

Onley Town Council
Regular Monthly Meeting
Minutes of February 3, 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

Council Members Absent: 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 Campbell. Councilman Corbin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adoption of Agenda

Motion: To adopt the agenda by Brian Corbin and seconded by Rodney Lang. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom - yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Lang– yes; Zember - absent. MOTION PASSED

Commission/Committee Reports

Public Works Garage Committee – Ms. Rillo reported that she expects to take delivery of the building some time this month. If everything goes as expected, it takes about four days to set the building. Mayor Finney said that he feels that they have put us off long enough and he thinks we need to press them for an exact date. Ms. Rillo reminded Council that the company is behind due to the hurricane that hit them last fall. She added that they are unable to give us an exact date for completion. Mr. Corbin agreed with Mayor Finney that this is not acceptable, and we need to press them for an exact date or pursue other action. Mr. Lang said he thinks they are giving us the “old run around”. Billye D. Custis stated that she has been online and looked at reviews for this company and many of the reviews state that other people are having the same problems that we are having with this company. She added that one person wanted their money back and the company refused, citing the contract. Mayor Finney asked what our contract says about that. Ms. Rillo said she would need to read it again to be sure. Council asked Mr. Bundick to review the contract and write a letter to the company insisting that the building be completed by February 28, 2025.

Procurement Policy Committee – Mr. Corbin reported that they have not met due to illness.

Old Business

Ms. Rillo reported that Ms. Salazar sent an email to Councilman Campbell, Don Bowling and Tom Cherry containing the Planning Commission by-laws, some training/orientation information, a contact list and

**Onley Town Council
Regular Monthly Meeting
Minutes of February 3, 2025**

Onley Town Office, 25308 Lankford Highway, Onley, VA

minutes from the December 2024 meeting whereby Council made the motion to limit the Planning Commission to only meet at the request of the Town Council. She also suggested that they have an organizational meeting in February, if possible. They were also told that any future meetings should be held at the town office and Mr. Campbell has been given a key to the office for that reason. Lastly, she said we are still in need of people to serve on the Planning Commission.

Ms. Rillo asked Council to appoint a New Town Office Construction Committee. She said it should be two members of Council and herself. She presented Council with a picture of a metal building from Morton Buildings along with a sketch of the property. She asked Council if they want to talk to Morton or pursue other companies. Mayor Finney said we will need to get bids or possibly three estimates. He asked what the cost per square foot is for this building. Ms. Rillo said she did not know – this is just a picture she pulled from their website. She added that they will not talk to you unless you are serious about moving forward with the purchase of the building.

Motion: To appoint Daniel Bloxom, Rodney Lang and Susan Rillo to the New Town Office Construction Committee by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Jason Campbell. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -abstain; Campbell – yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Lang– abstain; Zember - absent. MOTION PASSED

At this time, Mr. Corbin stated that it has been very difficult scheduling Procurement Policy Committee meetings since some people work and are unable to attend meetings during working hours. He worries that this will be the case with the Town Office Construction Committee. He cautioned the committee to avoid this, if possible, to make things move at a faster pace.

New Business

Mr. Ferguson presented Council with some information about a portable/floating water supply pump. He is doing so on the recommendation of his Deputy Chief at the Tasley Volunteer Fire Company. He said he does not expect Council to take any action tonight but asked that they read over the information and consider it for discussion at next month's meeting. He added that he is expecting some more information from the Forestry Department, and he will share that information once it is received. Mr. Corbin asked if Mr. Ferguson is advocating that we buy two pumps – one for Tasley and one for Onancock. Mr. Ferguson said that he is. Mr. Corbin asked if it wouldn't be advantageous for us to just give them a donation and they use the funds to purchase the pump. Mr. Ferguson said he would not be opposed to that. Mr. Corbin cautioned Mr. Ferguson about making requests to the Council (of which he is a member) while he is also the Tasley Fire Chief. He said he would like to hear from Onancock's Chief on this matter. Mr. Ferguson said that Onancock's Chief was supposed to be here tonight, and he is not sure why he isn't. Mr. Ferguson also noted that he will not be voting on this matter should it come to a motion. There was a small discussion about water sources and dry hydrants around town.

