

Onley Town Council
Regular Monthly Meeting
Minutes of January 16, 2024 (Postponed from January 9,2024)
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

Council Members Absent: Woody Zember

Staff Present: Carl Bundick, Town Attorney
E. J. Long, Chief of Police, OPD
Susan Rillo, Town Manager

Call to Order

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

Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance

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

Adoption of Agenda

Ms. Rillo asked Council to add under New Business, I. Four Corner Plaza Lease.

Mr. Lang asked to remove the Public Works Garage Committee Report due to the Health Department representative being sick, so there was no action taken this month. Mayor Finney asked to leave it on the agenda. Council agreed.

Motion: To adopt the agenda with the addition of I. Four Corner Plaza Lease under New Business by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Daniel Bloxom. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - absent. MOTION PASSED

Commission/Committee Reports

Planning Commission – Ms. Rillo reported that they are starting the discussion of emergency plans for Onley - emergency management and contingency plans in the event of a disaster.

McMath Park Commission- Ms. Rillo reported that the Park Commission met on January 8th. They elected officers and discussed future events for the upcoming calendar year. Ms. Hill offered her help with marketing the events.

Public Works Garage Committee – Mr. Lang reported that he is planning to meet with Ashley Thornes from VDH to measure and mark the septic area. Mr. Finney asked Ms. Rillo to contact Bundick’s again about the septic information.

Old Business

Motion: To table the Donation(s) discussion for another month since we still have some requests coming in by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Brian Corbin. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - absent. MOTION PASSED

Ms. Rillo added that we also have not received financial information from the organizations at this time.

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Motion: To re-schedule the Amended 2023-2024 Budget Workshop for Wednesday, January 24th at 6:00pm by Daniel Bloxom and seconded by Brian Corbin. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - absent. MOTION PASSED

Ms. Rillo reported that she spoke with Delegate Rob Bloxom about the letter of support for the veteran’s housing and Mr. Bloxom is not writing a letter. She added that while Mr. Bloxom fully supports housing for veterans, he feels that there are issues with the proposal. Mr. Lang said that he feels that if this gentleman wants a letter of support, he should come to a meeting to discuss his plan.

Motion: To not send a letter of support for Parksley’s Matthew’s Building/Veterans Housing by Daniel Bloxom and seconded by Kate Hill. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - absent. MOTION PASSED

New Business

Motion: To adopt the 2024 Town Council Regular Meeting schedule by Brian Corbin and seconded by Daniel Bloxom. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - absent. MOTION PASSED

Motion: To pass the ATL grant (\$15,000.00) along to Onancock and Tasley Fire Departments (dividing it equally 50/50) by Daniel Bloxom and seconded by Kate Hill. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- abstain; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - absent. MOTION PASSED

Motion: To re-appoint Susan Rillo to the position of Town Manager by Kate Hill and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - absent. MOTION PASSED

Motion: To re-appoint E.J. Long to the position of Chief of Police by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Kate Hill. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - absent. MOTION PASSED

Motion: To re-appoint Carl Bundick to the position of Town Attorney by Brian Corbin and seconded by Rodney Lang. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - absent. MOTION PASSED

Mr. Bundick thanked Council and said he is looking forward to another year with the town and most of all appreciates the friendships that he has made while working here.

Motion: To re-appoint Jamye Salazar to the position of Clerk/Treasurer by Rodney Lang and seconded by Kate Hill. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - absent. MOTION PASSED

Motion: To appoint Susan Rillo to the position of FOIA officer by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Kate Hill. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - absent. MOTION PASSED

Mr. Bloxom asked Council to permit Chief Long to send one of our officers to attend the CALL Seafood & Music Jamboree (in Onancock) to assist with patrolling/policing the event.

Motion: To allow an officer to attend the CALL Seafood & Music Jamboree to assist with patrolling/policing the event by Rodney Lang and seconded by Kate Hill. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - absent. MOTION PASSED

Ms. Rillo reported to Council that the lease for the Four Corner’s office will expire on February 28, 2024. The landlord has offered a two-year extension with a rent increase to \$2,389.03/monthly for the first year and \$2,460.70/monthly for the second year. Mr. Bloxom said we should have been made aware of this six months ago. Ms. Rillo stated that she was not made aware of this until this past Friday via an email from the property owner. Ms. Rillo said this is exactly why we need to build a town office. Mr. Bloxom asked if we could renegotiate a one-year lease. Billye D. Custis said that a one-year lease will

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most likely cost more than a two-year lease once the terms are set. Mr. Bundick explained that we were in a bind two years ago and we signed that lease with the current extension option. Mayor Finney said he does not feel we have a lot of options since we are not going to get a building constructed before our current lease ends and it may take two more years to complete.

