

**Onley Town Council
Regular Monthly Meeting
Minutes of July 1, 2024
Onley Town Office, 25308 Lankford Highway, Onley, VA**

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

Council Members Absent: Kate Hill

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

Call to Order

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

Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance

Vice-Mayor Ferguson gave the invocation. 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 - yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – absent; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Commission/Committee Reports

Planning Commission – Mr. Corbin gave the Council a little background on the review of the Comprehensive Plan. He said that the Planning Commission has been working on it for some time and in his opinion, they are finished. He would like Council to ask the Planning Commission to give them an update on the review of the Comprehensive Plan.

Motion: To have the Town Council review the Comprehensive Plan (with the recommendations from the Planning Commission) by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Rodney Lang. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – absent; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Public Works Garage Committee – In the absence of Ms. Rillo, Norman Pitt addressed the Council. Mr. Pitt reported that Accomack County has issued the approved building permits for the project. He and Ms. Rillo have also provided a site plan for the health department. He said we are ready to proceed once we secure a contractor. Mr. Ferguson asked if there will be enough room once the town office is built for vehicles to maneuver between the two buildings. Mr. Lang asked if there would be a pad under the lean-to. Mr. Pitt responded yes to both questions. He added that he and Ms. Rillo will be vetting the contractors once the bids are received and opened. Ms. Salazar said that there has been a request from a resident to see a picture of the garage. She has let Ms. Rillo know in an email.

Ms. Salazar said that no bids were received for the concrete pad, roughed plumbing etc. Mr. Pitt said that he knows two gentlemen (working at NASA) that may be interested in bidding. Council agreed to have Mr. Pitt contact his associates and give them a bid packet.

Motion: To extend the bid deadline for the concrete/plumbing package to August 5, 2024, by Rodney Lang and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – absent; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

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Old Business

Mr. Finney said that in the absence of Ms. Rillo, no old business will be discussed tonight. Everything will be on the August agenda.

New Business

Ms. Salazar presented Council with Ordinance 001-24, adding that it is a matter of housekeeping. This is an ordinance that is adopted every July, and it gives our police officers the authority to issue traffic summonses.

Motion: To adopt Ordinance 001-24 by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Woody Zember. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – absent; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Department Reports

Police Report

Chief Long gave Council his regular monthly report along with a monthly summary of the data from the speed signs. There was a small discussion about the speed sign information.

Motion: To purchase an in-car camera system up to \$15,000.00 using ARPA funds by Rodney Lang and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – absent; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Billye D. Custis asked to speak. She said that she (along with John Dennis) recently had occasion to observe Chief Long in court and she was very impressed.

Treasurer’s Report

Ms. Salazar asked if there were any questions about her written report. There were no questions. Since it was the end of the fiscal year, she gave a small overview of the budget.

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

Ms. Salazar asked Council’s permission to move \$200,000.00 from the regular checking account to a money market account at PNC Bank, noting the regular checking account does not earn interest and the current balance is much too high for a non-interest-bearing account.

Motion: To move \$200,000.00 from the regular checking account to a money market account at PNC Bank by Brian Corbin and seconded by Woody Zember. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – absent; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Attorney’s Report

Mr. Bundick said that he has communicated with the short-term rental property owner and has gotten some answers to his questions. He has worked on the Motor Vehicle Ordinance with Ms. Salazar. He has prepared an ordinance prohibiting firearms on town property for Council’s review. Mr. Ferguson asked if there had been a problem. Mr. Bundick said he did not know of any problems, but Ms. Rillo asked him to research the matter and create the ordinance. Several Council Members had some reservations about enacting such an ordinance. Mr. Ferguson asked for time to think about it. Ms. Salazar said she thinks it would be appropriate to make it an agenda item for the August meeting. She added that (by doing so) it would give residents notice of the topic for discussion and allow them to come and voice their opinions. She reminded Council that they should not act on something that has not been properly advertised.

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Consideration of Minutes

Motion: To adopt the minutes of the June 3, 2024, Joint Public Hearing(s) & Regular Monthly Meeting by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Woody Zember. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – absent; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Motion: To adopt the minutes of the June 20, 2024, Public Hearing by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Brian Corbin. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – absent; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Public Comments

Billye D. Custis signed up to speak but did not wish to at this time.

John Dennis asked Council if the garage doors are included in the cost. He also asked if the office and bathroom are included or if that will be done separately. Mayor Finney said he believes that the roughed-in plumbing is included in the bid package.

Council Comments

Mr. Corbin said he is disappointed that we didn't receive any bids on the concrete and plumbing. He asked Mr. Pitt what he feels the issue is. Mr. Pitt responded that the price of concrete is very high. He said the bigger companies are chasing away the little guys. Mr. Corbin and several other Council Members thanked Mr. Pitt for his help.

Mr. Lang said it makes him happy to feel like we are getting some things done. He thanked Jason Campbell for coming to the meeting and noted that he is running for Council next term. He thanked Accomack County School Board Chairperson Janet Martin-Turner for attending also. He thanked John Dennis and Billye D. Custis for coming to the meeting.

Mr. Bloxom thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He wished everyone a Happy July 4th.

Mr. Zember thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He is happy to hear that the speed limit signs are making a difference. He thinks the reason that things are going smoothly is that Council works well together.

Mr. Ferguson thanked everyone. He would like to pursue building the new town office as soon as possible.

Mayor Finney thanked everyone. He said if Council didn't make such a good effort to get along, even when they don't always agree, things would be harder to accomplish.

Closed Session

Motion: To go into closed session (6:33pm) 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 Onley Police Department, specifically related to (1) hiring an officer to fill the Police Department vacancy and (2) discussion of an incident involving a Police Officer employed by the Onley Police Department by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Rodney Lang. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – absent; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Open Session & Certification of Closed Session

Motion: To return to open session (8:41pm) by Rodney Lang and seconded by Woody Zember. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – absent; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

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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 – absent; Lang– yes; Zember - yes.

Motion: To hire Phillip Barringer as a Police Officer for the Town of Onley with the conditions that we receive a copy of his work history from the Town of Onancock, he is on a six-month probationary period, and he will begin work July 8th by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Rodney Lang. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- no; Ferguson- yes; Hill – absent; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Motion: To institute a probationary period for Officer Nathan Anderson for 60 days or until the successful completion of a CIT class by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Daniel Bloxom. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- no; Ferguson- yes; Hill – absent; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn (8:43pm) by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Rodney Lang. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom - yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – absent; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Respectfully submitted,


Jamye L. Salazar, Clerk/Treasurer


Henry E. Finney, Mayor