

Onley Town Council
Joint Public Hearing(s) & Regular Monthly Meeting
Minutes of May 6, 2024
Onley Town Office, 25308 Lankford Highway, Onley, VA

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

Council Members Absent: Daniel Bloxom

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

Planning Commission Present: Deborah Bliss, Chairperson, Don Bowling, Tom Cherry,
Brian Corbin, John Kluis

Call to Order

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

Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance

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

Adoption of Agenda

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

Call to Order of Planning Commission Meeting

Chairperson Bliss called the meeting/hearing to order at 6:01pm and stated that they have a quorum.

Town Council & Planning Commission Joint Public Hearing(s) on Special Use Permit

Mayor Finney established a quorum for the record. Ms. Salazar asked Mayor Finney (for the record) if the Town Council hearing is called to order. He stated that it is. Ms. Salazar read the rules for public participation. Ms. Rillo read the statement of facts for the SUP. A copy will be attached to the original minutes and is available upon request. There were no public comments. No one signed up to speak.

Motion: To adjourn the Town Council’s Public Hearing by Kate Hill and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -absent; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

At 6:06pm, the Planning Commission adjourned to another room for discussion. At 6:07pm, the Planning Commission reconvened, and Ms. Bliss gave the following recommendation: The Planning Commission approves the sign if the total height is 10’ or less and there is a minimum 30’ setback from the streets involved (per VDOT requirement).

Motion: To adjourn the Planning Commission’s Public Hearing (6:08pm) by Tom Cherry and seconded by Don Bowling. Roll Call Vote: Bliss-yes; Bowling- yes; Cherry- yes; Corbin – yes; Kluis – absent. MOTION PASSED

Presentation – The Honorable Jackie Phillips, Accomack County Board of Supervisors

Mr. Phillips reported on the following items: county reassessments and the effect on real estate tax, the regional radio system for public safety, the HRSD project, the Eastern Shore Rail to Trail project, and the Coastal Square project over behind the Food Lion Plaza. Mr. Lang expressed concern about how the new development outside of town will affect our town, especially law enforcement. Ms. Rillo asked about the

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removal of the railroad tracks. Mr. Phillips said because they are concreted in, they will have to be covered up by VDOT (at their discretion). Mr. Bundick asked Mr. Phillips to inquire with the Canonic Board about the possibility of donating the train station building to the town. Mr. Phillips agreed to ask but added that he thinks they are hoping to sell it.

Commission/Committee Reports

Planning Commission – In the absence of Ms. Bliss, Mr. Corbin reported that at the last meeting they discussed the SUP for North of Market Holdings, LLC, that is on the agenda tonight. The recommendation was given earlier during the public hearing.

McMath Park Commission - Melissa Taylor reported that the Commission met on April 8th and discussed dissolution of the Commission. The vote to do so was tied at 3-3 so she asked that Council make the decision. Ms. Rillo stated that her recommendation is to dissolve the Commission. Mr. Lang spoke in favor of keeping the Commission until the ARPA funds are spent and the playground equipment is purchased. Ms. Rillo stated that the problem is there are too many people – too many opinions and not any compromising on ideas. Council agreed that Ms. Rillo will do the legwork and bring larger park matters to Council for decisions.

Motion: To accept the Town Manager’s recommendation and dissolve the McMath Park Commission by Brian Corbin and seconded by Woody Zember. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -absent; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– no; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Motion: To turn the management of McMath Park over to the Town Manager by Brian Corbin and seconded by Woody Zember. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -absent; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Public Works Garage Committee – Ms. Rillo reported that she and Norman Pitt have applied for the building permit from Accomack County. They are waiting to hear back from them. Once the permit is approved, they will advertise and solicit plumbing and concrete bids. Mr. Pitt suggested that we do them together to save time.

Old Business

Ms. Rillo recommended that we accept the Planning Commission’s recommendation to grant the SUP to North of Market Holdings, LLC. Mr. Lang asked if all fees have been paid. Ms. Rillo stated that they have been paid.

Motion: To approve the SUP with the conditions set by the Planning Commission by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Kate Hill. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -absent; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Ms. Salazar stated that we did not receive any bids on the truck camper shell. Mayor Finney asked if Council is interested in donating it. Mr. Ferguson said that Tasley Fire Company would have no use for it. Mr. Lang suggested having Ms. Rillo put it on Facebook Marketplace. Council agreed.

New Business

Ms. Salazar asked for Council’s approval to reappropriate the remaining balance of the McMath Park Budget and New Town Office Building funds for the next fiscal year by sending them to public hearing.