Department Reports

Police Report

Chief Long presented his written report to Council. He reported that the mobile speed sign was taken down for the month of January but has been re-deployed today on West Main Street. At last month's meeting, Council requested that he speak with his officers about the disparity in numbers. He said that he has spoken to the officers individually but plans to hold a department meeting on Wednesday. The camera system will be installed in the new patrol vehicle on Thursday, and the vehicle will be operational. Mr. Ferguson asked if there were any issues with the new radios. Chief Long said there are not – they are all installed and ready for use once the time comes. Mr. Corbin once again expressed concern about the disparity in the reported numbers, adding that speaking to them individually

**Onley Town Council
Regular Monthly Meeting
Minutes of February 3, 2025**

Onley Town Office, 25308 Lankford Highway, Onley, VA

apparently didn't work. Chief Long reiterated the department meeting on Wednesday. Mr. Lang agreed with Mr. Corbin and asked if anyone was on vacation this past month. Chief Long said there were some illnesses, but January is typically a slow month. Mr. Bloxom asked where we are with E-tickets. Chief Long said he is still working with Tyler Technologies. Mayor Finney said he thinks that Council needs to start approving/reviewing the schedules again. He added that there have been issues with shifts not being covered. He would like to see past schedules showing who didn't show up for their shift, an explanation for why not, and who covered the shift. Chief Long said he is unaware of any shifts not being covered. Mayor Finney said there have been some. Chief Long said there may have been some around the holidays and added that he makes Ms. Rillo aware when schedule changes are made. Mayor Finney and Mr. Corbin said the Council needs to know what's going on also. Mr. Lang said he was never in favor of giving up Council's access to the schedule.

Motion: To have Chief Long provide the Council with a PD schedule for the previous month and the present month by Brian Corbin and seconded by Rodney Lang.

Before the vote was taken, Mr. Bloxom asked if this schedule would include officer's names. Mr. Corbin said yes – how else will we know who's working. Mr. Campbell asked why the names would be removed. Mr. Bloxom said for officer safety as well as the safety of family members. Mr. Lang said that Council Members would never share that information with anyone, so he doesn't feel that it is an issue. Mr. Bloxom said his opinion is that Council should come to the office and view the schedule, but copies should not be passed out to anyone. Mr. Corbin stated that Council Members took an oath to serve this town, and nothing should be hidden from them. He added that if Council Members cannot be trusted with privileged information, then they shouldn't be serving, and the town has bigger issues than just the schedule. **Mr. Corbin repeated his earlier motion** (see above). Mr. Campbell said he is concerned that this is a safety issue and suggested using numbers instead of names.

A roll call vote was taken on the above motion: Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -no; Campbell – no; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- no; Lang– yes; Zember - absent. MOTION FAILED

Mayor Finney asked who looked at the schedule last month. No one responded. He asked who has looked at the schedule at all since Council stopped receiving a copy. No one responded. Mr. Bloxom said there was no need to look at it. Mayor Finney asked him how he knows that there hasn't been a need to look at it – how do you know there are no issues. Mr. Bloxom stated that he relies on Chief Long and Ms. Rillo to do what they are supposed to do. Mr. Corbin stated that they work for the Council. Mr. Ferguson said there sounds like there is a problem that he has not been made aware of, and he would like to have a closed session to discuss it, if necessary.

Motion: To see a schedule that indicates the officer by number and not name or badge number for three months to monitor productivity by Jason Campbell and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Lang– yes; Zember - absent. MOTION PASSED

Mr. Corbin asked to make another comment in response to Mr. Ferguson's comment. He said that on two occasions last month, he thought about calling a police officer but didn't because he didn't know who was on duty. He said this is not meant to be a tool for checking up on the officers. He said that the Council having a copy of the work schedule does not put the officer's safety in jeopardy. Mr. Bloxom disagreed and said it puts the officer's families in danger. At this time, Mayor Finney said we need to move on from this discussion.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Salazar presented her financial report to Council, noting that the numbers are as of January 30, 2025. She reported that the delinquent real estate list has been sent to James Elliott. She has not

**Onley Town Council
Regular Monthly Meeting
Minutes of February 3, 2025**

Onley Town Office, 25308 Lankford Highway, Onley, VA

submitted the delinquent personal property taxes to the DMV because there was an issue with some proposed legislation, but that legislation did not get enough support to move forward. Lastly, she reported that the quarterly and year-end taxes and filings have been completed and submitted.

