

**Onley Town Council
Regular Monthly Meeting
Minutes of August 7, 2023
Onley Town Office, 25308 Lankford Highway, Onley, VA**

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

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

Call to Order

Mayor Finney called the meeting to order at 6:01pm.

Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance

The invocation was given by Councilman Zember and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Bloxom.

Planning Commission Meeting

Chairwoman Bliss called the Planning Commission meeting to order (6:01pm) and stated that they do have a quorum. The following Commissioners were present: Deborah Bliss, Brian Corbin, Thomas Cherry and John Kluis.

Adoption of Agenda

Mayor Finney asked Council to add item 6G. Children at Play Sign Resolution per a request from Accomack County. Mr. Lang asked to add one for East Main Street also. Ms. Rillo stated that this is being done in accordance with a request from Accomack County. She advised Mr. Lang to contact Accomack County. **Motion: To adopt the agenda with the change by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Brian Corbin.**

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

Planning Commission Meeting

Chairwoman Bliss once again called the Planning Commission meeting to order (6:04pm) and stated that they do have a quorum.

Town Council & Planning Commission Joint Public Hearing(s) on Zoning Amendments

Mayor Finney called the Town Council Public Hearing to order (6:04pm) and established a quorum. Ms. Bliss called the Town of Onley Planning Commission Public Hearing to order (6:04pm) and established a quorum.

The rules for public hearings were read by Jamye Salazar.

Susan Rillo read the statement of facts for the proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance. A copy will be attached to the original minutes.

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Billye D. Custis read a statement outlining her questions and concerns about the revision. A copy will be attached to the original minutes.

Mayor Finney and Ms. Bliss adjourned the public hearings at 6:10pm. Ms. Bliss adjourned the Planning Commission meeting at 6:10pm.

Public Hearing for the Re-appropriation of ARPA Funds Budget (Balance of Remaining Funds)

Mayor Finney called the Public Hearing to order at 6:10pm. Ms. Salazar presented the Re-appropriation of ARPA Funds Budget (balance of remaining funds). A copy will be attached to the original minutes.

There were no public comments. No one signed up to speak.

Mayor Finney adjourned the public hearing at 6:12pm.

Regular Meeting (cont'd)

Old Business

Ms. Rillo reported that the only committee set up at this point is the McMath Park Committee. Ms. Custis reported that she and Ms. Rillo have met twice and are writing the by-laws. She added that they have not had an official meeting since they do not have five members at this time. Mr. Corbin asked that Council consider reviewing the list of committees that was given to them a few months ago and decide which committees we need to reestablish. Council asked Ms. Salazar to give them another list of committees and they will revisit this issue next month.

Ms. Rillo said that last month, Council voted to pursue the pull-behind street cleaner at a cost of \$19,600.00. The issue is that it will need to be pulled while opposing traffic. VDOT said that we will need to follow their procedures for closing streets. She asked that Council consider the other model that sells for \$37,420.00. There is a third ride-on option for \$10,000.00 that is not street legal. She thinks we will still have to close the street to use it.

Motion: To form a committee to explore the most viable option for a street sweeper by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Brian Corbin. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Mr. Bloxom suggested that we get quotes for street sweeping from local companies. Council agreed.

Motion: To appoint Ms. Rillo, Councilman Corbin, and Councilman Lang to the street sweeper committee by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Woody Zember. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- abstain; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– abstain; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Ms. Rillo presented Council with a proposal from Branscome for the repair of the driveways along Coastal Blvd. by the post office and former church office in the amount of \$33,790.13. Council asked her to get an additional quote for the driveway at Lighthouse Thrift Store. She added that we will also need to get a land use permit from VDOT for the work. Mr. Bundick noted that we will need to get easements from property owners as well. Ms. Custis asked what the town is opening itself up to by getting into repairing private property. After a small discussion, Council was divided about this issue and no decision was made at this time.

