

**Onley Town Council  
Public Hearing(s) & Regular Monthly Meeting  
Minutes of June 2, 2025  
Onley Town Office, 25308 Lankford Highway, Onley, VA**

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

Council Members Absent:      Brian Corbin

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. He noted that Mr. Corbin had a medical procedure and is unable to attend tonight's meeting.

**Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance**

The invocation was given by Councilman Campbell. In the absence of Councilman Corbin, Councilman Lang led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Adoption of Agenda**

Mr. Lang asked to change item # 7F. Children at Play Sign/East Main Street to Children at Play Sign/East & West Main Street.

**Motion: To adopt the agenda with the change by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Rodney Lang. Roll Call**

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

**Public Hearing for Proposed 2025-2026 Budget**

Ms. Salazar read the Rules for Public Participation.

Ms. Salazar presented the Proposed 2025-2026 Budget. A copy will be attached to the original minutes and available upon request. She noted that we have a balanced budget and there are no changes in tax rates. There is a reserve amount of \$38,309.00 used to balance the budget.

There were no public comments.

**Motion: To adjourn the public hearing for proposed 2025-2026 budget by Jason Campbell and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote:** Bloxom -yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- absent; Ferguson- yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

**Public Hearing for the Re-appropriation of Balance of Funds Remaining – Public Works Garage Project Budget**

Ms. Salazar presented the Public Works Garage Project Budget. A copy will be attached to the original minutes and is available upon request.

There were no public comments.

**Motion: To adjourn the public hearing by Jason Campbell and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote:** Bloxom -yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- absent; Ferguson- yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

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**Public Hearing for the Re-appropriation of Balance of Funds Remaining – George N. McMath Park Budget**

Ms. Salazar presented the George N. McMath Park Budget. A copy will be attached to the original minutes and is available upon request.

There were no public comments.

**Motion: To adjourn the public hearing by Jason Campbell and seconded by Daniel Bloxom. Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Public Hearing for the Re-appropriation of Balance of Funds Remaining – New Town Hall Construction Budget**

Ms. Salazar presented the New Town Hall Construction Budget. A copy will be attached to the original minutes and is available upon request.

There were no public comments.

**Motion: To adjourn the public hearing by Jason Campbell and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Regular Monthly Meeting Cont'd**

**Commission/Committee Reports**

**Public Works Garage Committee** – Ms. Rillo reported that Boss Buildings is sending a representative here on June 10<sup>th</sup> to repair the garage door. Mr. Lang asked Ms. Rillo if she researched the possibility of a trough to keep the water out from under the lean-to. She said that she has not but she plans to call Mr. Patterson to see if he can help with that. Mayor Finney suggested 5200 caulking. Mr. Lang said he would prefer the trough.

**Town Office Construction Committee** – Ms. Rillo said they met on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. They discussed the possibility of hiring a company to do a design/build or hiring an architect, buy those plans, and put them out on an RFP. She would like to issue an RFP to do a design/build. She likes the idea of having companies submit their design ideas with pricing for the actual construction. She plans to have the committee come up with a list to use in the RFP. Mayor Finney said everything needs to be put out for bid and everyone needs to be bidding on the same thing. Mr. Lang would like everyone on Council to have input. Mayor Finney said we have a committee, and the committee needs to come up with something and we need to hire an architect. The committee will create a list of needs for the building to give to an architect.

**Old Business**

Mr. Campbell presented Council with three estimates for the cornhole boards – the difference being how much color we want in the town logo. Mr. Campbell stated that his preference is the two-color logo in the amount of \$3,760.00. He noted that we do have about \$6,500.00 left in the park budget. He also suggested where the boards should be placed at the park. Mr. Lang asked if the pond at the park has been repaired. Ms. Rillo said that there are still problems with it. Mr. Lang also stated the grass is growing up through the liner. Ms. Rillo said that Percy is working on that issue. Council decided that the boards will be placed in concrete, using forms. All work will be done by Percy Smith.

