

**Onley Town Council
Regular Monthly Meeting
Minutes of July 6, 2026
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

Council Members Absent: Woody Zember

Staff Present: Carl Bundick, Town Attorney
Jennifer Clark, Clerk
E. J. Long, Chief of Police, OPD
Jamye Salazar, Town Manager

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. Councilman Lang led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adoption of Agenda

At this time, Mayor Finney introduced two new employees, Officer Owen Lewis, and Jennifer Clark, our part-time Clerk.

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

Commission/Committee Reports

Town Office Construction Committee – Ms. Salazar reported that the committee has had two meetings with Mike Winner, the architect from Becker Morgan Group. At the first meeting, the committee was tasked with an action list and together with Mr. Winner they created a preliminary plan. She was asked to provide well and septic information as well as information on the recently built Public Works garage. She has provided that information to Mr. Winner. At the second meeting, Mr. Winner presented the committee with a tentative floor plan for the project. She noted that Mr. Lang made several useful suggestions to that plan and Mr. Winner will incorporate the changes for the next meeting. Becker Morgan’s surveyors were at the property on Tuesday last week and completed the physical survey. They plan to have that returned to us (in writing) around July 14th. The committee will meet with Mr. Winner on July 15th to discuss the survey as well as any other matters necessary to continue moving forward. She said that the biggest issue that we are facing at this time is that our zoning ordinance requires a 50’ setback (for the building) from the VDOT right of way. She explained that we have several options but there are some hurdles to overcome with a couple of them. The concern is that if we have to build this building 50’ from the VDOT right of way, it will seriously diminish the size of the building, and we have already had to decrease the square footage from 2000 to 1800. We will not have enough room to do what we need to do in a smaller building. She said that our options are as follows: (1) petition the BZA

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for a variance; (2) change our Zoning Ordinance to remove the 50' setback for the B-G district; (3) change our Zoning Ordinance adding a clause that exempts the Town of Onley from its own ordinance requirements. She noted that all of these options will require Public Hearing on the matter and two will require a Planning Commission recommendation, noting that we currently do not have enough Planning Commissioners serving to constitute a quorum since it consists of only four members and five are required. She also added that we need to have another conversation with Mr. Winner about parking regulations and lighting requirements because if we cannot meet those requirements (based on our zoning ordinance) they will need to be addressed/changed also. Council will decide how to proceed at the August meeting – after the committee meets again with Mr. Winner.

Employee Committee – Mr. Campbell reported that the committee met two weeks ago and they have started the review of a new Policy & Procedures manual. This means the review of several hundred pages between the Police Department manual and the General Government manual. The new manual will encompass all of our existing policies and procedures, and we plan to go through them a few sections at a time. We will eventually present it to Council, and our goal is to have one policy manual that covers everything instead of a lot of individual policies.

Old Business

There was no Old Business.

New Business

Ms. Salazar asked Council to consider the adoption of Motor Vehicle Code of VA State Law Ordinance #001-26. Chief Long explained that it allows the Police Department to write traffic fines under a local code which means the fines are paid to the town. Mr. Bundick added that it also covers any amendments to the existing statute. Ms. Salazar said that after she typed the ordinance, she had Mr. Bundick review it and he has found no deficiencies so she believes we can proceed with adoption.

Motion: To adopt Motor Vehicle Code of Virginia State Law Ordinance #001-26 by Jason Campbell and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - absent. MOTION PASSED

Ms. Salazar presented Council with renewal information from Anthem for the town employee's health insurance, noting a 21% increase in premiums. She also presented them with five additional options – some were at a savings to the town, some were not. A copy of the options/proposal will be attached to the original minutes.

Motion: To renew our current employee health insurance policy with Anthem by Jason Campbell and seconded by Daniel Bloxom. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - absent. MOTION PASSED

Department Reports

Police Report

Chief Long presented Council with his monthly reports and noted that the battery on the speed sign still has not been changed so it appears the problem is truly fixed. He noted that Officer Owen Lewis has started his employment with the town and along with doing a great job with traffic enforcement (he had a DUI in town on his first day of work), he is helping to implement some new ways of tracking and reporting information for the entire department. He noted that Officer Lewis has also shown interest in writing grants as well as completing instructor training. Officer Eder has signed his employment offer

