

**Onley Town Council
Regular Monthly Meeting
Minutes of November 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
 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 Lang. Councilman Zember led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adoption of Agenda

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

Bloxom -yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED
Mayor Finney reminded Council Members that if they wish to add something to the agenda, the appropriate time is when the agenda and meeting packets are being created. He explained that items discussed in the meeting must be properly advertised before decisions can be made. Ms. Salazar said that Council Members can contact her at any time throughout the month to add an agenda item but once the agenda has been posted (Thursday before meeting), we really shouldn't add anything unless it is an emergency.

Public Hearing – Proposed Property Maintenance Ordinance #002-25

Mayor Finney called the Public Hearing to order at 6:02pm. Ms. Salazar read the Rules for Public Hearings. Ms. Rillo presented the Proposed Ordinance #002-25. Mr. Campbell read the definition section of the proposed ordinance and asked that it/they be considered and included when adopting the ordinance. There were no public comments.

Motion: To adjourn the public hearing (6:15pm) by Jason Campbell and seconded by Daniel Bloxom.

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

Regular Monthly Meeting (cont'd)

Commission/Committee Reports

Town Office Construction Committee – Ms. Rillo reported that the committee did not meet this past month but one of the committee members asked her to email Norman Pitt concerning the benefits of a slab versus a crawlspace. She has not heard back from Mr. Pitt.

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Public Works Garage Committee – Ms. Rillo reported that the construction inside the public works garage started today.

Mr. Lang noted that Ms. Rillo reversed her reports (from the agenda).

Old Business

Chief Long reported that as of today, he has had several conversations with people about the police department vacancies, but he has only received one application, and we will discuss that in closed session later tonight. He said that the number one concern that people seem to have issue with is the salary that we offer. Mr. Corbin said he does not understand that statement because the salary list (from other agencies) that we received last month shows that we are in line with everyone else. Chief Long said we may have been when that report was presented, but that is no longer the case. Mr. Corbin said it was presented last month and asked why Chief Long provided them with old information. Chief Long said that information was from June. Ms. Rillo corrected Chief Long and said while he may have acquired that information in June, he did present it to Council last month. Chief Long said that every time we raise our salaries, the other agencies raise theirs. Mr. Corbin asked if this information was received via a formal FOIA request. Chief Long said that it was. Mr. Corbin said that this process has never been clear to him based on the information that Chief Long provided. At this time, Mr. Campbell said that Northampton County is field training officers for Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office. He said that while he doesn't know exactly how it would work (policy wise) it may be something we could consider if we send two people to the academy – having another agency help with field training. Mr. Corbin asked Chief Long to make another FOIA request from other agencies for current salary information. Council agreed that it is necessary. Mr. Ferguson reminded Council of his comment last month (after speaking with an anonymous law enforcement officer) that "\$10,000.00 is \$10,000.00" – money makes a difference. Chief Long stated there is another website that we can use that lists the actual salary of every government employee – by actual salary he means the amount that was reported to the IRS via W-2. Mr. Corbin said that we need base salary information – not overtime, grant etc. We need to compare "apples to apples". He added that our benefits package should be considered also, adding that we pay 100% of health insurance – most agencies do not. Mayor Finney agreed, adding that those numbers need to be included in Chief Long's salary reports moving forward. Council asked Chief Long to ask around about the possibility of other agencies field training officers for us.

Ms. Rillo presented Council with one bid for the installation of holiday lights and decorations. It was from C. Lee Hauling in the amount of \$8,500.00. Mr. Campbell asked if we should try and lock him into a three-year contract to avoid an increase each year. Mr. Lang said that moving forward, he would like to utilize our Public Works department and have them do some of this work.

Motion: To accept the bid from C. Lee Hauling for \$8,500.00 by Daniel Bloxom and seconded by Jason Campbell. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Motion: To adopt Property Maintenance Ordinance #002-25 with the addition of the definitions that were discussed by Jason Campbell and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Ms. Salazar asked Council to decide about the November 2025 Axon invoice. She reminded Council that they discussed it at the October 15th meeting, and they have the option (per Axon) to pay it now or wait and pay it out of the next fiscal year's budget. She added that she did receive the invoice this morning.

