

**Onley Town Council
Public Hearing & Regular Monthly Meeting
Minutes of August 1, 2022
Onley Town Office, 25308 Lankford Highway, Onley VA**

Council Members Present: Rose Pierson, Vice- Mayor
 Billye D. Custis
 Bill Ferguson
 Claudia Harmon
 Woody Zember

Council Members Absent: Matt Hart, Mayor
 Brian Corbin

Staff Present: Carl Bundick, Town Attorney
 Lt. E. Jess Long, OPD
 Jamye Salazar, Interim Town Manager

Call to Order

Vice-Mayor Pierson called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance

The invocation was given by Vice-Mayor Pierson and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Zember.

Adoption of Agenda

Motion: To adopt the agenda by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Billye D. Custis. Roll Call Vote: Corbin-absent; Custis=yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED
Vice-Mayor Pierson stated that she will be voting tonight.

Public Hearing – Golf Cart Ordinance #002-22

Call to Order

Vice-Mayor Pierson called the public hearing to order at 6:01pm.

Rules for Public Participation

Ms. Salazar read the Rules for Public Participation.

Presentation – Golf Cart Ordinance #002-22

Vice-Mayor Pierson presented the Golf Cart Ordinance, noting that a copy was available for inspection at the Town Office and the Town website. A copy will be attached.

Public Comments

The following people spoke in favor of the Golf Cart Ordinance: Jeannette Edwards, Susan Hurst, Fred Gardner, Rodney Lang and Ned Finney.

The following people spoke against the Golf Cart Ordinance: Ralph Wardius and Mary Wardius.

Adjourn Public Hearing

Vice-Mayor Pierson adjourned the Public Hearing at 6:16.

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Regular Monthly Meeting (cont'd)

Old Business

Ms. Bliss reported that the Planning Commission has started the review of Ordinances #004-06 & #004-17. They feel that the ordinances are very similar and should probably be combined into one ordinance. They have made that the primary topic of the August Planning Commission meeting.

Several members of Council volunteered (along with Ms. Salazar) to take a look at the property on Front Street and give some suggestions as to how to proceed with the clean-up/future plans for the property.

Lt. Long had nothing new to report on the matter of renovations at the Police Department building.

Ms. Salazar reported that no RFP's for civil engineering services were received. She stated that Mr. Corbin now believes that we actually do not need civil engineering services.

Ms. Salazar reported that Mr. Tarr, our mosquito sprayer, is currently still waiting on his license. There is also an issue with the mosquito truck – it will not start so we may need to take it to Shore Tire.

Ms. Custis reported that at last month's meeting, she suggested we establish a Park Committee. At this time, no one has reached out to her. Council asked Ms. Salazar to advertise in the next town newsletter so that interested residents may apply for consideration. Ms. Bliss suggested a mission statement for the Park Commission. Ms. Custis stated that the Town of Onley may need one also. Ms. Salazar said that she will research the matter but she thinks we may already have one.

Motion: To adopt the Golf Cart Ordinance #002-22 by Rose Pierson and seconded by Woody Zember.

Roll Call Vote: Corbin- absent; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - yes.

MOTION PASSED

There was more discussion about the use of golf carts in town. Ms. Custis stated that everyone needs to read the ordinance. Several members noted that a lot of questions will be answered if people will just read the ordinance.

New Business

Ms. Salazar presented Council with some information pertaining to charging for FOIA requests. She summarized the information noting that we cannot profit from FOIA requests.

Motion: To bill at a rate of \$30.00 per hour for every FOIA request plus .50 per page and any extra material costs by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Woody Zember. This motion was rescinded and the following amended motion was made: To charge \$30.00 per hour, contract rate for reproduced copies and any extra material costs by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Woody Zember. Roll Call Vote: Corbin- absent; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - yes. **MOTION PASSED**

Mr. Ferguson stated that he would like Council to form a Complaint Review Board to screen complaints and weed out the ones that do not have merit and investigate the ones that do. There was much discussion about this matter.

Motion: To establish a Complaint Review Committee to include Vice-Mayor Pierson and Bill Ferguson (per Council's request) to screen complaints to determine merit and suggest possible courses of action or pass them along to responsible parties by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Woody Zember. Roll Call

Vote: Corbin- absent; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - yes. **MOTION PASSED**

Motion: To issue an RFP for the 2021-2022 Audit by Billye D. Custis and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote: Corbin- absent; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - yes. **MOTION PASSED**

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Ms. Harmon asked that Council re-consider renewing the Chamber of Commerce membership because she feels that is beneficial especially in our search for a Town manager. The amount has been reduced to \$185.00 per year.

Motion: To renew our Chamber of Commerce membership for one year by Claudia Harmon and seconded by Billye D. Custis. Roll Call Vote: Corbin- absent; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Committee Reports

New Town Office Building Committee – Mr. Finney said there is nothing new to report.

