

**Onley Town Council
Regular Monthly Meeting
Minutes of May 4, 2026
Onley Town Office, 25308 Lankford Highway, Onley, VA**

Council Members Present: Ned Finney, Mayor
Bill Ferguson, Vice-Mayor
Daniel Bloxom (arrived 6:06pm)
Jason Campbell
Brian Corbin
Rodney Lang
Woody Zember

Staff Present: Carl Bundick, Town Attorney
E. J. Long, Chief of Police, OPD
Jamy Salazar, Town Manager

Call to Order

Mayor Finney called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance

In the absence of Councilman Bloxom, the invocation was given by Vice-Mayor Ferguson. Councilman Campbell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adoption of Agenda

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

Commission/Committee Reports

Town Office Construction Committee – Ms. Salazar reported that the committee has not met. She reported that as a follow up from the April 6th meeting, she has acquired some bottom line “ballpark” pricing from the architectural firms for their services. She presented them with another copy of the proposal summary from the last meeting and included the ballpark fee quoted for their services. She asked Council the same two questions that were asked last month: **(1)** after reviewing the proposals, does Council wish to proceed; **(2)** if Council wishes to proceed, do we want to accept one of these proposals for architectural services. Lastly, she said that a Council Member has requested that she ask Council if they would reconsider the possibility of a modular building. After some discussion about the possibility of a modular building, Council decided against researching that option. Mr. Campbell likes that Becker Morgan has an office on the Eastern Shore. Mr. Lang said he likes that their rate is lower. Ms. Salazar & Mr. Corbin said that the representative from Becker Morgan came to meet with them and during the meeting quoted building costs at \$300.00 - \$350.00 per square foot compared to another that quoted \$500.00 per square foot.

Motion: To accept the Proposal for Architectural Servies from Becker Morgan Group 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

Employee Committee – Mr. Campbell reported that they have not met since last meeting, but he will speak with the other members of the committee and see if they want to meet again. He is unsure as to what other things they need to address at this time.

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Old Business

Ms. Salazar presented Council with a draft copy of the Proposed 2026-2027 Budget stating that the revenue total is \$1,182,121.00 and expenditure total is 1,182,121.00, therefore, we do have a balanced budget. She said that we did use \$16,514.00 from reserve to balance the budget. She noted that our real estate tax rate will drop from 6.6 cent per hundred-dollar value to 5.5 cent per hundred-dollar value. She asked Council for a motion to send the proposed budget to public hearing if they are satisfied with the draft presented.

Motion: To send the 2026-2027 Proposed Budget to Public Hearing by Rodney Lang and seconded by Woody Zember. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson – abstain; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Mr. Bloxom said he does not have anything from CALL at this time. He has spoken with Charlie Marshall, and Mr. Marshall will try to get something together to present to us at another time.

Mr. Campbell said that he has received a progress report from Chief Long on the Traffic Enforcement Overtime Program. He noted that at this time, 13 of the people ticketed have been to court and the judge has assessed \$1,183.00, 45 other tickets are pending and have not been before the judge as of this time. He added that the average of the tickets issued is \$91.00 per ticket. The total paid out for the program is \$3,659.92. He noted that there is no guarantee that we will get \$91.00 for each ticket since it is up to the judge to determine the penalty. He noted that the goal of this pilot program was to slow down drivers and get an idea of what it will cost the town.

Motion: To re-instate the Traffic Enforcement Overtime Program by Jason Campbell and seconded by Daniel Bloxom. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- no; Ferguson – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Mr. Campbell said he has nothing to report about the possible Campout at McMath Park event. He will try to speak with Ms. Salazar this week about some dates and details. Mr. Bloxom said he doesn't think we will have a big turnout for a campout – he suggested a Night at the Park event. Mr. Campbell suggested that we do a Facebook poll and ask if people are interested. He offered to help Ms. Salazar with the poll.

Mr. Campbell asked if Council had reviewed the evaluation criteria that he presented to them at last meeting. Mr. Bloxom suggested that we use the old criteria for now and use the new criteria for a reference to help us make a side-by-side comparison. Mr. Lang said he likes that idea as well. Council agreed.

