

**Onley Town Council  
Special Meeting  
Minutes of June 27, 2024  
Onley Town Office, 25308 Lankford Highway, Onley, VA**

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

Council Members Absent: Kate Hill

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

**Call to Order**

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

**Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance**

Councilman Ferguson gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Adoption of Agenda**

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

**Adoption of Proposed 2024-2025 Budget**

Mr. Corbin asked to speak at this time. He thanked Ms. Salazar for working so quickly to get this budget back to us so late in the year. He stated that he voted not to move forward with this budget because he saw no issues with the previous budget containing the reserve to balance amount (just on paper). He added that we have always underestimated revenue and overestimated expenses to avoid budget shortfalls and that method has always worked. He said we have a lot of projects happening in town such as playground equipment, a new public works garage, a new town hall, new holiday decorations, a tax relief gift card program and we plan to hire a fifth police officer. He feels that it is wrong to change the budget at this time when we know we have all these projects, and everyone knows that prices are increasing all the time and sometimes things run over budget, and it cannot be helped. Mayor Finney said that he appreciated Mr. Corbin’s comment, but it is too late to go back to the previous budget at this time. Mr. Ferguson stated that we can always amend this budget, if necessary.

**Motion: To adopt the 2024-2025 Proposed Budget by Rodney Lang and seconded by Woody Zember. Roll Call Vote:** Bloxom -yes; Corbin- no; Ferguson- yes; Hill – absent; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

**Adoption of ARPA Funds Budget (Re-appropriation)**

**Motion: To adopt the ARPA Funds Budget (re-appropriation) 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

**Adoption of McMath Park Budget (Re-appropriation)**

**Motion: To adopt the McMath Park Budget (re-appropriation) by Daniel Bloxom and seconded by Rodney Lang. Roll Call Vote:** Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – absent; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

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**Adoption of New Town Office Construction Budget (Re-appropriation)**

**Motion: To adopt the New Town Office Construction Budget (re-appropriation) by Brian Corbin and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote:** Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – absent; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

**Employee Salary Changes**

Mr. Corbin said that Council has not decided how to proceed with the Police Department pay scale that was given to them by Ms. Rillo at last month’s meeting. He feels that a 3.5% COLA is appropriate at this time, noting that he would like to save the additional 1.5% budgeted for merit-based raises. Mr. Lang agreed with Mr. Corbin and added that he would like Council to decide on either COLA’s, merit-based raises, or both, but they need to make a decision and stick to it. Mr. Zember said that it is important for Council to remember that COLA’s and merit-based raises are totally different, and he feels some Council Members do not understand that. Mayor Finney said he worries that if we just have one and not the other, some employees may not get a salary increase at all.

**Motion: To give all employees a 3.5% salary increase effective July 1, 2024, by Brian Corbin and seconded by Rodney Lang. Roll Call Vote:** Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – absent; Lang– yes; Zember - no. MOTION PASSED

Mr. Ferguson said that he fully intends to re-visit this matter to make sure that (with rank changes) we are competitive with other towns.

Mr. Zember asked for the minutes to reflect that he did not vote no to pay increases, he voted no to the 3.5% increase because he thought this matter had already been decided and he feels that our employees deserve the 5% increase.

Mr. Corbin asked Ms. Salazar if a pay raise affects an employee’s retirement or insurance. Ms. Salazar said that it does affect retirement since the amount paid to VRS is based on salary.

**Adjourn**

**Motion: To adjourn (6:15pm) by Daniel Bloxom and seconded by Bill Ferguson. 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