Sidewalk Project Committee – Ms. Bliss gave a presentation reporting on the four aspects of the sidewalk project: 1. Sidewalks on Coastal Blvd. 2. Driveways at intersection of Main & Coastal 3. Sidewalk on E. Main Street 4. Crosswalk's No Turn on Red at Stoplight. She spoke about the process for getting VDOT to consider the projects. She read resolution(s) into the minutes for these matters. Copies will be attached. Council asked Mr. Bundick to review the resolutions and bring it back next month.

Golf Cart Committee – Ms. Pierson said there is nothing to report.

Public Works Committee – Mr. Ferguson reported that the mower needs servicing. Ms. Salazar has taken care of that. Mr. Ferguson is still working on the SOP's. Ms. Salazar reported that she has created a daily work log for Mario to use each day. Fred Gardner advised against using an aluminum ladder when working on the utility poles. Ms. Salazar reported that she has stopped him from doing that.

Personnel Committee – Ms. Harmon reported that they have not met. Ms. Custis stated that we need to upgrade our Personnel Policy.

Community Spirit Committee – Ms. Pierson reported that they are working on welcome baskets for new residents and the possibility of another fire safety event.

Town Manager Search Committee – Ms. Custis reported that they do not have any applicants at this time but they are hopeful that the Chamber membership will help. They continue to work on the job description and the ad in the newspaper.

Department Reports

Police Report & Schedule

Lt. Long continues to research the speed deterrent signs. Council asked Lt. Long to contact VDOT about the legalities of using these signs and to make a decision as to what sign to purchase and they will take action at next meeting. The NNO is tomorrow night and Sysco has donated a gift certificate to purchase the hamburgers and hot dogs. He reported that the 2022 Dodge has been retrieved and is at the office. He presented Council with the estimate from Nottingham & Sons for the installation of equipment to the vehicle. He asked that Council consider paying for the equipment/parts up front to further the process.

Motion: To accept the estimate from Nottingham & Sons for the installation of the equipment to the 2022 Durango. Roll Call Vote: Corbin- absent; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Motion: To accept the September 2022 schedule by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Woody Zember. Roll Call Vote: Corbin- absent; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – 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 payables by Billye D. Custis and seconded by Woody Zember. Roll Call Vote:** Corbin- absent; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED
Ms. Custis requested that the purchase of the new PD vehicle be moved to the PD budget.

Interim Town Manager Report

Ms. Salazar gave her report. A copy will be attached and is available upon request. Ms. Custis asked for clarification about the new business opening on E. Main Street. Ms. Salazar reported that it is an event planner while Ms. Custis said the sign reads "event center". Ms. Salazar will confirm.
Ms. Custis asked Ms. Salazar to remember the issue with the apartment behind Maranatha Store.

Attorney's Report

Mr. Bundick has reached out to some contacts about the ARPA funds, and he feels that we can reach out to them as needed.

Consideration of Minutes

Motion: To accept the minutes of the July 11, 2022, Regular Monthly Meeting by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Claudia Harmon. Roll Call Vote: Corbin- absent; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Motion: To accept the minutes of July 12, 2022, Recessed Meeting by Billye D. Custis and seconded by Woody Zember. Roll Call Vote: Corbin- absent; Custis-abstain; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Public Comments

Ralph Wardius volunteered to help with the NNO. He asked if it's possible to get rid of the railroad track that was left in the road. Ms. Bliss said that she thinks it may go when the sewer comes through town. He advised Council to be wise about the types of businesses that they want in town.
Fred Gardner asked that Council continue to pursue mosquito spraying. He expressed disappointment that Mayor Hart has once again missed the meeting.
Ned Finney said he thinks it has been a good meeting and he is happy it wasn't unnecessarily long. He is sad to hear that some people on Council are not running in the next election due to the stress caused by others. He thanked everyone for serving and the employees for a good job.

Council Comments

Billye D. Custis thanked everyone for coming and said she too feels it has been a good meeting.
Woody Zember said he agrees with Mr. Finney that the meetings are running smoothly but he is disappointed that the mayor is not attending. He added that if the mayor is going to behave inappropriately towards him, he would rather that he doesn't come to the meetings.
Claudia Harmon thanked Ms. Pierson for running the meetings over the last couple of months adding that it has made the meetings more enjoyable. She said that she is not running again, however, if she could have had more meetings like this one, she may have considered running. She wanted everyone to know that during Ms. Salazar's illness, she still managed to get us all the information that we needed to have this meeting. She apologized to her for the emails that she has received lately. She added that she had the opportunity to work in the office for four hours while Ms. Salazar was out, and it was an eye-opener. She was able to spend some time with Lt. Long and praised him for his help.

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Billy Ferguson thanked everyone for all they do. He commented that the atmosphere is so much better now, but he does feel that it is sad that everyone doesn't appreciate that, and some people are trying to cause problems.

Rose Pierson thanked everyone for all they do. She reminded everyone to attend NNO tomorrow night.

Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn at 7:56pm by Billye D. Custis and seconded by Woody Zember. Roll Call Vote:

Corbin- absent; Custis-yes; Ferguson- yes; Harmon – yes; Pierson – yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Respectfully Submitted,



Jamye Salazar, Interim Town Manager



Rose M. Pierson, Vice-Mayor