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Motion: To pay the November 2025 Axon invoice (\$16,540.94) out of the 2026-2027 budget by Rodney Lang and seconded by Daniel Bloxom. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

New Business

Ms. Rillo asked if Council wishes to continue to renew our membership with the ESVA Chamber of Commerce. She explained that we really do not benefit from the membership and she said that we have had some issues with that organization that we cannot seem to get corrected. For example, she said that our information in their directory has been incorrect for quite a while (maybe years) and we have had no success getting it corrected even after numerous attempts over the past few years. Council decided to discontinue our ESVA Chamber of Commerce membership.

Ms. Salazar asked Council to allow her to write off the 2025 tax bills that are under \$2.00 and cannot be combined with other bills. She stated that we have 34 tax bills totaling \$53.10.

Motion: To write off the 2025 tax bills that are under \$2.00 (total \$53.10) 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

Department Reports

Police Report

Chief Long presented his monthly written report and speed sign report to Council. He noted a discrepancy on the pie chart, saying that the sign is picking up vehicles from too great a distance and he is working on correcting that. Mayor Finney reminded Chief Long to keep moving the speed sign around town. He also asked Chief Long what is happening with the solar panel battery chargers, adding that this issue has been going on for months. Chief long said the company does not offer them any longer, so he is using manual battery chargers at the office. Mr. Campbell suggested that he speak with Tom Willett from ACSO. Chief Long said ACSO has a different system so Officer Willett cannot help with this matter. Mr. Lang said he is concerned because (on East Main Street) the sign is slowing people down when they leave town but not when entering town. Chief Long said he has researched places on the other side of the street to move the sign for that reason. Mr. Corbin suggested that Chief Long contact Tim Wilson to help with the connector/battery issues with the speed signs. He also asked Chief Long if the E-Summons computers are working. Chief Long said they are scheduled to be hooked up within the next 1-2 weeks. Mr. Corbin asked if they would be connected to the ACSO system. Chief Long said no, they do not want us “tapping into” their system, but that does not mean that we cannot use the computers – only that some of the functions will not be available, specifically access to NCIC/VCIN. Lastly, Mr. Corbin asked Chief Long to provide a report listing the systems that the police department uses as well as the costs. Chief Long referred him to Ms. Salazar. Ms. Salazar said that she has already provided Mr. Corbin with everything that she has in reference to costs, but she believes that Mr. Corbin would like to know exactly what equipment and systems that we have and what they do – what they are used for and that is a question for Chief Long. Mr. Corbin agreed. Mayor Finney said that Mr. Corbin recently reviewed the officer’s daily logbook a few weeks ago and relayed the information that he found to him. Mayor Finney then asked Chief Long what should be included in the daily logs because he (Mayor Finney) didn’t think the information in the logbook was sufficient. He asked Chief Long what he expects from his officers when completing the daily logs. Chief Long stated that when an employee does a patrol, they should be listing the start time but often there is no end time due to there being no specific time for patrolling. Mayor Finney disagreed, adding that there should be start and stop times as well as the information

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pertaining to the patrols and any activity or events that took place throughout their entire shift. He added "that's how you keep a logbook". Ms. Rillo said it sounds like more information is necessary in the daily logbook. Council agreed and requested that the logbook be completed in more detail. Mr. Corbin said that he would also like to see their mandatory patrols around town increase from three to four a day, adding that we have one officer that is already doing five per day, according to the logbook.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Salazar said she rolled the maturing 3-month Taylor Bank CD into a 12-month CD per Council's request at last month's meeting. The 2025 tax bills were mailed on October 29th. We currently have one business that is three months delinquent on meals tax and one business that is two months delinquent on transient occupancy tax. She added that letters to those businesses were hand delivered today by the Onley Police Dept. Mr. Corbin asked why we are still carrying the McMath Park budget. He said we should just incorporate it into the operating budget because it is such a small amount. Ms. Salazar agreed and added that next budget will be the time to do that. Mr. Campbell said we will use some or all of it for concrete. He also asked if any of that money was donations. Ms. Salazar said we did have the brick fundraiser and a couple donations but the \$200,000.00 was town funds. Mr. Campbell said he doesn't think donated money should go into the general fund. Ms. Salazar said that shouldn't be a problem because we have spent the entire amount (including donations) on the park, except for the remaining \$2,796.26, some of which will most likely pay for the concrete at the park.

