

**Onley Town Council
Regular Monthly Meeting
Minutes of July 7, 2025
Onley Town Office, 25308 Lankford Highway, Onley, VA**

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

Council Members Absent: Jason Campbell

Staff Present: 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 Zember. Councilman Bloxom led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adoption of Agenda

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

Commission/Committee Reports

Public Works Garage Committee – Ms. Rillo reported that they have not met. She asked for someone to volunteer to help her put together an RFP for the plumbing work and the construction of a small enclosure to use as an office. Mr. Lang volunteered to help with that. Ms. Rillo said that the county's electrical inspector should be there Wednesday and once the report is back, we will contact ANEC for the final piece of the installation.

Town Office Construction Committee – Ms. Rillo reported that they have not met. She would like to meet and begin writing the RFP for architectural services when Mr. Lang and Mr. Bloxom are available.

Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

New Business

Ms. Rillo asked Council to adopt Ordinance 001-25 Adoption of State Law. She explained that the adoption of this ordinance allows our officers to perform traffic control and issue summons for violations. She read the ordinance into the minutes.

Motion: To adopt Ordinance 001-25 by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Daniel Bloxom. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Campbell – absent; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

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Ms. Salazar stated that the employee health insurance is up for renewal beginning August 1, 2025. She stated that the premium will increase 8.30% but that we budgeted 12% so we should be covered for the additional costs. She also presented Council with additional options for coverage.

Motion: To renew the current Anthem Health Insurance policy with an 8.30% premium increase by Woody Zember and seconded by Rodney Lang. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Campbell – absent; Corbin-yes; Ferguson- yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Mayor Finney asked Council to approve the purchase of a refrigerator with an ice maker for the public works garage. Ms. Rillo presented them with several options for garage ready refrigerators at Lowe's. Mr. Zember asked who will be doing the installation. Ms. Rillo said that once the water line is run, we can hook it up ourselves. Mr. Corbin asked about the manufacturer, adding that LG and Samsung do not offer service in our area. He suggested we check with Lusby's because they service everything that they sell. Council agreed. Ms. Rillo will contact Lusby's.

Mr. Bloxom asked Council to consider donating to CALL. He said that there was an issue with getting the financial information from them because they have a new treasurer, but Ms. Salazar has received that information at this time. Mr. Zember spoke at great length about his support for the organization. Mr. Corbin said that while he agrees that CALL is a great organization, our donation policy states that we should only donate during the fourth quarter of our fiscal year. He is not in favor of violating policy. There was much discussion about this matter and several Council members expressed a strong desire to give them a donation from the last fiscal year since there is a balance of \$4,500.00 in the donation line item. Ms. Salazar told Council that she can backdate the check to June 30, 2025, so that the money would come out of the proper fiscal year. She added that this is a practice that is approved by the auditors for paying bills so that they are posted to the proper time-period. She said that she is in no way trying to influence the Council, but she does want them to have all the information necessary to make their decision. Lastly, she said that if Council were to do that, she agrees with Mr. Corbin that it is not keeping with the donation policy that Council adopted. Billye D. Custis asked for permission to ask a question. Mayor Finney asked her to wait and make her comments at the end of the meeting during public participation. Mayor Finney did an informal poll of Council as to their thoughts on donating at this time: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- no; Ferguson- yes; Lang– no; Zember – yes

Mr. Lang said that he is torn because he knows what a good organization this is, but he does feel that Council Members should uphold the town's policies. Mr. Bloxom said that he thinks we need to reach out to everyone that we have donated to in the last five years and make them aware of our new donation policy. Ms. Salazar said that everyone that we have donated to (along with a few others) has been made aware of our new policy concerning donations.

