

**Onley Town Council**  
**Regular Monthly Meeting & Public Hearing(s)**  
**Minutes of May 1, 2023**  
**Onley Town Office, 25308 Lankford Highway, Onley, VA**

Council Members Present: Ned Finney, Mayor  
Bill Ferguson, Vice-Mayor  
Daniel Bloxom  
Brian Corbin (arrived 6:28pm)  
Katelyn Hill  
Rodney Lang  
Woody Zember

Staff Present: Carl Bundick, Town Attorney  
E. Jesse Long, Chief of Police, OPD  
Susan M. 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 given by Councilman Ferguson.

**Adoption of Agenda**

Mr. Ferguson asked to add item *6F. Stage/Gazebo at McMath Park*. Mayor Finney asked if everyone would agree to adopting the agenda with the change. All Council Members agreed by stating yes when Mayor Finney called their name.

**Public Hearing for Proposed 2023-2024 Budget**

Mayor Finney called the hearing to order at 6:03pm. Ms. Salazar read the rules for public participation. Ms. Salazar presented the proposed 2023-2024 budget noting that it is a balanced budget, it was properly advertised and there were no changes to the tax levies. There were no public comments.

**Motion: To adjourn the public hearing (6:07pm) 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

**Public Hearing for ARPA Funds Budget**

Mayor Finney called the public hearing to order at 6:07pm. Ms. Salazar presented the ARPA funds budget. There were no public comments.

**Motion: To adjourn the public hearing (6:08pm) 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

**Regular Monthly Meeting (cont'd)**

**Old Business**

Ms. Salazar gave Council three bids for fencing at the town-owned property on Front Street. The bids are as follows: **Chesapeake Fence**, \$8,495.00; **Accomack Fence**, \$7,060.00; **Anderson Fence Co.**,

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\$9,595.00. Council asked to find out warranty information and potential start dates for the project and report back at next week's meeting.

In the absence of Mr. Corbin, the sidewalk project was not discussed.

Ms. Salazar said that a few months ago, Mr. Maggard was asked to make some recommendations to Council about what committees are needed. Mr. Maggard was not able to do that before he left. She added that the Community Spirit Committee has requested to be re-appointed by Council. Council asked Ms. Rillo to make committee recommendations at the June meeting.

Ms. Salazar asked that Council set a date to come back and adopt the budgets that were discussed earlier in the night. Council will come back on May 8, 2023.

Mr. Bundick asked that Council give him a little more time to research the Parking in Fire Lane Ordinance and the Domesticated Fowl Ordinance.

Ms. Salazar presented Council with a final draft of the Third-Party Harassment Policy. Mr. Bundick said that he doesn't have any objections to the policy as written.

**Motion: To adopt the Third-Party Harassment Policy by Rodney Lang and seconded by Bill Ferguson.**

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

**New Business**

**Motion: To appoint Susan Rillo to the position of Town Manager and Zoning Administrator by Bill**

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

**Motion: To appoint Jamye Salazar to the position of Clerk/Treasurer 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

Ms. Salazar noted that her salary will now revert to her previous salary as the Clerk/Treasurer.

Ms. Salazar asked for Council's permission to seek out another accounting/auditing firm to perform the 2021-2022 audit. She added that she hasn't had any response from RFCA in quite some time.

**Motion: To authorize the Treasurer and Town Manger to issue a RFB for the 2021-2022 audit with a two-week return, giving them the authority to accept the bid 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

Mr. Corbin arrived at this time. Mayor Finney asked him to report on the sidewalk project. He reported that Council decreased the amount of ARPA Funds dedicated to the sidewalk project to \$75,000.00. We now need to pursue the VDOT grants to cover the costs of the project. Council asked Ms. Rillo to investigate the possibility of acquiring grants from VDOT for the sidewalk project.

Ms. Salazar asked Council to approve the re-appropriation (into the next fiscal year) of the Town Hall Construction budget and the McMath Park budget, adding that to do so another public hearing is necessary. Ms. Salazar explained that without the re-appropriation, Council cannot spend any of these funds after July 1, 2023. After much discussion, Council decided to wait on the re-appropriation until they decide if they want to add more funds to the budgets.

Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Lang would like Council to consider the addition of a stage and/or gazebo at the park to use for entertainment. They also suggested an outdoor projection screen and outdoor speakers. Several suggestions were made by other Council members such as modifying the pavilion or adding a roof over part of the path. Mayor Finney asked that Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Lang finalize their ideas and get pricing. He also suggested forming a Park Entertainment Committee. Ms. Custis asked to serve on the committee.

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**Motion: To establish a Park Entertainment Committee, appointing Bill Ferguson, Woody Zember, and Billye D. Custis to serve by Rodney Lang and seconded by Kate Hill. Roll Call Vote:** Bloxom -yes; Corbin-yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

**Commission/Committee Reports**

**Planning Commission** -Mr. Corbin reported that the Planning Commission met on April 19<sup>th</sup> and asked him to present Council with a list of suggestions that they would like Council to consider implementing. As Mr. Corbin began to read the list, Mayor Finney stopped him and stated that he doesn't believe that any of the items on the list fall under the purview of the Planning Commission. He asked Ms. Salazar to provide the Planning Commission By-Laws to each member of the Council for their review. He asked her to read from the by-laws the primary purpose of the Commission. Mayor Finney feels that while they may have some good ideas, these things don't fall under the Planning Commission's scope of work. Council agreed and asked that Mr. Corbin relay that to them at their next meeting. Council also had a short discussion about some of the items on the list, specifically the newsletter, the website, and streaming meetings. They decided to think about these suggestions and bring them back up at another meeting, if they decide they are necessary.

