

**Onley Town Council
Regular Monthly Meeting
Minutes of September 9, 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
 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 Councilman Zember and Councilman Bloxom led the Pledge of Allegiance.

At this time, Mayor Finney stated that before the agenda is adopted, there is someone here that would like to speak but may not be able to stay for the entire meeting. He asked that Council allow them to make their public comments under the adoption of the agenda section of the meeting. **Roll Call Vote:** Bloxom -yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes

Adoption of Agenda

Ed Burgess stated that he lives on East Main Street and he is concerned about the excessive speeding along that road. He said that he has an autistic child and while she doesn't really get out to the road, it is always a possibility. He said that he has almost been hit by a car while mowing his lawn. He has yelled at drivers and asked them to slow down and was cursed at for his efforts. He witnessed one of Rodney Lang's cats being run over by a speeder. Lastly, he said that the mailboxes along that stretch of road have all been damaged. He noted that he doesn't see any officers patrolling that area anymore and he used to when he first moved there about six years ago.

Motion: To adopt the agenda with the above change 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

Commission/Committee Reports

Town Office Construction Committee – Ms. Salazar reported that the committee has not met this month because Mr. Winner did not want to meet again until they have permit ready plans. The next meeting is scheduled for September 15th. She reported that there is an issue with the location of the well and it is possible that the well may need to be moved. She hopes to get a definite answer about that at the next meeting. They are also preparing to discuss the interior finishes of the building.

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Employee Committee – Mr. Campbell said that the committee was not able to meet this past month. He apologized for the cancellation, noting he had to take his daughter to college.

Planning Commission – Mr. Campbell reported that the Planning Commission was able to meet as requested by the Town Council. They discussed possible changes to our zoning ordinance related to setbacks in the B-G district. The recommendation will be attached to the original minutes. Ms. Salazar stated that there was a thorough discussion of the matter and proper review standards were considered. She added that if Council feels comfortable with the recommendation, the next step is to send it to a public hearing (jointly with the Planning Commission).

Motion: To send the following change to Joint Public Hearing with the Planning Commission by Jason Campbell and seconded by Bill Ferguson:

Zoning Ordinance Section III-4.5 Frontage and Yard Regulations should be changed to read as follows:

III-4.5 Frontage and Yard Regulations

Buildings shall be set back a minimum of fifty (50) feet from the VDOT right-of-way, except that buildings fronting on U.S. Route 13 shall be set back a minimum of one hundred (100) feet from the VDOT right-of-way. Where existing buildings on adjoining or neighboring properties are located less than the applicable required setback, a building may be constructed in line with the established building line of those properties. In no case shall a building be located closer to the VDOT right-of-way than the established building line of the adjoining or neighboring properties.

A vacant lot fifty (50) feet or less in width may be assumed to be occupied by a building having a minimum setback. This shall be known as the "setback line." Side yards shall be a minimum of ten (10) feet. For permitted uses adjoining or adjacent to a residential district, the minimum side yard or rear yard shall be twenty-five (25) feet, and off-street parking shall be in accordance with the provisions contained herein.

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

Mr. Campbell reported that the Planning Commission discussed mobile food trucks and they would like to see the Zoning Ordinance changed to reflect the need for a Special Use Permit (SUP) in order to operate a food truck within town limits. A copy of their formal recommendation will be attached to the original minutes.

Motion: To send the Planning Commission's recommendation to Public Hearing adding Mobile Food Trucks and Mobile Drink Units to Section III-4.3 Special Exceptions 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**

Ms. Salazar stated that will also be a Joint Public Hearing with the Planning Commission.

Old Business

Ms. Salazar said that Council asked her to research and determine a good date for the town-wide yard sale. She has chosen October 24th and presented Council with a sample flyer for the sale and thanked Mr. Bloxom for his help with it. Mr. Ferguson suggested that we advertise on the radio. Ms. Salazar said that she can research pricing and options for yard sale events with WESR. Billye D. Custis said that advertising for yard sales has been \$5.00 for about twenty years. Ms. Salazar will reach out to WESR tomorrow.

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New Business

Ms. Salazar said that she is considering adding some rules to the signs at McMath Park. She asked that Council approve the addition of no vaping/tobacco products at the park as well as an age limit for unaccompanied children at the park.