Motion: To donate \$4,500.00 to the CALL (backdating the check to June 30, 2025) and making them aware that this is a one-time donation being made outside of the terms of our donation policy and will not happen again by Woody Zember and seconded by Daniel Bloxom. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Campbell – absent; Corbin- no; Ferguson- yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Mr. Lang said he feels that it's money that will just be sitting there if we don't give it to CALL. Mr. Corbin disagreed and said it's money from our coffers no matter what year it comes from.

Ms. Rillo said that in the past, we have allowed town employees to take advantage of the ORA discount. She further explained that when the discount was taken from the Council Members a few years ago, it was also taken from the employees. She asked Council to decide if they want to re-instate that so that employees may benefit from it.

Motion: To allow the town employees to use the ORA town discount by Daniel Bloxom and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Campbell – absent; Corbin- no; Ferguson- yes; Lang– no; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

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Department Reports

Police Report

Chief Long presented his monthly written report and speed sign report to Council, noting that there is still an issue with the one speed sign. He said that he has spoken with Stalker, and they are emailing him a software update to fix the problem. On July 12, there will be a Coffee with a Cop event at the Book Bin. The National Night Out event will be held on October 1, 2025. He will be completing a ride along with a possible DCJS certified candidate for the police vacancy later in the month. Mayor Finney told Chief Long that town events need to be publicized plenty of time in advance so that they are a success.

Chief Long asked Council to consider the possibility that they may need to send officers to the DCJS/HRCJTA for certification. He said that he has three good applicants that are jail certified but need to attend the academy to become certified officers. Council asked Chief Long to put together the costs for this, noting that they cannot make any decisions without some idea of cost. Mr. Corbin asked if we budgeted for this. Chief Long said we did not. Mr. Zember said we have been burned on this before so we would need to have the attorney come up with a legal document that protects the town.

Mr. Corbin told Chief Long that at last month's meeting, Mr. Campbell had some ideas he wanted to discuss with Chief Long about a better way to assess an officer's performance. He asked if that has happened and what Chief Long's thoughts are on that topic. Chief Long said he has not spoken with Mr. Campbell about that, but he will. He added that Council gets a report each month relating to what the officers work on within a month. He would like to submit that report with totals – not broken out by officer. Mayor Finney said there is an activity log that officers complete every day as well as video from the cars and the body cameras. He suggested that Mr. Corbin review the logs. Mr. Corbin said he would prefer that it is presented to Council at evaluation time. Mr. Lang said he likes the written reports that they currently receive monthly. Mr. Zember suggested a police department committee to review logs and videos. Council likes the reports broken out by officer.

Treasurer's Report

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

Ms. Salazar reported that she has completed the following: complete and closeout the 2024 Litter Grant and opt-in with Accomack County for the 2025 Litter Grant, attended the VRS Roundtable to review changes beginning July 1st, closed the Taylor Bank CD and deposited into the money market at Atlantic Union, completed and passed the VRS Security Review and Audit, the cornhole boards were ordered on June 10th and should be delivered in 4-6 weeks from that date, quarterly IRS tax returns, VEC quarterly unemployment payroll tax, and worked with Ms. Rillo and Mr. Bundick about collecting delinquent TOT and a NSF check from the Regal Inn. Mr. Corbin noted that we have hit the four million mark in cash on hand.

Ms. Salazar asked for Council's permission to move \$100,000.00 out of the PNC regular checking account into something earning more interest. She also asked that Council consider allowing her to move the Rainy Day funds account into something earning a higher rate of interest, noting that rate dropped to .50%. She said that Atlantic Union was supposed to get back to her about the possibility of bumping up the rate, but she has not heard from them at this time.

Motion: To transfer the Rainy Day funds balance of approximately \$405,000.00 and an additional \$100,000.00 from the PNC Regular Checking account to a CD at Taylor Bank with a term of three

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months and a rate of 3.5% by Rodney Lang and seconded by Daniel Bloxom. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom - yes; Campbell – absent; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Mr. Zember asked how we are doing with meals tax. Ms. Salazar said that we collected 111% of what we budgeted for the past fiscal year.