**Motion: To accept the bid in the amount of \$3,760.00 for the purchase of two sets of cornhole boards with two colors by Jason Campbell and seconded by Daniel Bloxom. Roll Call Vote:** Bloxom -yes;

Campbell – yes; Corbin- absent; Ferguson- yes; Lang– no; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

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**New Business**

Council set a date of June 16, 2025, to come back and adopt the 2025-2026 Proposed Budget. At that time, they will also discuss the CD maturing at Taylor Bank.

Ms. Rillo reported that we received one bid for the town garage electrical project. The bid is from S&S Mechanical in the amount of \$21,593.36. She added that he can start work in two weeks, he needs 1/3 down to start and change orders are billed separately.

**Motion: To accept the bid from S&S Mechanical in the amount of \$21,593.36 by Rodney Lang and seconded by Jason Campbell. Roll Call Vote:** Bloxom -yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- absent; Ferguson- yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Ms. Salazar stated that she has received current financials from the Onancock & Tasley Fire Companies. She added that there is \$20,000.00 in the fire company donation line item and if Council wishes to donate from the current budget, they need to do so before June 30, 2025. Council asked Ms. Salazar to give them a summary of the current budget/financial situation. She did so and added that we still have a month of income to collect as well as bank franchise tax from three banks.

**Motion: To donate \$12,000.00 to the Onancock Fire Company and \$8,000.00 to the Tasley Fire Company by Rodney Lang and seconded by Woody Zember. Roll Call Vote:** Bloxom -yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- absent; Ferguson- yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Chief Long reported to Council that there is an error in Ordinance #001-24, the ordinance that gives our police officers the authority to issue summonses. The word “within” has been typed as “which”. Mr. Bundick recommended that Council make a motion to correct the wording.

**Motion: To amend Ordinance 001-24 changing the word “which” to “within” by Jason Campbell and seconded by Rodney Lang. Roll Call Vote:** Bloxom -yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- absent; Ferguson- yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Mr. Lang asked Council to consider the addition of “Children at Play” signs on East & West Main Street – one by CVS on West Main Street and one coming into town on East Main Street. Ms. Rillo said that West Main Street starts on this side of the highway so we will need to add one there also (where the taco truck is). She said that means at least six signs. She quoted the cost to be around \$1,000.00 for every two signs – this includes signs, hardware, and bond and permit fees to VDOT. She estimated the costs for six signs to be about \$3,300.00. Mr. Campbell said that while he does believe children’s safety is very important and speed is an issue, he feels that if we put signs up for some streets, we will need to do it for all of them. He added that if you put up too many signs, people stop paying attention to them. Mr. Lang said two signs were just put up on a street with one kid. Mr. Bloxom asked where the money to cover the costs would come from. Ms. Rillo said she is not sure. Mayor Finney said they have signs that individuals can purchase and put in their yards. Chief Long said they do, and they are still governed by VDOT rule. Mr. Lang said he would like to forget the whole thing. He added that he is not happy that we are paying \$4,000.00 for cornhole boards but won’t cover the costs of these signs. He became visibly upset and Mayor Finney and Mr. Campbell told him that he was being inappropriate. At this time (6:46pm), Mr. Lang stood up from the Council table, announced he is resigning from the Town Council and left the meeting.

Mr. Campbell asked if Mr. Lang had just resigned. Mr. Zember stated he did say that, but he may change his mind. Mr. Zember also said that he thinks Mr. Lang will need to write a letter if he wants to officially resign. In the matter of the signs, Ms. Rillo asked Chief Long if they are legally enforceable. Chief Long said they are not – they are just a notification that there may be kids playing in the area. He added that what he was trying to tell Mr. Lang (in response to Mayor Finney’s suggestion) is that those signs are not VDOT approved whereas the ones Mr. Lang wants would be if we were to purchase them.

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Ms. Salazar asked Council to consider entering into a cooperative agreement with Accomack County for the VA Litter Grant Program. She said that while she has been against it in previous years, the requirements and allowable use of the grant have become so strict, she thinks we may want to consider it. She added that we are not locked in – we can opt out whenever we choose.