Motion: To pay the October 2025 payables 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

Town Manager/Zoning Administrator Report

Ms. Rillo reported that she made 432 Trunk or Treat bags but unfortunately only gave away 271 bags. She was disappointed that there was very little turnout for the people coming to pass out candy. There were only three vehicles. Mayor Finney said if Council wants to continue to hold these events, Council Members are going to have to participate and help with things. Ms. Rillo said she had Percy caulk around the garage and that helped with the water problem. At Mayor Finney's suggestion, she asked how Council feels about a holiday decorating contest for our residents – starting this Christmas and maybe continuing next year and including Halloween. Council liked the idea and asked her to advertise it immediately. They set the following prize amounts: first place - \$200.00 Walmart gift card; second place - \$100.00 Walmart gift card. Mr. Ferguson suggested that Ms. Rillo use radio to advertise town events. Mr. Campbell suggested Facebook events. Mayor Finney and Ms. Rillo will act as judges for the contest. Mr. Corbin asked if Ms. Rillo ever responded to the letter from Ted Cathey. She said that she did not and that the letter was from months ago. He said he feels that she should have responded to Mr. Cathey.

Attorney's Report

Mr. Bundick reported that he worked on the Property Maintenance Ordinance that was adopted tonight. He also completed the contract for the construction at the public works garage. Mr. Campbell said that he sent a contract to Ms. Rillo that could potentially be used for hiring new employees/police officers. He asked if Mr. Bundick has reviewed it. Mr. Bundick said that he had not reviewed it as he was not aware of it.

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Consideration of Minutes

Motion: To adopt the minutes of October 6, 2025, Regular Monthly Meeting by Rodney Lang and seconded by Woody Zember. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Motion: To adopt the minutes of October 15, 2025, Special Meeting by Brian Corbin and seconded by Rodney Lang. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Public Comments

John Dennis said that the ordinance that was passed tonight gives people the option of appealing to the BZA. He suggested that Council reach out to the BZA since they haven't met in about three years. Council asked Ms. Salazar to respond. Ms. Salazar agreed with Mr. Dennis and added that she doesn't have much luck when trying to contact the BZA Chairperson.

Mr. Dennis asked how long the steel posts are going to be left up at the public works garage. Ms. Rillo said that she would remove them, but everyone needs to use the driveway/road that runs through there and not drive across the parking lot. Mr. Corbin asked if we budgeted for a fence. Ms. Rillo said we talked about it, but Council wanted to wait so we did not budget for one. Mayor Finney instructed Ms. Rillo to remove the posts, and see what happens. Mr. Dennis said a sign would be more effective, adding that people are using the parking lot for U-turns as well.

Ms. Salazar read a letter from **Ralph & Mary Wardius** asking Council to write a letter to the Accomack County Board of Supervisors opposing the pumping of poultry waste underground. A copy of the letter will be attached to the original minutes.

Council Comments

Mr. Campbell thanked George McMath for taking action and getting the pothole fixed at the post office.

Mr. Ferguson thanked everyone for coming as well as the town employees for their hard work.

Mr. Bloxom said he wished there was more participation at the Trunk or Treat. He apologized for missing it saying he had to take his son trick-or-treating. He is looking forward to the Christmas decorations and the contest.

Mr. Corbin had no comment.

Mr. Zember thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He is also looking forward to the Christmas decorating contest.

Mr. Lang had no comment.

Mayor Finney said he is impressed by the job that Council is doing.

Closed Session

Motion: To go into closed session (7:19pm) 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 (1) applicant to fill the PD vacancy; (2) the end of the 6-month probationary period for Officer Anthony Sayo by Jason Campbell 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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Open Session & Certification of Closed Session

Motion: To return to open session (7:45pm) by Jason Campbell and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Lang– yes; 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– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Motion: To remove Officer Anthony Sayo from probation and give him a raise of \$3,500.00 more per year by Jason Campbell and seconded by Daniel Bloxom. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn (7:46pm) by Jason Campbell and seconded by Rodney Lang. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Respectfully submitted,



Jamye L. Salazar, Clerk/Treasurer



Henry E. Finney, Mayor