

Onley Town Council
Regular Monthly Meeting
Minutes of January 13, 2025 (Postponed from January 6, 2025)
Onley Town Office, 25308 Lankford Highway, Onley, VA

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

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

Call to Order

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

Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance

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

At this time, Mayor Finney welcomed our newest Council Member, Jason Campbell.

Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Ferguson asked to add under New Business, item K. Golf Cart Permitting Process.

Motion: To adopt the agenda with the addition by Brian Corbin and seconded by Daniel Bloxom. Roll

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

Commission/Committee Reports

Public Works Garage Committee – Ms. Rillo reported that she spoke with Boss Buildings last week and they are expecting to have the building completed (on their end) by the end of January, so we should take delivery in February. Mr. Corbin asked for an explanation as to why this has taken so long. Ms. Rillo said that the hurricane several months ago caused issues in their area and they were also closed two weeks for the holidays. Mr. Lang said his father-in-law just had a \$17,000.00 pad poured and they are already coming to put up the building tomorrow. He added that it is a different company.

Procurement Policy Committee – Mr. Corbin reported that they have not met due to the holidays. The next meeting is set for January 22, 2025 (weather permitting).

Old Business

Ms. Salazar reminded Council that there are two vacancies on the Planning Commission and there is a dire need for people to serve. She added that as of right now, we don't have enough people to constitute a quorum. She asked if anyone knows of someone that may want to serve, they refer them to her or Ms. Rillo at the town office.

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New Business

Motion: To appoint Bill Ferguson to the position of Vice-Mayor for the 2025-2026 term by Woody Zember and seconded by Daniel Bloxom. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- abstain; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Ms. Salazar explained that the Town Council Code of Ethics & Model of Excellence is something that the Town Council has adopted for the last few terms on the recommendation of VML. It basically states that Council Members will act appropriately as representatives of the Town of Onley. She said that if all Council Members have read it and agree to it, a motion to adopt it would be appropriate.

Motion: To adopt the Town Council Code of Ethics & Model of Excellence by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Daniel Bloxom. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Motion: To adopt the 2025 Council Meeting Schedule as written by Brian Corbin and seconded by Woody Zember. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

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

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

Motion: To appoint Jesse Long to the position of Chief of Police by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Jason Campbell. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

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

Motion: To appoint Councilman Jason Campbell to the Planning Commission (as Council Liaison) by Brian Corbin and seconded by Daniel Bloxom. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Ms. Salazar explained that the Bank Signatory Resolution is adopted at the beginning of each term to mandate who is responsible for signing banking/financial documents on behalf of the town. She noted that since there was no change in the Vice-Mayor position, nothing needs to change unless Council would like to add someone other than the Mayor, Vice-Mayor and Treasurer. Council did not wish to make any changes at this time.

Motion: To adopt the Resolution of Bank Signatories as written by Daniel Bloxom and seconded by Woody Zember. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Mr. Bloxom asked Council to consider forming a New Town Office Construction Committee. He said it has been the goal of the Council to get out of this rented building and he thinks we need to go ahead and start working on the project since we know how time-consuming it will be. Mr. Ferguson agreed and asked if we are obligated to use the plans from before. Ms. Salazar said we cannot use those plans – they are no longer an option. Mayor Finney said we are going to need an architect. Mr. Zember said we should start from scratch. Council decided to wait until next meeting to form the committee.

Mr. Ferguson said one of our constituents said the golf cart permit process needs to be simplified, adding there is too much back and forth. He added that you must go to the office, go to the Chief, and come back to the office. Ms. Rillo said they need to come to the office for the paperwork unless they

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print it from the website. Chief Long said he meets them at their house or wherever they choose. Both said they do not feel it is too complicated. Mr. Lang said F&G needs the town's checklist, you pay them twenty dollars for the inspection and go to the town office for a decal. He asked if the Chief must inspect also. Ms. Rillo said no, either F&G or the Onley Police Department can do the inspection. Mr. Ferguson said it sounds easy enough to him, so he does not wish to proceed with any changes at this time.

Department Reports

Police Report

Chief Long presented his written report to Council. There has been another delay with the new vehicle, due to a missing bracket. He is expecting it to be ready for pickup at the end of this week. Mr. Bloxom asked about the battery for the speed sign. Chief Long said that the company wants the whole sign sent to them and he doesn't want to do that. Mr. Bloxom asked how much another battery would cost. Chief Long stated about the same as a car battery from Autozone. Mr. Corbin asked if all our officers have the same schedule and routine, adding that there is a huge difference in the monthly numbers among the four officers. Chief Long said he did not know how to explain that. He added that we cannot mandate how many tickets are written. Mr. Corbin said he realizes that but added that on paper it seems that some officers are always doing much more than others. Chief Long said he knows that our officers are doing their job. Mayor Finney agreed with Mr. Corbin and said this is the same thing every month. He asked Chief Long to talk with his officers and see what the issue may be. Mr. Lang also agreed with Mr. Corbin and Mayor Finney.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Salazar reported that Councilman Bloxom went to the Elected Officials Conference. She said that within the next two months (from the date they assumed office), all elected officials are required to attend FOIA training. She said that it can be live or online. It can also be reviewed with the Town Attorney. She reported three business that are almost two months delinquent with meals tax and one that is almost three months delinquent on transient occupancy tax. The delinquent 2024 real estate and personal property tax bills were mailed last week. She will be turning some delinquent taxpayers over to James Elliott for collection and will be creating some DMV stops for delinquent personal property tax. Mr. Lang asked if we plan to keep the portable bathrooms at the park. Ms. Salazar said she believes that was the decision that Council made some time ago.