**Motion: To enter into a Cooperative Agreement with Accomack County for the Litter Grant by Daniel Bloxom and seconded by Jason Campbell. Roll Call Vote:** Bloxom -yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- absent; Ferguson- yes; Lang– absent; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

### **Department Reports**

#### **Police Report**

Chief Long presented Council with his monthly totals report. He added that there is no street sign report from Pennsylvania Avenue due to an issue with the sign. He has contacted the company to have this matter corrected. Mayor Finney asked when he contacted the company. Chief Long said he called them today. Chief Long introduced our new officer, Anthony Sayo, to the Council.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Ms. Salazar presented her report to Council. A copy if available upon request. There is a business that is now delinquent three months on transient occupancy tax. She told Council that she is still waiting for the Anthem insurance renewal. She noted that the amount of the CD maturing at Taylor Bank is a ballpark figure – they cannot give us the exact amount until maturity.

**Motion: To pay the May 2025 payables by Daniel Bloxom and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote:** Bloxom -yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- absent; Ferguson- yes; Lang– absent; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

#### **Town Manager's Report**

Ms. Rillo reported that she doesn't have much to report because she reports to Council weekly now. She presented them with a picture of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary banners and said Carl Gray will be installing them this month. She asked Council to choose the font on the holiday banners that she has chosen. Mr. Zember said he doesn't like the banners, so he doesn't care. Everyone else chose the bold font.

#### **Attorney's Report**

Mr. Bundick reported that it has been a quiet month. He has reviewed some emails that we have recently received in reference to police enforcement, signage and some other things, and our response to them will be that we will respond to FOIA requests only. He said that if the matter with Mr. Lang moves forward, we will proceed with filling his seat properly as we've done in the past.

#### **Consideration of Minutes**

**Motion: To adopt the minutes of May 5, 2025, Regular Monthly Meeting by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Woody Zember. Roll Call Vote:** Bloxom -yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- absent; Ferguson- yes; Lang– absent; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

#### **Public Comments**

**Billye D. Custis** told Ms. Salazar that she received her Anthem notice on Saturday and Mr. Dennis got his today. Ms. Salazar thanked her and said it wasn't in the mail today. Mr. Zember asked about the

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increase in cost. She said it was better than 10%. Lastly, she said that she thinks Taylor Bank's interest rates are not usually available until Tuesday.

**Council Comments**

**Mr. Campbell** thanked Council for approving the purchase of cornhole boards.

**Mr. Ferguson** thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He welcomed Officer Sayo. He added that he is appalled at what happened earlier tonight and he hopes that no one thinks that it's a reflection of our town and how we do things.

**Mr. Bloxom** said he thinks it was a good meeting. He thinks a lot of good things are being accomplished.

**Mr. Zember** thanked everyone. He is looking forward to using the park this summer.

**Mayor Finney** apologized for the incident that happened earlier in the night. He asked Billye D. Custis to relay to Arlene Evans that we aren't going to answer her emails anymore unless it is something covered under FOIA. He said if she cannot come to the meetings because she is ill, she should be less concerned with the town, his woods and all the other things she complains about. Ms. Custis said that it is not her job to relay things to Ms. Evans.

Mayor Finney welcomed Officer Sayo.

**Closed Session**

**Motion: To go into closed session (7:06pm) 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 General Government, Public Works, and the Onley Police Department, specifically related to employee evaluations/salary changes by Daniel Bloxom and seconded by Jason Campbell. Roll Call Vote:** Bloxom -yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- absent; Ferguson- yes; Lang– absent; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

**Open Session & Certification of Closed Session**

**Motion: To return to open session (7:53pm) by Jason Campbell and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll**

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

Mayor Finney stated that no decisions were made tonight, and Council will once again re-visit the subject matter discussed in the Closed Session at another Closed Session on June 16<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Salazar confirmed this for the June 16<sup>th</sup> agenda.

Mr. Campbell asked Mr. Bundick how Council should proceed with Mr. Lang's resignation. Mr. Bundick said we will let it "fly a little bit" for now and pick it up at the June 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Adjourn**

**Motion: To adjourn (7:54pm) by Daniel Bloxom and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote:** Bloxom - yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- absent; Ferguson- yes; Lang– absent; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

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Respectfully submitted,



Jamye L. Salazar, Clerk/Treasurer



Henry E. Finney, Mayor