

**Onley Town Council  
Special Meeting  
Minutes of June 16, 2025  
Onley Town Office, 25308 Lankford Highway, Onley, VA**

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

Council Members Absent:      Rodney Lang

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 Vice-Mayor Ferguson and Councilman Zember led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Adoption of Agenda**

**Motion: To adopt the agenda by Jason Campbell. There was no second as Mr. Corbin asked to make a change at this time via the following motion:**

**Motion: To strike item 11. Discussion of Incident Involving a Council Member/Censure of Council Member by Brian Corbin. There was no second to this motion.**

Mr. Campbell asked Mr. Corbin why he wished to strike that discussion. Mr. Corbin stated that we are here to serve the Town, and we should work as a team. He added that a censure is nothing more than telling a person that they have done something wrong. He stated that Mr. Lang knows he was wrong and has issued a letter of apology for his actions which will be read into the minutes. He feels that censuring a fellow Council Member is going to put a negative spotlight on the town and does not foster teamwork. Mr. Campbell said that he would feel better about the apology if Mr. Lang presented it himself. He said that he is struggling with the fact that Mr. Lang wrote a letter of apology and is now making the town clerk read it. Additionally, if we are indeed a team, we should support our staff. He specifically mentioned the derogatory remarks made to the Chief of Police and added that he (Chief Long) should receive a personal apology. Lastly, he said he believes that the Council should send a message to Mr. Lang that we will not support that behavior when it comes to our employees. Mr. Corbin said that Councilman Lang has some very serious family issues and while he did behave badly, he is under a lot of stress, and he has apologized. He added that proper procedure is to have the Clerk read items in someone's absence. Mr. Campbell said he respects Mr. Corbin's right to make his motion, but he does feel that Mr. Lang should apologize in person at the next meeting that he is able to attend. At this time, Mr. Bloxom said he will second Mr. Campbell's previous motion to adopt the agenda as written.

**Motion: To adopt the agenda as written by Jason Campbell and seconded by Daniel Bloxom. Roll Call**

**Vote:** Bloxom -yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- no; Ferguson- yes; Lang– absent; Zember - no. MOTION PASSED

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**Adoption of Proposed 2025-2026 Budget**

**Motion: To adopt the Proposed 2025-2026 Budget by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Jason Campbell.**

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

**MOTION PASSED**

**Adoption of Public Works Garage Project Budget**

**Motion: To adopt the Public Works Garage Budget by Jason Campbell and seconded by Daniel**

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

**Adoption of George N. McMath Park Budget**

**Motion: To adopt the George N. McMath Park Budget by Daniel Bloxom and seconded by Jason**

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

**Adoption of New Town Hall Construction Budget**

**Motion: To adopt the New Town Hall Construction Budget by Jason Campbell and seconded by Bill**

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

**CD Maturing at Taylor Bank**

Ms. Salazar stated that the actual amount of the CD maturing tomorrow is \$520,591.52. She reminded everyone that the amount on the agenda was the “ballpark” amount that was provided to us before the June 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. She presented Council with CD and money market rates from Taylor Bank and Atlantic Union, adding that PNC was unable to quote rates without more notice.

**Motion: To close the CD at Taylor Bank in the amount of \$520,591.52 and move the balance to our money market account at Atlantic Union Bank by Daniel Bloxom and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll**

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

**MOTION PASSED**

**Letter From Councilman Rodney Lang**

Mayor Finney read a letter from Councilman Rodney Lang. A copy will be attached to the original minutes and available upon request.

**Discussion of Incident Involving a Council Member/Censure of Council Member**

Mr. Campbell said he has two issues with what happened at the June 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting: (1) how Mr. Lang spoke to the Council, the Mayor and the Chief of Police because he was frustrated that he didn’t get his way about the signs he wanted. Mr. Campbell added that we have all had discussions and things didn’t go our way, but to curse, yell and accuse creates a hostile atmosphere and is not acceptable. Chief Long should not have to withstand that behavior simply because Mr. Lang is having a bad day. (2) Mr. Lang’s wife’s attack on my minor child. Mr. Campbell said that his daughter is sixteen years old and for Mrs. Lang to make comments about her at a meeting is inappropriate and unacceptable. It also violates our Town Council public participation rules. He added that under FOIA, Sec. 2.2-377H and the case law *Steinberg v. Jasper County*, we are allowed to temporarily ban citizens for disruptive behavior in town meetings. He is willing to table all of this and discuss it again if a better apology is offered. He is not content with the letter of apology that was written.

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Mr. Ferguson agreed that what happened that night was appalling and he was disappointed. After thinking and praying about this matter, he does believe in forgiveness. He added that he feels we dodged a bullet with this because the media didn't get wind of it. He agreed with Mr. Campbell that a more personal apology is needed. He is not in favor of a censure if Mr. Lang offers a more sincere apology.

Mr. Bloxom said he is on the fence about this. He understands that people get emotional and added that sometimes we let things get the best of us, noting that it has happened to him before. He does feel the letter is very generic and maybe his apology needs to be more direct and personal to some of the people he offended.

Mr. Corbin said he agrees with some of the things that have been said. He added that he did not hear the remarks made by Mrs. Lang on the audio, but our issue is not with her – it is with Mr. Lang because he is the Council Member. He added that we certainly cannot censure a Council Member because of something his wife said. Mr. Campbell agreed with that. He agreed with Mr. Bloxom that we have all lost our cool before in these meetings – himself included. He doesn't feel a verbal apology is necessary, but he will go along with it if that's what Council wishes. He is not in favor of censure.

Mr. Zember said he is fine with Mr. Lang's letter of apology, and he does not want to move forward with a censure.

Mr. Ferguson said in the past, Council voted to censure someone because there was a pattern of bad behavior and that person was unapologetic – that is not the case with Mr. Lang. He does not have a history of bad behavior, and he has apologized for his actions.

Mayor Finney polled Council about their desire for a verbal personal apology from Mr. Lang: Bloxom - yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- no; Ferguson- yes; Lang– absent; Zember - no.

Mr. Ferguson said he believes that Mr. Lang will be willing to apologize in person. Mr. Bundick asked Mr. Ferguson to have that conversation with Mr. Lang. Mr. Corbin asked what will happen if Mr. Lang refuses to apologize. Council said they will have this discussion again. Mr. Corbin said we should not be censuring our own people when they have asked for forgiveness. Mr. Campbell said he believes that it is the Council's responsibility to hold each other accountable.

**Closed Session**

**Motion: To go into closed session (6:23pm) 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 Bill Ferguson and seconded by Daniel Bloxom. Roll Call Vote:** Bloxom -yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Lang– absent; Zember - yes. **MOTION PASSED**

**Open Session & Certification of Closed Session**

**Motion: To return to open session (7:36pm) by Daniel Bloxom and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote:** Bloxom -yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- yes; 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- yes; Ferguson- yes; Lang– absent; Zember - yes. **MOTION PASSED**

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**Motion: To give the following cost of living and performance increases in the following percentages:**  
**Susan Rillo – 3.0%; Jamye Salazar – 6.5%; Jess Long – 4.0%; Pat Coulter – 6.5%; Nathan Anderson –**  
**6.5%; Percy Smith – 6.5% by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Daniel Bloxom. Roll Call Vote:** Bloxom -yes;  
Campbell – yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Lang– absent; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

**Adjourn**

**Motion: To adjourn (7:38pm) by Daniel Bloxom and seconded by Brian Corbin. Roll Call Vote:** Bloxom -  
yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Lang– absent; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Respectfully submitted,



Jamye L. Salazar, Clerk/Treasurer



Henry E. Finney, Mayor