Town Manager/Zoning Administrator Report

Ms. Rillo reported that the pond equipment has been dismantled, and she has advertised that we are accepting sealed bids to be opened at the August meeting. The holiday banners have been delivered. We need to issue an RFP for the installation of holiday lights. She would like to do a two-year contract for that. She has issued some grass letters and a letter for a pool without a fence. All of that has been taken care of at this time. Lastly, she said that Sgt. Coulter's last day is August 31st and she would like to take him and his wife to dinner with the Council and fellow employees. She will keep everyone posted once plans are confirmed. Sgt. Coulter will be presented with the flag that is currently flying over the police station as well as a plaque for his service. Mr. Corbin said that there are vacant lots in his neighborhood that have not been cut, and he would like Ms. Rillo to issue letters to the owners. Ms. Rillo said there are many lots in there that are overgrown, but they have not been cut in the past. He also said that on the corner of Elm and Lakewood, there is a bush that is blocking the road. Council asked her to investigate these matters further. Lastly, Mr. Corbin asked that moving forward, Ms. Rillo keep her mileage on a spreadsheet, adding that he could not even read what she turned in for last quarter and that is not acceptable.

Mr. Lang warned everyone to be careful when driving along East Main Street near his house – there has been an influx of deer in the road lately.

Attorney's Report

In the absence of Mr. Bundick, there was no Attorney's report.

Consideration of Minutes

Motion: To adopt the minutes of June 2, 2025, Public Hearing & Regular Monthly Meeting by Brian Corbin and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -absent; Campbell – absent; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Motion: To adopt the minutes of June 16, 2025, Special Meeting by Daniel Bloxom and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Campbell – absent; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Lang– abstain; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Public Comments

Billye D. Custis asked how it will work that the minutes will say that the motion was made to give CALL a donation in July and the check is written in June. She added that is what she wanted to ask earlier but was not allowed so it is really a moot point at this time. Ms. Salazar explained that is why the explanation was given and will be included in the minutes. She added that the minutes are a true representation of what happens at each meeting and that cannot be changed.

Ms. Custis said the town should already have a contract for sending an officer to the academy. Ms. Salazar said that she told the mayor that also. Ms. Custis said everyone loves Pat Coulter and it would be nice to include everyone in a celebration for him. Lastly, she said she is very impressed with our new officer, Anthony Sayo. She said she hears him on the scanner, and he is very professional, polite and speaks audibly.

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John Dennis said a good job was done on the parking lot but there is a pile of trash, stone, and a piece of concrete walkway sitting out there that needs to be cleaned up. He said that the fence is falling down and busted loose so it should be fixed or taken down. He added that having a fence on only two sides is unnecessary anyway.

Council Comments

Mr. Ferguson thanked everyone for all they do for the town. He said he too is impressed by Officer Sayo. He wants Council to keep the new town office construction on the front burner and not get sidetracked.

Mr. Bloxom thanked everyone and said he thought we had a great meeting.

Mr. Corbin thanked the employees, especially the police officers that are out in the heat every day.

Mr. Zember thanked everyone. He thinks we had a good meeting.

Mr. Lang thanked Mayor Finney for reading his letter at the last meeting because he was unable to attend. He said his last meeting wasn't his finest moment, but he has some family stuff happening, he's a new father and he has some health issues. He said that he appreciates the Council's forgiveness. He would like to move forward and put the matter behind us.

Mayor Finney thanked Officer Sayo for taking an interest in the town. He's not just patrolling – he's actually interested in the town. He thanked him for coming to the meeting tonight. He thanked Ms. Custis and Mr. Dennis. He said that Council is doing a good job.

Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn (7:16pm) by Rodney Lang and seconded by Daniel Bloxom. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom - yes; Campbell – absent; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Respectfully submitted,



Janaye L. Salazar, Clerk/Treasurer



Henry E. Finney, Mayor