Mr. Lang had a question about a bill that was paid to Shore Tire for brakes/rotors and an oil change on a patrol vehicle.

Motion: To pay the January 2025 payables by Daniel Bloxom and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call

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

Ms. Salazar reported that there is a CD that is maturing at PNC Bank on February 11, 2025. She asked Council if they wish to come back at that time to decide about it or if they prefer to have her close the CD, deposit it into a money market account and discuss options for the money at the March meeting.

Motion: To close the CD maturing at PNC Bank on February 11, 2025, and deposit it into a money market and discuss it at the March 2025 meeting by Rodney Lang and seconded by Daniel Bloxom.

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

Mr. Lang asked Ms. Salazar to check with all the banks to get us the best rates.

Town Manager's Report

Ms. Rillo reported that she doesn't have anything new to report other than what was discussed earlier in the night. She is attending a webinar tomorrow with Senator Mark Warner to discuss how the impending freeze on federal funds will impact Virginia localities.

Attorney's Report

Mr. Bundick had nothing to report.

Ms. Salazar reminded Council that they have until March 6, 2025, to attend the Elected Officials FOIA training.

Consideration of Minutes

Motion: To adopt the minutes of January 13, 2025, Regular Monthly Meeting (Postponed from January 6, 2025) by Jason Campbell and seconded by Daniel Bloxom. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Lang– yes; Zember - absent. MOTION PASSED

Public Comments

Billye D. Custis signed up to speak but did not wish to at this time.

Council Comments

Mr. Campbell said he got a good report from a member of the public about Officer Sacks. There was a child at Wendy's that had been fearful of law enforcement in the past. After Officer Sacks interacted with him for about ten minutes and gave him a teddy bear, the child now has a better feeling about police officers.

Mr. Ferguson thanked everyone. He said that even though we disagreed about some things tonight, we remained civil and that's how things get done.

Mr. Bloxom thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He said it is sometimes good to disagree occasionally – it's not normal to always agree on everything. He apologized for his tone earlier, saying that sometimes he is passionate about things.

**Onley Town Council
Regular Monthly Meeting
Minutes of February 3, 2025**

Onley Town Office, 25308 Lankford Highway, Onley, VA

Mr. Corbin thanked Ms. Rillo for the weekly town manger report that she emailed to them. That's what he was asking for and he knows that Mr. Zember made some comments, and he believes that's what he wanted as well. He also said he likes the picture of the town office building. He thinks this is a very good first step towards getting a building built.

Mr. Lang thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He likes to see the Town Manager and the Chief of Police being aggressive by holding meetings when there are problems. He said he won't bother anyone if they are doing their jobs. He asked that the employees trust the Council just as the Council trusts the employees.

Mayor Finney thanked the Council. He agreed that sometimes people get upset but that's what we are here for – to offer our opinions on things. He said that's why the citizens elected us.

Closed Session

Motion: To go into closed session (6:46pm) 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 the end of the six-month probationary period for Officer Philip Barringer by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Daniel Bloxom. Roll

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

MOTION PASSED

Open Session & Certification of Closed Session

Motion: To return to open session (7:11pm) by Daniel Bloxom and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call

Vote: Bloxom -yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Lang– yes; Zember - absent. 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; Campbell – yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Lang– yes; Zember - absent.

Motion: To extend the probation period for Officer Philip Barringer for an additional six months by Brian Corbin and seconded by Jason Campbell. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Lang– yes; Zember - absent. MOTION PASSED

Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn (7:11pm) by Daniel Bloxom and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom - yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Lang– yes; Zember - absent. MOTION PASSED

Respectfully submitted,



Janaye L. Salazar, Clerk/Treasurer



Henry E. Finney, Mayor