazar asked Council to review the Domesticated Fowl Ordinance # 007-16. She said that she gets complaints every day about chickens running loose and destroying property. She added that very few

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people are following the conditions of the ordinance and some people have even denied owning the chickens that are now running around town. The biggest issue that she sees currently is that we (as a town) are not equipped to handle chickens when the owners are not complying with the ordinance. Her recommendation is that Council reconsider allowing chickens in town altogether. Mr. Bundick asked permission to review the ordinance and report back next month. Council agreed.

Commission/Committee Reports

Planning Commission -Mr. Corbin reported that the Planning Commission met on March 15th. There were no comments from Council about the Comprehensive Plan. He submitted some comments of his own. He reported that Ms. Bliss hasn't received any emails from the STARS project. Ms. Salazar stated that she did share Ms. Bliss' email with the STARS representative, but she has the feeling that the public participation portion is closed.

Police Department Renovation Committee -Chief Long reported that the demolition of the police office is complete. He presented Council with a change order/quote for windows/bars that needs to be approved. He recommended that we consider an alarm system to help with the security issues. Council asked Chief Long to get a quote for closing/bricking the windows on the back of the building. Chief Long also noted that the contractor has possibly found mold behind the vapor barrier. The amount quoted to replace the insulation and vapor barrier is \$1,652.00. Mayor Finney said he wants confirmation that it is mold because if so, it needs to be handled properly. Council agreed. They will re-visit at next week's meeting.

Department Reports

Police Report & Schedule

Chief Long presented Council with the February and March report and the May schedule. February was not available last month due to the department move.

Motion: To approve the May 2023 schedule by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Kate Hill. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Chief Long asked Council to approve the buyback of the duty weapons that are being replaced (by each officer). He estimated that each weapon is valued at \$250.00 each.

Motion: To allow our police officers to purchase their duty weapons that are being replaced at a cost of \$250.00 each by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Brian Corbin. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – abstain; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Treasurer's Report

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

Motion: To pay the March 2023 payables by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Kate Hill. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Town Manager/Zoning Report

Ms. Salazar presented Council with a written copy of her report. Council did not wish to review the entire report due to its length.

In the matter of Zoning, she issued one roof permit, and she reported that the issue of a business being used as a residence has been resolved at this time. She reported that she received a request to approve a subdivision of land for recordation which she has not done before. At the recommendation of Mr.

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Bundick, she reviewed our Subdivision Ordinance, and all went well, adding that it was good experience for her. There was a small discussion about the delinquent meals tax. Council asked Ms. Salazar to reach out to Onancock and see how they handle this issue.

Attorney’s Report

Mr. Bundick researched the issue of Closed Sessions, some issues with conflict of interest stemming from the pool membership discount, mutual aid agreements with other law enforcement agencies, and the subdivision zoning matter. Mr. Corbin asked about the progression of collecting delinquent meals tax from Alpine Nutrition. Mr. Bundick stated that the magistrate advised Mr. Maggard that she would need more information before she could write the violations. Ms. Salazar and Mr. Bundick will work on securing that information.

Consideration of Minutes

Motion: To adopt the minutes of the March 6, 2023, Regular Meeting by Kate Hill and seconded by Woody Zember. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Motion: To adopt the minutes of the March 20, 2023, Special Meeting/Budget Workshop by Kate Hill and seconded by Daniel Bloxom. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Motion: To adopt the minutes of the March 23, 2023, Special Meeting by Kate Hill and seconded by Daniel Bloxom. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Public Comments

Billye D. Custis suggested that if any of the ARPA funds expenses “fall through”, she is sure that the fire companies always have a need. She said that the idea behind getting the financial statement is to have that so you can see how they are doing before deciding how much money to give them. She thinks that bricking up the windows will make for an ugly building. She feels that hiring a town manager without the proper education and requirements noted in the job description for \$70-80,000.00 is crazy and if that happens, everyone on Council needs to be replaced. She asked if the unused police equipment had been sold. Chief Long responded that it has not at this time. She spoke of an incident that recently happened to her on Coastal Blvd. which makes her support a speed reduction in that area. **Glen Smith** thanked Council for considering the Tasley Fire Company when distributing the ARPA funds. He added that Tasley does not provide EMS services – Onancock handles that. He invited everyone to visit the fire house stating that it is staffed three nights a week. He spoke about costs of running the department. He said that while some people think they have a surplus, that is not so because they have a balloon payment due in seven years.

Claudia Harmon stated that she feels like she doesn’t have all the information that she needs to understand some of things that were discussed tonight. She stated that information was not included in her packet. She said that Coastal Blvd. should be added to the speed reduction study. She asked if she could make a FOIA request if there is something that she would like to know more about. Ms. Salazar asked for permission to reply, telling Ms. Harmon to let her know what she wants to see, and she will be happy to provide her with anything that she wants providing it doesn’t violate confidentiality rules.

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Council Comments

Mr. Corbin said he is relieved that we have settled how to spend the ARPA funds. He feels that the funds need to be spent on the things that the town needs. He said we make money, and we need to give back to the people and not treat the town funds like it's a savings account.

Mr. Lang stated that he is in favor of pursuing a speed reduction on Coastal Blvd. He agreed with Mr. Corbin that we shouldn't be hoarding money – we need to spend it on what the town and the people need. He reminded everyone that this ARPA money is a one-time thing and when spending it, we need to remember that down the road we must be able to afford to keep things going.

Mr. Bloxom thanked everyone for coming.

Ms. Hill agreed with what Mr. Corbin and Mr. Lang said, especially looking to the future to make sure that we can afford the upkeep of the things we are purchasing.

Mr. Zember is happy that we are going to purchase some more playground equipment. He is pleased that we got a good price for the Dodge Charger. He thanked everyone for coming tonight.

Mr. Ferguson thanked everyone. He said that people pay taxes for services and it's our job to give them those services. He said that we have had a couple of hiccups, but we are ironing those out quickly.

Mayor Finney thanked everyone for coming. He stated that Ms. Harmon has asked me to speak again, and he will allow it.

Ms. Harmon stated that before tonight, she had been told that we can't afford to hoard money and Mr. Corbin just stated that our money is not a savings account. She referenced the towns that were just hit with tornadoes and asked Council if that were to happen here, what would we do. She stated that this money is not a savings account but a salvation if we ever need it.

Mayor Finney finished by saying he is glad that we were able to help the local fire companies and he feels that the town is moving in the right direction.

Closed Session

Motion: To go into Closed Session (8:19pm) 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 General Government, specifically related to discussion of applicants to fill the Town Manager vacancy by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Brian Corbin. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Open Session & Certification of Closed Session

Motion: To return to open session (8:58m) by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Brian Corbin. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– 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:** Finney -yes; Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

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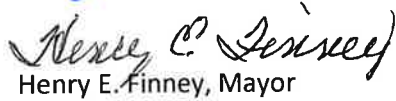
Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn (8:58pm) by Kate Hill and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Respectfully Submitted,



Jamye Salazar, Clerk/Treasurer



Henry E. Finney, Mayor