New Business

Several Council Members said they would like to have the Planning Commission look at the proposed zoning ordinance amendments a little better and consider some of the suggestions made by Ms. Custis.

Motion: To send the proposed zoning ordinance amendments back to the Planning Commission for more review and ask that they consider the suggestions made by Ms. Custis by Daniel Bloxom and

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seconded by Kate Hill. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- no; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Motion: To re-appropriate the remaining balance of the ARPA funds (\$249,353.38) into the current fiscal year by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Daniel Bloxom. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Ms. Salazar opened the one bid that was received on the Patriot gun safe. The bid was from Jesse Long in the amount of \$200.00.

Motion: To accept the bid from Jesse Long in the amount of \$200.00 by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Woody Zember. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Mayor Finney asked everyone to read the VDOT Speed Study Resolution and decide about adopting it.

Motion: To adopt the VDOT Speed Study Resolution by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Woody Zember. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Ms. Salazar reported that Council has received a letter from ACSO asking for a donation to the DARE program. She added that typically we give them \$500.00 each fiscal year but added that if they wish to continue this, it is entirely a Council decision.

Motion: To donate \$500.00 to the ACSO DARE program 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

Mayor Finney said that he thinks the Council needs to consider constructing a building to house our public works vehicles and equipment as well as some employee workspace. He suggested tearing down the current structure and replacing it with a metal building and a concrete floor.

Motion: To form a Public Works Garage Committee consisting of Mayor Finney, Councilman Lang, and Ms. Rillo by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Brian Corbin. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– abstain; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Ms. Rillo presented Council with a Resolution asking for a Children at Play sign to be installed on Badger Lane. She explained that Accomack County has requested that Council adopt the resolution so that they may proceed with the installation of the sign via VDOT.

Motion: To adopt the Resolution for Children at Play sign 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

Commission/Committee Reports

Planning Commission – Mr. Corbin did not add anything other than what was discussed earlier in the night.

McMath Park Entertainment Committee/McMath Park Commission-

Motion: To dissolve the McMath Park Entertainment Committee and move their duties to the McMath Park Commission 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

Ms. Custis gave her report earlier in the night.

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Department Reports

Police Report

Chief Long presented Council with the month end reports noting revised numbers for Officer Anderson. He stated that the schedule has been given to Ms. Rillo. He reported that he has graduated from the first of the three FBI/LEEDA classes that he attended.

Motion: To approve Chief Long's attendance at the next two FBI classes at a cost of \$795.00 per class plus hotel expenses by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Daniel Bloxom. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Chief Long reported that he is also planning to send Officers Anderson and Sacks (separately) to training at the academy in October. He reported that the speed signs have been moved to the other office and added that we need to purchase four solar panels for each sign at a cost of \$300.00 each. He added that cost is discounted from \$500.00 per sign. There was a discussion about whether to purchase the solar panels since we may not get VDOT's approval to install the signs and we may need to sell them. Chief Long and Ms. Rillo both stated that without the solar panels, we cannot sell the signs. Mr. Corbin feels the purchaser of the signs can buy the solar panels. Council asked Ms. Rillo to contact Mayor Fosque from Onancock and see if they are interested in purchasing any of the signs. They also asked Ms. Rillo to research residents allowing signs in their yards (on personally owned property) as well as the amount of VDOT's right-of-way. Council asked Chief Long to check with the company and ask if the discounted price for the solar panels is a one-time deal, or if it will be available in the future. Chief Long will have an answer by Friday.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Salazar reported that she has provided James Elliott with the delinquent taxpayers list consisting of five people that meet the criteria for collection by Mr. Elliott. The total amount is approximately \$6,600.00. Mr. Elliott has issued letters and asked that we refer any inquiries from those five to his office. She also researched the DMV's Vehicle Registration Withholding Program for anyone that owes delinquent personal property taxes. She stated that the first step is to apply for approval. She said they also require proof of a certain level of security with which Cloud Server Tech has been able to help. She does not know the cost associated with this program at this time since you have to first be approved to communicate with the DMV about the program. Mr. Corbin asked if Mr. Bundick could send a letter using the threat of a DMV stop. Mr. Bundick said that he could.