Motion: To accept the Treasurer's Report by Brian Corbin and seconded by Bill Ferguson. No vote was taken at this time.

Motion: To pay the December 2024 payables by Brian Corbin and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Ms. Salazar reported that the money market account at Taylor Bank has dropped to 1.87%. She said that our money market account at PNC Bank currently has a rate of 4.50%. She asked if Council would like to move some money from Taylor Bank to PNC Bank to secure the better rate. Mr. Lang asked Ms. Salazar if she has contacted Taylor Bank to request a better rate. Ms. Salazar said she has not contacted Taylor Bank. Mr. Corbin said that he would like to move all of it. Mayor Finney said he thinks we should leave some at Taylor Bank. Ms. Salazar suggested moving \$800,000.00.

Motion: To move the entire balance of the money market account at Taylor Bank to the PNC Bank money market account by Brian Corbin and seconded by Daniel Bloxom. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

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Town Manager's Report

Ms. Rillo reported that the playground equipment installation was completed the first week of January. Percy Smith periodically checks the equipment after bad weather to make sure it is safe. The holiday decorations and the park Christmas tree have been removed and are being stored in the garage. The mosquito truck has been moved outside until the new garage is finished. Mr. Corbin said the Christmas lights were great, but he would like to see us purchase some more for next year. He asked Ms. Rillo if she had created the guidelines for the new Planning Commission. She said they should follow the by-laws that are already in place. He said he means the rules that were set at last month's meeting by Council involving meeting location and how often they meet (at the Council's request). She said she has not, but she will. Lastly, he asked that at next month's meeting she give them a picture and her thoughts about the town office project. Mr. Zember asked if there were any problems at the park. Ms. Rillo said no. He asked Ms. Rillo to make sure that she is keeping the Council informed when important matters arise. Mr. Corbin asked if Council could get a weekly update about things happening in town. Ms. Rillo said that she lets Council know everything they need to know when it happens.

Attorney's Report

Mr. Bundick had nothing to report. He thanked Council for the holiday gift. Mr. Lang said that his neighbors have installed a long shed and have now hung curtains. He said he does not believe that it is being used just for storage. He asked Mr. Bundick what can be done if someone is living there. Mr. Bundick said that it is a zoning matter and there are mechanisms in place to deal with it. Ms. Rillo said that it is a new homeowner that has just purchased the property. She spoke with him, and he did get permission to add the accessory building. His brother (who is part of his household) will be back and forth between his house and the building. She added that there is no separate electricity or water at this time.

Consideration of Minutes

Motion: To adopt the minutes of December 2, 2024, Regular Monthly Meeting by Daniel Bloxom and seconded by Rodney Lang. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Campbell – abstain; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Public Comments

Billye D. Custis said that when Ms. Salazar was the Town Manager, she provided a weekly manager's report to the Town Council. She said that it was very helpful and thinks that it may satisfy Mr. Zember's request for better communication.

John Dennis asked why the Public Works employee starts work at 6:00am. He said that it is still dark, and he doesn't know what he can be doing at that time of the day. Ms. Rillo said that's when he likes to come in and he finds that there is less traffic on the roads.

Council Comments

Mr. Campbell said he is excited to be here. He thanked everyone that voted for him. His experience has to do with community relations – he likes working with the public. He is hoping to have (and help with) some more events at McMath Park.

Mr. Ferguson welcomed Mr. Campbell and said he will be a great addition to Council. He thanked everyone for all that they do to make things run smoothly. He would like to start moving on the construction of the new town office.

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Mr. Bloxom thanked everyone. He is very grateful for the opportunity to attend the Elected Officials Conference. He encouraged everyone to attend if they can, adding they are having another one this summer.

Mr. Corbin agreed with Mr. Ferguson about the construction of the new town office. He added that Council only meets twelve times a year and that year goes quickly when you're trying to accomplish big things like building a town office. He agreed with Billye D. Custis and Woody Zember that Council needs more communication from the Town Manager. He said he feels left out sometimes, and he enjoyed the updates that Council used to get about things happening in the town. Mayor Finney reminded everyone that everything is covered under FOIA. Ms. Rillo agreed, adding that emails and texts are covered under FOIA. She urged everyone to stop by the office.

Mr. Zember thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He said the fact that we were able to re-appoint our current employees shows what a good group we have and how well things are going. He welcomed Mr. Campbell and agreed that he is a nice addition to Council. He said he understands that things are covered by FOIA, but we are not trying to keep things from anyone, so he doesn't understand what difference it makes. He added that if there is a confidential matter, it could be left out of a written report and talked about in person at the office.

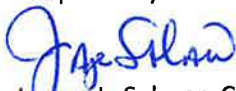
Mr. Lang thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He welcomed Janet Turner, Accomack County School Board Member, who was in attendance. He asked that as the Council starts this new term, the public hold them accountable, adding that the Council works for the public.

Mayor Finney thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He thanked all the employees. He said we have a great Council, and he is looking forward to the next two years.

Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn (6:42pm) by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Brian Corbin. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom - yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Respectfully submitted,



Janye L. Salazar, Clerk/Treasurer



Henry E. Finney, Mayor