

Onley Town Council
Budget Workshop
Minutes of April 24, 2024
Onley Town Office, 25308 Lankford Highway, Onley, VA

Council Members Present: Ned Finney, Mayor
Bill Ferguson, Vice-Mayor
Daniel Bloxom (arrived 6:05pm)
Brian Corbin
Kate Hill (arrived 6:01pm)
Rodney Lang

Council Members Absent: Woody Zember

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 Zember, Councilman Ferguson gave the invocation. In the absence of Councilman Bloxom, Councilman Lang led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adoption of Agenda

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

2024-2025 Proposed Budget

Ms. Salazar said that Council has a working copy of the proposed budget with the figures compiled at last meeting in their blue folders. She told Council that tonight we need to finalize the budget (if possible) by making decisions about the following: (1) additional lines items that need to be added (2) new real estate tax rate and final amount (3) the addition of the ATL grant expenditure that was left off at last month’s meeting (4) donations to fire companies (5) effects of Shore United Bank closing (6) funds for the PD in-car camera system. Council discussed the additional line items and set expenditures. Due to the re-assessments by Accomack County, Council decided to decrease the real estate tax rate from .08 per hundred-dollar value to .066 per hundred-dollar value. In the matter of fire department donations, Mr. Corbin suggested budgeting \$12,500.00 for Onancock and \$7,500.00 for Tasley. Council agreed. Ms. Salazar said she does not believe that Shore United Bank’s closing will significantly affect bank franchise tax for this fiscal year. Council will use ARPA funds for the purchase of the in-car camera system.

At this time, Chief Long told Council that he needs \$30,000.00 for software so that his department can use the E-Summons computers that have been purchased. Ms. Salazar and several Council Members asked when this came about since there is no money for it and it is the first they have heard about it. Chief Long said he thought he mentioned it in an earlier meeting. Ms. Rillo suggested that we use the E-Summons revenue that is in an account at Atlantic Union Bank (approximately \$26,000.00). Council agreed and added \$30,000.00 line items to revenue and expenditure for the E-Summons software.

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Ms. Salazar reported that Council needs \$98,503.00 to balance the budget. Council agreed to use reserves, noting that we have done so before "on paper" but have not actually had to go into our reserve funds in the past.

Motion: To take \$98,503.00 from reserves to balance the 2024-2025 budget by Brian Corbin and seconded by Kate Hill. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - absent. MOTION PASSED

Motion: To send the 2024-2025 Proposed Budget to Public Hearing at the June meeting by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Kate Hill. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - absent. MOTION PASSED

At this time, Billye D. Custis asked to comment. Mayor Finney agreed. Ms. Custis stated that due to the growth of our current operating budget, Council should consider adding money to the Rainy-Day fund.

ARPA Budget

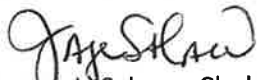
Ms. Salazar told Council that they need to re-appropriate the remaining balance (\$171,909.18) of the ARPA budget into the 2024-2025 fiscal year. She asked Council to state how they want to spend the remaining funds. Mr. Corbin suggested the following: \$125,000.00 for the Public Works garage, \$15,000.00 for the in-car camera system, and the remaining balance of \$31,909.00 to McMath Park for a Christmas tree and more playground equipment. Mr. Lang said he would like McMath Park to get \$50,000.00. Mr. Bloxom stated that he disagrees with both amounts, adding that the park is getting short changed. Ms. Rillo said that playground equipment can be added in phases. She said that the park needs maintenance also. Council decided to reallocate the remaining ARPA funds as follows: \$100,000.00 for the Public Works garage, \$15,000.00 for the in-car camera system, and \$56,909.00 for McMath Park.

Motion: To send the ARPA budget re-appropriation (above) to Public Hearing at the June meeting by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Kate Hill. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -no; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - absent. MOTION PASSED

Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn (6:57pm) by Kate Hill and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - absent. MOTION PASSED

Respectfully submitted,



Jamye L. Salazar, Clerk/Treasurer



Henry E. Finney, Mayor