Ms. Salazar said that she contacted Billy Joe Tarr about the old mosquito sprayer. He does not want it and does not think anyone else will either. He said that it is very old and outdated so the parts will not work on the newer sprayers. Mr. Lang would like to see us try to sell it.

Motion: To contact a junkyard and have them pick up the old mosquito sprayer by Brian Corbin and seconded by Woody Zember. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

New Business

Mr. Corbin said he asked Ms. Salazar to provide everyone (on Council) with a copy of the Donation Policy that we adopted last year. He asked everyone to review it because it seems to him that only one or two organizations are following the terms of our policy. He also reminded Council that they should stick to the terms as well. Mayor Finney agreed and added that we shouldn't have to chase people to give them a donation. Ms. Salazar stated that she thinks the fire company donations can be handled a little differently, although they do have to meet the same financial criteria. Mr. Lang asked if CALL knows about the policy requirements. Ms. Salazar said that when the policy was adopted, everyone that had

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previously received a donation from us was provided a copy of it. Mr. Bloxom will provide them another copy.

Ms. Salazar told Council that if they want to re-appropriate the money set aside for building a new town office, they need to send it to public hearing and re-adopt that budget for the next fiscal year. She added that we will have to do that for the McMath Park budget and the Public Works Garage budget as well, if Council wishes. Mr. Corbin said he thinks we need to add an additional \$400,000.00 to the Town Office Construction Budget since we took the first step to getting things underway tonight. Council agreed to add additional \$408,152.95 making the total \$1,000,000.00.

Motion: To re-appropriate the New Town Office Building Budget funds of \$591,847.05, adding additional funds of \$408,152.95 for a new total of \$1,000,000.00 and send to public hearing by Brian Corbin and seconded by Woody Zember. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Ms. Salazar said that the same rules apply to the Public Works Garage Budget if Council wishes to re-appropriate those funds, however, she is not sure that we need to do so since the project is basically complete. Mr. Zember said we need to seal the concrete. Mayor Finney said we can do that prior to July 1st. Mr. Bloxom said he would like to add a fence. Mayor Finney said we don't want to put up a fence until the new town office construction is complete. Council agreed.

Motion: To NOT re-appropriate the Public Works Garage Budget Funds of \$20,891.74 by Jason Campbell and seconded by Woody Zember. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Motion: To re-appropriate the George N. McMath Park Budget funds of \$2,796.26 by Jason Campbell and seconded by Woody Zember. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Mr. Bloxom suggested that, like with Halloween and Christmas, we hold a contest to encourage residents and businesses to decorate for July 4th since it is the 250th anniversary of the founding of our country. Mr. Bloxom volunteered to be a judge.

Motion: To hold a Patriotic Decorating Contest with the following terms: 1st and 2nd place plaques for businesses, \$100.00 gift card for 1st place and \$50.00 gift card for 2nd place for residential homes with voting to be on July 1st and the winner announced after July 4th 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

Ms. Salazar said that we need to purchase 35 new U.S. Flags and 10 flag brackets at a cost of \$1,482.05 and we do have the money in the budget.

Motion: To accept the quote of \$1,482.05 for the purchase of flags and brackets 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

Mr. Bloxom asked Ms. Salazar if she had researched bunting for McMath Park. She said that we do plan to have the flags up before Memorial Day and we plan to put up patriotic bunting at the park once we measure and get a count of how much we need.

Department Reports

Police Report

Chief Long presented his monthly report to Council. He said that Officer Pieper is acclimating very well and he loves living on the Eastern Shore. He interviewed the candidate for the police vacancy last week and he looks forward to discussing that in the closed session. Mr. Campbell suggested that moving

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forward, traffic tickets be sorted and tracked based on when they were written: Regular Shift, Grant Program, O/T Traffic Enforcement, etc. Mr. Lang asked Chief Long to tell Officer Pieper to make sure that he is moving around when doing speed enforcement – not to stay in one spot. Chief Long reported that the speed signs are up and working – there was a small glitch with one sign but that has been fixed.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Salazar presented her report to Council. She asked for their permission to transfer \$150,000.00 from the PNC Bank regular checking account to the money market account at Atlantic Union, noting that the PNC Bank checking account earns very little interest.