Motion: To accept the two-year lease from Four Corners Inc. by Rodney Lang and seconded by Kate Hill. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - absent.
MOTION PASSED

Department Reports

Treasurer's Report

In the absence of Ms. Salazar (due to illness), there was no one to give the Treasurer's report. Mayor Finney said that everyone should have reviewed it (in their packet) and if they have questions, they should contact Ms. Salazar once she is back in the office.

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

Police Report

Chief Long presented Council with the monthly report. He added that there is also information gathered from the speed reduction sign on Pennsylvania Avenue for Council's review. Mr. Corbin asked Chief Long if there has been any interest from anyone in purchasing the three additional signs. Chief Long stated that we have had ACSO ask us to donate them to the Town of Accomac, but he thought Ms. Rillo might contact the Town of Accomac to see if they would like to purchase them. He would also like to purchase a trailer so that we can use the additional signs. There was a discussion about whether VDOT will let us use the signs temporarily. Chief Long and Ms. Rillo both responded that VDOT will not let us use the signs. The consensus of the Council is that the signs will not be donated at this time. Lastly, Chief Long reported that he has completed the FBI/LEEDA trilogy class.

Town Manager/Zoning Report

Ms. Rillo said that she ran a marketing ad for three weeks in the ES Post. She plans to pay for the ad with money from Accomack County ARPA Marketing funds. She stated this is a project that was started by the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce who worked with our former mayor, Matt Hart. Ms. Rillo plans to continue with the promotion so the town does not lose the funds (\$10,000.00). She has coordinated the monthly clean-ups and sent mailers. There were some issues with the holiday lights this year. The main fuse box on E. Main Street had a bad connection but it has been repaired. She asked Council to consider replacing the current lights and banners. She has purchased a heater for the garage. VDOT has granted permission to install the "Watch Children" signs on Badger Lane. Percy Smith has completed the inventory of the garage. He will also attend OSHA training tomorrow and Thursday. Mr. Corbin asked Ms. Rillo to research the cost of a complete overhaul of the holiday light system. He also suggested finding a company to install the lights. Council asked Ms. Rillo to get some pricing and make this an agenda item for next month.

Attorney's Report

Mr. Bundick reported working with Chief Long and Spencer Morgan on some homeless issues. He thinks we may need the landlord here at Four Corners to get involved to help with the trespass issues.

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Consideration of Minutes

Motion: To adopt the minutes of the December 4, 2023, Public Hearing(s) & Regular Monthly Meeting by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Brian Corbin. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – abstain; Lang– yes; Zember - absent. MOTION PASSED

Public Comments

Ms. Rillo read an email at the request of Arlene Evans. A copy will be attached to the minutes. Ms. Rillo stated that there are other emails from Ms. Evans. Mayor Finney said he has heard enough and said that Ms. Evans needs to come to the meetings. Mr. Bloxom asked about the time limit for public comments. Mayor Finney and Ms. Rillo both responded, “three minutes”.

Billye D. Custis stated that most people that come to this meeting have things to do but still come to the meeting. She thinks that if there is a complaint, you need to come and give that complaint to the Council. She added that she does not have any complaints. She said that (pertaining to donating the speed reduction signs) we probably cannot just donate items that were purchased with grant money. She believes, based on experience, that there is a process for disseminating things purchased with grant funds.

Council Comments

Mr. Lang said he would really like to get the public works garage built this year and use that as practice for getting the town office built. In the matter of Ms. Evan’s email, he would like to have a nice flat road in front of his house like she does.

Mr. Bloxom thanked everyone for coming.

Ms. Hill agreed with Mr. Lang about the building projects. She feels our rent is entirely too high. She added that her health has not been great which is why she has missed some meetings, but she enjoys the meetings and hopes to attend more this year.

Mr. Ferguson thanked everyone. He congratulated Mr. Bundick on his appointment as a substitute judge. Lastly, he said this lease/rent issue is a wake-up call and we have allowed ourselves to get too comfortable here.

Mayor Finney said that he had citizen call him and say that our decision to hire a full-time Public Works employee was the right one. He complimented Percy Smith on the job that he does.

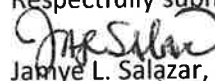
Billye D. Custis said that E.R. Custis’s building was built by Booker and the cost was around \$60,000.00 She noted that Booker handled everything, including permits.

Mr. Corbin said that he likes the new format for the meeting packets and the Treasurer’s report. Ms. Rillo thanked him and added that we had a software update and Ms. Salazar was concerned about the changes.

Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn (7:03pm) by Kate Hill and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - absent. MOTION PASSED

Respectfully submitted from audio,


Jamey L. Salazar, Clerk/Treasurer


Susan M. Rillo, Town Manager


Henry E. Finney, Mayor