

**Onley Town Council
Regular Monthly Meeting
Minutes of February 5, 2024
Onley Town Office, 25308 Lankford Highway, Onley, VA**

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

Council Members Absent: Brian Corbin

Staff Present: Carl Bundick, Town Attorney
E. J. Long, Chief of Police, OPD
Susan Rillo, Town Manager
Jamye Salazar, Clerk/Treasurer

Call to Order

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

Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance

In the absence of Councilman Corbin, the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance were led by Vice-Mayor Ferguson.

Adoption of Agenda

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

Commission/Committee Reports

Planning Commission – There was no Planning Commission report.

McMath Park Commission- Ms. Rillo reported that a large red heart from Baskets & Bows has been installed at the entrance of the park for Valentine’s Day.

Public Works Garage Committee – Mr. Lang reported that he met with Ashley Thornes from VDH about the location of the current septic and drain field lines at the proposed location. He reported that Chief Long helped him to mark off the property based on Ms. Thornes’ guidance. He would like the committee to meet out there and mark off the location for the building so that we can get it out for bid. Ms. Rillo said that she and Jimmy Bundick basically did the same thing.

Old Business

Mayor Finney asked if everyone is okay to leave the Donation discussion tabled. Council agreed. Mr. Lang said that CALL has sent over the necessary financials. Ms. Salazar said she has not received them. Mayor Finney asked Council to make a motion to rescind the previous motion to amend the 2023-2024 budget. Ms. Salazar explained that due to illness, we have had to postpone several budget workshops and now we are getting ready to start preparing the 2024-2025 budget. She added that after speaking individually with Council Members and Chief Long, the consensus is to move forward with the current budget in place.

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Motion: To rescind the previous motion to amend the 2023-2024 by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Rodney Lang. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- absent; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

New Business

At a request from Council at last month's meeting, Ms. Rillo reported that she has found a company in the Virginia Beach area that designs and installs holiday decorations (via a lease agreement), unfortunately, they do not offer their services in this area. She called and asked if they would make an exception for us, but she has not heard back from them. She met with a sales representative from Mosca Designs from North Carolina and got some pricing for new holiday lights as well as an artificial tree for the park. The price for lights is \$700.00 to \$1,300.00 per light (approximately 22-24 lights). The cost to add electric to additional poles is approximately \$1,000.00 per pole. Installation and removal are approximately \$6,000.00 total. The price for a tree is approximately \$15,134.00 - \$23,500.00. Council made no decision at this time.

Department Reports

Police Report

Chief Long presented his monthly written report to Council. He reported that three of the patrol vehicles have computer terminals mounted and the fourth will be completed in two weeks. Once that is complete, Cloud Server will come to upload everything, and they should all be up and running March 1st. He will be attending a week of re-certification at CBBT in March and Ofc. Anderson will be attending a week of CIT training which will serve as his recertification. He spoke about some vehicle break-ins in some of the surrounding towns but noted we haven't had any issues; however, he did ask Ms. Rillo to place a public safety notice on Facebook.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Salazar reported the following items were completed by her: Workman's Comp claim (has already been resolved), a major accounting software change was completed, request for a refund from Sheehy Ford for an overpayment of a patrol car, delinquent real estate and personal property tax bills have been mailed, the portable bathroom has been removed from the park, quarterly and year-end taxes and reports have been filed, FOIA request from Open the Books, VRSA yearly questionnaire was completed for another year, and the ATL grant has been disbursed. Lastly, she stated that it was suggested to her that she doesn't need to read aloud the entire Treasurer's report each month, adding that everyone has a paper copy and should have reviewed it prior to the meeting. She stated that if anyone has questions about the report, they should ask them now. Council agreed. Mr. Lang asked about the audit. Ms. Salazar said that she and Ms. Rillo continue to work on this, and they plan to continue to send emails every Monday asking to be added to the auditor's calendar.

Motion: To pay the January 2024 payables by Kate Hill and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- absent; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Ms. Salazar presented Council with some bank rates for the CD maturing at Shore United Bank. Her recommendation is the 7-month CD at Atlantic Union for 5% but she is concerned that rate was given in error on public funds money. She asked that if Council chooses that option, they have a contingency plan to keep the money at Shore United Bank in a 15-month CD at 3%.

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Motion: To move the maturing CD funds to Atlantic Union Bank into a 7-month CD at 5% with a contingency plan to rollover into a 15-month CD at Shore United Bank at 3% by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Kate Hill. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- absent; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Town Manager/Zoning Report

Ms. Rillo reported that she met with Fonda Craig from VRSA about the town becoming OSHA compliant. Ms. Craig emailed her 22 attachments containing the things that the town must do to be compliant. Ms. Rillo (along with Percy Smith) plans to start working on this immediately. In the matter of zoning, she needs to meet with Mr. Bundick about new wording that is now required when sending zoning violation letters.

Attorney's Report

Mr. Bundick reported that he continues to work with Ms. Rillo on the short-term rental issues.

Consideration of Minutes

Ms. Salazar asked to correct a statement made by Billye D. Custis during Public Comment. She included a copy of the correction for Council's review.

Motion: To adopt the minutes of the January 16, 2024, Regular Monthly Meeting (with the change) by Kate Hill and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- absent; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Public Comments

Jason Campbell thanked the Council for the Veterans Celebration and Halloween Trunk or Treat event. He stated his family really enjoyed both events. He said his family is really enjoying the park but would like to see the addition of a dog park. Lastly, he expressed concern about the 400+ housing project that is coming to the outskirts of Onley (per the Eastern Shore Post article). He is concerned that it will dramatically change the town. He feels it will be a drain on our police resources. He suggested that Council make sure that the town has a voice as this project moves forward.

Billye D. Custis agreed with Mr. Campbell that a dog park is a good idea. She added that there is someone that runs dogs loose in the park every day even though the sign says dogs must be leashed.

Council Comments

Mr. Lang thanked everyone for coming. He would like to nail down some things on the public works building, think about the addition of a dog park and add another piece of play equipment at the park. He thinks we have a good Council, and we can get some things done. He thanked the employees.

Mr. Bloxom thanked everyone for coming and added that he is going to have to leave at this time. Mr. Bloxom left the meeting (6:48pm).

Ms. Hill thanked everyone.

Mr. Zember thanked everyone. He apologized for missing last month's meeting but stated he was sick with COVID. He would like us to concentrate on Christmas decorations, even if it means spending a chunk of money. He thanked Mr. Campbell for his comments and said he agrees with Ms. Custis's statement that everyone has things to do but they still come to the meetings.

Mr. Ferguson thanked everyone, especially Mr. Campbell and Ms. Custis for their comments. He agreed that we need to get the town garage built but added we also need to think about a town office.


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Mayor Finney thanked everyone. He added that we have had some hiccups in the past, but this Council is working well together and getting some things accomplished.

Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn (6:52pm) by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Kate Hill. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- absent; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Respectfully submitted,



Jamye L. Salazar, Clerk/Treasurer

Henry E. Finney, Mayor