**Police Department Renovation Committee** -Chief Long reported that the mold remediation happened today. Mr. Patterson plans to start re-installing the insulation tomorrow at a cost of \$1,652.00 with Council's approval. Ms. Salazar added (for the record) that we received two bids for mold removal and clean-up: Maryland Mold Busters, \$2,355.00 and Rainbow Restoration, \$6,000.00. She accepted the bid from Maryland Mold Busters.

**Motion: To approve the installation of insulation by JHP Construction in the amount of \$1,652.00 by Rodney Lang and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote:** Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

**Department Reports**

**Police Report & Schedule**

Chief Long presented Council with the April report and the June schedule, noting that the shifts have been changed to 7:00-5:00 and 5:00-3:00. He is also making that change to the May schedule effective immediately. He also presented Council with a quote for furniture for the renovated office in the amount of \$3,516.87.

**Motion: To approve the June 2023 schedule by Brian Corbin and seconded by Kate Hill. Roll Call Vote:** Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Mr. Corbin asked about the status of the speed reduction signs. Ms. Salazar reported that she has purchased the hardware for installing the signs, it was delivered last week. Currently, we are waiting on VDOT to approve the permits. They have had the permit applications since February 16<sup>th</sup>. She currently has started checking with them weekly for status updates. Dale Pusey emailed her on April 25<sup>th</sup> and said he would have an update on April 27<sup>th</sup>. She has not heard anything from him.

**Motion: To approve the purchase of furniture from Office Depot in the amount of \$3,516.87 by Kate Hill and seconded by Woody Zember. Roll Call Vote:** Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

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**Treasurer's Report**

Ms. Salazar gave her report. A copy is available upon request.

**Motion: To pay the April 2023 payables by Kate Hill and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote:**  
Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

**Town Manager/Zoning Report**

Ms. Salazar gave Council her report in writing but asked to highlight a few items: pump and filter system at McMath Park, delinquent meals and transient occupancy tax, the sidewalk project and the holiday light project have been on hold until a new Town Manager was found.

No zoning permits were issued this month. There is an issue with someone once again living in the former office of the late Dr. Len Bundick which will once again need to be addressed.

Mr. Corbin asked if the portable bathroom is back at the park. Ms. Salazar stated that it was delivered on April 26<sup>th</sup> and will be there until fall.

**Attorney's Report**

Mr. Bundick reported that he is working on the mosquito spraying contract and the two ordinances on the agenda tonight. He reviewed the Third-Party Harassment Policy. In the matter of the person living in the business office, he said there are a couple of things that we can do to remedy that issue. Mr. Corbin asked that Mr. Bundick start enforcement action against the delinquent taxpayers. Mr. Bundick said that it may be time to contact James Elliott, the tax collection attorney. Ms. Salazar reported to Council that she does not feel that we are going to be able to pursue collection of delinquent taxes from Alpine Nutrition. She explained that the owner has left the area and did not leave forwarding information. She added that we are also not able to provide some of the information that the magistrate requires for the warrants. She concluded by saying that the good thing about this whole situation is that we can use it as a learning experience should it happen again.

**Consideration of Minutes**

**Motion: To adopt the minutes of the April 3, 2023, Regular Meeting by Brian Corbin and seconded by Rodney Lang. Roll Call Vote:** Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

**Motion: To adopt the minutes of the April 10, 2023, Special Meeting/Budget Workshop by Daniel Bloxom and seconded by Rodney Lang. Roll Call Vote:** Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

**Public Comments**

Ms. Salazar read a statement at the request of Ann Byrum. A copy will be attached.

Ms. Salazar read a statement from Claudia Harmon. A copy will be attached.

Billye D. Custis signed up but had no comment.

Glenn Smith reported that the Tasley Fire Company responded to 287 fire calls in 2022, 39 of those were in Onley at a cost of \$33,200.00.

**Council Comments**

Mr. Corbin stated that along with the chicken problem, he has a neighbor that has a problem with dogs, and it baffles him that we can't help with these things in a timely manner. He complimented our public works employee stating the town looks amazing.

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Mr. Lang said that he has a neighbor that has chickens, and he would like to find a way for him to be able to continue keeping the chickens.

Mr. Bloxom thanked everyone for coming. He said he recently had a medical emergency and he wanted to thank Onancock Fire Company for taking such great care of him.

Ms. Hill stated that we have a chicken ordinance with guidelines that people should be following. She thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Mr. Zember thanked everyone for coming.

Mr. Ferguson welcomed Ms. Rillo. He thanked Ms. Salazar, Chief Long, our other officers, and Percy Smith, who is doing a fantastic job. He feels that there is no reason that the current Council can't start the process of getting a new town office built within the next two years.

Mayor Finney thanked everyone.

**Adjourn**

**Motion: To adjourn (7:37pm) by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Kate Hill. Roll Call Vote:** Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Respectfully Submitted,



Jamye Salazar, Clerk/Treasurer

  
Henry E. Finney, Mayor