Ms. Salazar gave her Treasurer's Report. A copy is available upon request.

Motion: To pay the July 2023 payables 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

Town Manager/Zoning Report

Ms. Rillo reported that the fence has been installed with the addition of a wider gate at an additional cost of \$825.00. ANEC has agreed to allow us to add more snowflakes on utility poles and they may even help with installation of the electrical connections. She is waiting to hear back from Neubeam about the antenna tower lease.

She issued two zoning permits, three grass violation letters, one property maintenance violation letter and two inoperable vehicle letters. She prepared a media statement concerning an incident at Walmart involving one of our police officers along with two ACSO deputies. This matter did not become an issue, but she wanted to be prepared. Public works town maintenance is being done except for street cleaning for safety reasons. Two new pet stations have been installed around town. The hole for the irrigation system at the park has been dug and we are waiting on Adam Simpson. Mosquito spraying will now be

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done three times per week. The new truck and dump trailer are now properly titled with public use tags. Sidewalks and gutters have been sprayed at a cost of \$700.00. Mr. Corbin asked if the family is still living in Dr. Bundick's old office. Chief Long responded that they are in the building quite a bit, but they have not been there overnight. Mr. Corbin asked about the replacement of the three windows at the police station. Chief Long said no decision has been made. Ms. Salazar suggested that Chief Long get a quote for Council to consider.

Attorney's Report

Mr. Bundick reported that he reviewed the contract for the McMath Park playground equipment and found that we were able to void it since it had not been executed properly on their end. He continues to work on the Alpine Nutrition delinquent BPOL and meals tax matter. He has worked with Ms. Rillo on a noise issue that arose with one of the churches in town. Lastly, he has worked with Ms. Rillo on some of the miscellaneous issues that she reported earlier.

Consideration of Minutes

Motion: To adopt the minutes of the July 3, 2023, Regular Meeting 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

Public Comments

Billye D. Custis thanked Council for considering her comments and suggestions on the proposed zoning amendment as well as sending them to the Planning Commission for further review. Quentavion Washington introduced himself as the pastor from the House of Refuge Deliverance Center at 25534 E. Main Street. He thanked Mr. Lang for inviting him to the meeting. He said he is new to the town and looks forward to working with everyone.

Council Comments

Mr. Corbin thanked Mr. Bundick and Ms. Salazar for working on the delinquent taxes, adding that is one of his pet peeves. He thinks that we are in good shape as a town. Mr. Lang thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He personally thanked Mr. Washington and stated that if he has any issues, please be sure to contact Ms. Rillo, Chief Long or any Council Member. Mr. Bloxom thanked Chief Long for the National Night Out. He said he and his son had a good time. Ms. Hill thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. She said that she has really enjoyed being a part of making decisions for the town. Mr. Zember thanked everyone for coming and the employees for their work. Mr. Ferguson thanked everyone. He personally welcomed and thanked Mr. Washington. Mayor Finney thanked the Council and said while they don't always agree, they respect each other and that's important.

Closed Session

Motion: To go into Closed Session (7:43pm) 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 an evaluation of Chief E.J. Long due to the end of his six-month probationary period; 2: discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real estate for a public purpose, specifically related to the need for a Public Works

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facility 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

Open Session & Certification of Closed Session

Motion: To return to open session (8:36pm) 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

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 – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes.

Motion: To extend Chief Long’s probation period for three months to allow Ms. Rillo a full six months of evaluation by Kate Hill and seconded by Brian Corbin. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -no; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- no; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn (8:37pm) 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

Respectfully submitted,



Jamye Salazar, Clerk/Treasurer



Henry E. Finney, Mayor