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letter and plans to start his employment before the end of July. Chief Long expressed concern that if we are able to find a fifth full-time officer, we may need another patrol vehicle. He noted that the Town of Eastville may have some vehicles for sale in the near future. He plans to meet with a representative from Eastville on Wednesday to get some more information. Mr. Campbell said that he is concerned that if we purchase a sixth vehicle, we also need all of the necessary equipment to outfit that vehicle – it's not as simple as just purchasing the car. Chief Long said he thinks that the only thing that these vehicles will need is the Axon camera. Ms. Salazar told Chief Long that he needs to have answers to all of these questions, before Council can proceed. She noted that at this point, we do not need another vehicle since we have five officers and five vehicles. Chief Long said that he has had interest from several certified and uncertified candidates in coming to work for the town. Lastly, there has been a request from a Council person about the possibility of an additional \$200.00 fine for speeding in certain areas. Chief Long noted that Chris Isdell from VDOT called him today and said that is a peculiar matter, and he will need to do some research, although he thinks it will require a request or resolution from the town to move forward with that plan. Mr. Lang said he would like to see that happen along East & West Main Street. Mr. Campbell said that this makes him uncomfortable because the Eastern Shore has a horrible reputation for being out to collect fine money and he feels that if we are talking about implementing this on side roads, it will affect our citizens and local people more than anyone else. Chief Long noted that he has passed along Ms. Salazar's directive to run 30-60 minutes of traffic enforcement each shift on Pennsylvania Avenue & East Main Street. Ms. Salazar added that the directive is not negotiable, and it should be noted on the officer's daily log which she reviews monthly. Mayor Finney said we are still looking into the possibility of a town car, so he would like Chief Long to investigate that as well.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Salazar presented her written report to Council giving a fiscal year-end overview and noting that some of those numbers will change since all of the June bills have not come in, however, it is still a good representation of our year.

Motion: To pay the June 2026 payables by Daniel Bloxom and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call

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

Town Manager/Zoning Administrator Report

In the interest of time and at the request of Mayor Finney, Ms. Salazar did not read her report but noted that the Town Council gets weekly reports. She asked if anyone had any questions for her about those reports. Mr. Bloxom asked if our Facebook page is working. Ms. Salazar said that she is working on it but basically Meta has suggested that we delete the page and start a whole new one since it is not in our name. Mr. Lang said that some of the benches at the park are cracked and need repair. Ms. Salazar said that they have already been repaired. She thanked John Dennis for his work on that. Mr. Lang asked her to research pricing for getting new benches made of different material at the park. Ms. Salazar said that she has already done that and most of the ones that she has looked at are still made from composite material. Billye D. Custis said that she thinks the benches that are directly in the sun have been more susceptible to problems, but the others seem okay.

Attorney's Report

Mr. Bundick reported that he attended both town meetings last month, talked with Lee Pambit in preparation for his meeting presentation, and reviewed the traffic ordinance. Mr. Lang asked Mr. Bundick to speak about the matter of the sign in Painter allowing the additional \$200.00 fine for

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speeding tickets. Mr. Bundick said that sign has been there for a long time, but he does not believe that a single ticket has ever been written in accordance with it. He added that David Drummond is now covering traffic in various communities, but he (Mr. Bundick) has not seen any tickets written with the additional fine. Mr. Lang asked if that means it's up to the individual officer to make that decision when writing the ticket. Mr. Bundick said he believes that is correct and added there is no Commonwealth Attorney involved in that process.

Consideration of Minutes

Motion: To adopt the minutes of June 1, 2026, Public Hearing(s) & Regular Monthly Meeting by Daniel Bloxom and seconded by Jason Campbell. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - absent. MOTION PASSED

Motion: To adopt the minutes of June 9, 2026, Special Meeting by Jason Campbell and seconded by Rodney Lang. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - absent. MOTION PASSED

Public Comments

Billye D. Custis said that while the police station and the computer store are very close to the sidewalk along East Main Street, the former chiropractor's office is not. She said that if Council is in a pinch, she has the training and will serve on the Planning Commission.

Council Comments

Mr. Campbell said it was a good meeting. He is excited about the number of certified applicants that are showing interest in working for the town. He is happy that we are keeping to our standards of treating our employees well.

Mr. Ferguson agreed with Mr. Campbell's comment and welcomed our two new employees to town.

Mr. Bloxom also agreed with the previous Council comments.

Mr. Corbin said he feels more comfortable now with the way that the new town hall construction is coming along than he has in the past. He added that he hopes we don't get tangled up with this setback business.

Mr. Lang agreed with Mr. Corbin that we don't need to get hung up again with progress on the new building. He said that Ms. Salazar, Mr. Bloxom and himself are doing their best to move things along and so far, so good. He is double-checking everything, noting that there is a difference in drawing plans and actually putting your hands on something and building it. He would like to see us break ground before the end of the year.

Mayor Finney said he has two words: smooth sailing. He added that everything seems to be running well.

Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn (6:57pm) by Daniel Bloxom and seconded by Rodney Lang. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom - yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - absent. MOTION PASSED

Respectfully submitted,


Jame L. Salazar, Town Manager


Henry E. Finney, Mayor