Motion: To reappropriate the remaining balances of the McMath Park (\$8,056.96) and New Town Office Building funds (\$666,847.05) for the next fiscal year (public hearing) by Brian Corbin and

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seconded by Rodney Lang. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -absent; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Mr. Corbin asked if Council is interested in implementing a policy that would set a limit of \$250.00 for small organizations that ask for a donation from the town. This would exclude the ORA and the fire companies. Council was not in agreement with the \$250.00 amount. Ms. Salazar stated that it seems like suddenly, we have numerous requests coming in from organizations asking for help. She suggested a formal written policy establishing guidelines for giving donations. She added that while Council can certainly set dollar amounts, they need to establish some rules for how donations are handled. Council asked Ms. Rillo to work with Mr. Bundick to start the process of writing a donation policy.

Ms. Salazar stated that Mr. Tarr will start mosquito spraying tomorrow night and will spray three times per week. She asked for Council's approval to purchase a 55-gallon drum of Biomist at \$2,392.50.

Motion: To purchase one 55-gallon drum of Biomist at \$2,392.50 by Woody Zember and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -absent; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Department Reports

Police Report

Chief Long presented Council with his written monthly report. He is expecting the speed trailer to be set up any day now. He is still waiting to hear back from the company that will support the WIFI cameras and tablets. He reported that they have written several tickets on E. Main Street due to the speed limit change and added that everyone had 45 days to make note of the change.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Salazar asked if there were any questions about her report. There were none. She reported that we currently have one business that is two-months delinquent with meals tax. She has completed the ARPA annual report and finalized the 2024-2025 proposed budget.

At this time, Ms. Rillo asked if she could start advertising for the police officer position. Ms. Salazar reminded Council that the position is not funded until July 1st. Council agreed to let Ms. Rillo start the advertising process but to make all candidates aware that the position has a start date of July 1st.

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

Ms. Salazar reported that Shore United Bank is closing on July 17, 2024. We currently have about one million dollars in that bank, and we need a plan for moving the money. She has already reached out to the other banks in town and has asked that they put together proposals for us if they are interested in our money. She also suggested First Horizon and VACO as an option but added that money invested with VACO has the potential for loss. Council had no interest in VACO due to the potential for loss or First Horizon since it is out of town.

Town Manager/Zoning Report

Ms. Rillo reported that she went to Walmart today and bought flowers to plant at the park. She contacted Adam Simpson and once again asked for his help with the pump and filter on the fountain. She plans to search for a pre-made box to cover the filter. She issued three grass violation letters and one property maintenance letter. She has contacted Chaney about gravel for the walking path and they think we need three truck loads at a total cost of \$4,428.49. She has ordered 14 new U.S. flags but plans to order more. Lastly, she ordered a chainsaw, and the Bobcat mower is fixed.

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Attorney's Report

Mr. Bundick reported that he has worked on an enforcement letter for zoning violations and worked on some other zoning issues this month.

Consideration of Minutes

Motion: To adopt the minutes of the March 26, 2024, Special Meeting/Budget Workshop by Kate Hill and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -absent; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Motion: To adopt the minutes of the April 1, 2024, Regular Monthly Meeting by Brian Corbin and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -absent; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Motion: To adopt the minutes of the April 24, 2024, Budget Workshop by Kate Hill and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -absent; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Ms. Salazar reported that Billye D. Custis was misquoted in the minutes from the March 4, 2024, Regular meeting, so those minutes now contain a notation correcting her statement.

Mr. Bundick said that this is voter election year and reminded everyone that the deadline to sign up to run in the election is approaching.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Council Comments

Mr. Corbin thanked Ms. Salazar for her work on the budget. He also thanked Ms. Rillo for her work on the public works garage but asked that she put together some drawings for a new town hall. He thanked Chief Long for patrolling and enforcing the new speed limit on East Main Street. He asked Chief Long to continue to research the possibility of selling the additional speed reduction signs.

Mr. Lang thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He expressed his concern about the new development coming outside of town and asked that everyone remain mindful of it.

Ms. Hill thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Mr. Zember thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He thanked the employees, the mayor, and his fellow Council Members.

Mr. Ferguson thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He thanked the McMath Park Commission for the work that they have done. He agreed with Mr. Lang, stating that he has great reservations about this new development coming to the outskirts of town. Lastly, he said he would like to get started on building a new town office.

Mayor Finney thanked everyone for their comments. He said he feels that things are going smoothly and thanked Council for working so well together.

Mr. Bundick said that these past two years working with everyone has been a joy and he asked that Council give serious thought to keeping things going with the next election on the horizon.

Adjourn

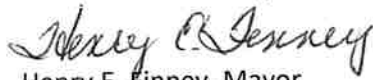
Motion: To adjourn (7:30pm) by Kate Hill and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom - absent; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

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Respectfully submitted,



Jamye L. Salazar, Clerk/Treasurer



Henry E. Finney, Mayor