Motion: To pay the April 2026 payables by Rodney Lang and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Motion: To transfer \$150,000.00 from PNC Bank regular checking to Atlantic Union money market account 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

Town Manager/Zoning Administrator Report

In the interest of time and at the request of Council, Ms. Salazar did not give an oral report but stated that her written report on the items that she has worked on this month will be attached to the minutes and available upon request.

Attorney's Report

Mr. Bundick reported that other than attending the town meetings, he assisted Ms. Salazar with a zoning issue on E. Main Street that seems to already be resolved. Mr. Lang asked about the issue with the loft apartment. Mr. Bundick referred that matter to Ms. Salazar. Ms. Salazar stated that Mr. Hart, the owner of Riptide Real Estate, was sent a letter to establish the town's position on the matter of the loft apartment as well as the pump and haul agreement via regular mail and certified mail. The certified letter was not accepted/signed for by Mr. Hart, so the USPS returned it to us. The regular letter was not returned so we can assume that it was received by Mr. Hart. As is our practice when certified letters are returned, Chief Long from the Onley Police Dept. attempted to make personal service of the letter. Upon doing so, Mr. Hart answered the door via a doorbell camera and stated that he was not home, but he was aware of the contents of the letter and did not wish to have any more communication with the town about this matter. He further stated that we should contact his lawyer in the future. He did not state the name of his lawyer. Chief Long recorded the entire exchange on his body camera and a copy of it (on a USB drive) has been placed in the file pertaining to this. She noted that Mr. Hart is not in violation of any town ordinance at this time. Ms. Salazar added that the point of the letter was to make the town's position on both matters clear and we have done so at this time.

Consideration of Minutes

Ms. Salazar asked Council for clarification on the April 6, 2026, minutes pertaining to whether or not Council agreed to allow Mr. Campbell to pursue the Campout at the Park event. She said that her minutes read that Council agreed, however, she was contacted earlier today by someone that said they did not think Council had agreed to that particular event. Council did not wish to change the minutes.

Motion: To adopt the minutes of April 6, 2026, Regular Monthly Meeting 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

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Motion: To adopt the minutes of April 22, 2026, Special Meeting/Budget Workshop by Daniel Bloxom and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Public Comments

Billye D. Custis signed up to speak but said she had nothing to say at this time.

Council Comments

Mr. Campbell said he is happy that we are making progress on the building. He thanked everyone.

Mr. Ferguson thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Mr. Bloxom apologized for being late for the meeting, noting that he is very busy at work.

Mr. Corbin said he is glad that we have made some progress with the building. He thinks \$300.00 a square foot sounds good. He stated that we have the money to do it and noted that only about 6-7% of our budget comes from the residents' pockets.

Mr. Zember is happy that we transferred the money to make \$1,000,000.00 for building the new town office. He just hopes that we don't back up this time.

Mr. Lang agreed that we need a town office. He said we cannot keep renting and things are only going to cost more as time passes. He said he knows that this won't please everyone but that's not possible anyway and he feels that all we can do is move forward and make decisions based on what we feel is best for the town.

Mayor Finney is happy that we are moving forward with hiring an architect. He said that while some people think that we are wasting money – it's not. It's an investment in the town.

Mr. Corbin noted that we have already spent over \$100,000.00 on rent for this office the last four years. He also noted that we can use the soil sample test that was completed back in 2018 so that will save us a little money.

Closed Session

Motion: To go into Closed Session (6:56pm) 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) issues within the department; and (2) discussion of a candidate recently interviewed to fill the Police Officer vacancy (with the possibility of sending them to the HRCJTA) 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

Open Session & Certification of Closed Session

Motion: To return to Open Session (7:46pm) 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

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

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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, Town Manager



Henry E. Finney, Mayor