Motion: To approve the addition of children 10 and under need adult supervision to the park rules 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

Ms. Salazar asked if Council wishes to continue the practice of distributing the Food Lion gift cards to residents for tax relief and if so, do they want to wait until tax time to distribute them. She noted that we currently have 14 cards left from last year and suggested that we purchase 186 cards at a cost of \$13,950.00.

Motion: To purchase 186 Food Lion gift cards at a cost of \$13,950.00 to be distributed after Thanksgiving to town residents that meet necessary criteria by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Woody Zember. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Mayor Finney asked Chief Long to speak on the Children Playing road signs. Chief Long said that he has done a study on the effectiveness of Children Playing road signs. He has determined that they are not effective because an over influx of signs may be ignored, they can be confusing, and they also give a false sense of security to parents that the sign will protect their child. He provided Council with some information that VDOT provided as well as some information that he (Chief Long) and Officer Lewis found while researching this matter. His recommendation is that if Council wants to install these signs, they do so at the entrances to town. There was much discussion about this matter. Ms. Salazar stated that four signs have already been approved – two on East Main Street, one on Lakewood Drive and one on Greenwood Drive. She said this happened very quickly, noting that she reached out to Jackie Phillips to learn the process of getting the signs, and the wheels were set in motion. She added that Mr. Phillips called her a few days ago and said there has been a request from a resident for a sign on Pennsylvania Avenue and asked if the town had objections. Ms. Salazar told him that the town does not have any objections. She added that the cost of the signs is approximately \$400.00 each per information provided to her by Stewart Hall, Accomack County's Director of Public Works. She thanked him for being so helpful and sharing the information with her. She also reminded Council that the installation of these signs is not something that the town can control by approval or denial. The town may contact the Accomack County Board of Supervisors and have them apply to VDOT for approval.

Motion: In addition to the signs that have already been approved, to ask Supervisor Phillips for the installation of signs at the following locations: W. Main Street (coming off Route 13), Coastal Blvd. (one coming from Tasley, one coming from Route 13), Forest Road (entering from Texaco Town) and Pennsylvania Avenue (coming into town) 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

Ms. Salazar said that the four signs that have been approved will cost approximately \$1,600.00 so she needs a motion to approve the expense and she would also like Council's input as to where to take the money from in the budget.

Motion: To give Ms. Salazar the authority to spend \$1,600.00 for the purchase of the Children Playing signs and hardware by Rodney Lang.

Mayor Finney asked where the money is coming from to cover the expense. Ms. Salazar suggested that we take it from miscellaneous expense and possibly amend the budget later. Mr. Ferguson said there is a post across from his house that was initially meant for a speed sign that could be used. Ms. Salazar

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said that the sign locations have already been approved by VDOT and changing one would require a new permit process.

At this time, Bill Ferguson seconded the above motion. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. **MOTION PASSED**

Mr. Campbell said that Ms. Salazar has received numerous strongly worded, aggressive and accusatory emails from a town resident and he does not believe that she should be required to respond to emails of that nature from anyone. He would like to allow her to send an automated response stating that the town has received your email and if a response is warranted, you will receive one. He is not saying that some of these emails are baseless, but Ms. Salazar should not be spending so much time responding to the same person and the same questions and complaints repeatedly. Mayor Finney asked Mr. Bundick for his opinion. Mr. Bundick said he does not recommend “strong arming” but he does think that the email response mentioned by Mr. Campbell is a good idea. He does not think that it is necessary to respond to every allegation when they are repeated over and over again. He added that if someone feels so serious about the complaints, they are making, that person should come to the meeting and address the Council. Mr. Bloxom agreed. Mr. Bundick said it just gets to the point that it becomes harassing. Mr. Lang agreed and said if you are healthy enough to write that many emails, you have one meeting per month that you can come and voice your concerns to us. He added that some of the things written in the emails do not maintain decorum which we insist upon at meetings. It is easier to be bolder in an email than at a meeting. Mr. Bundick suggested that we invite people to the town meetings when receiving these emails. Ms. Salazar said that she usually does and even did so in an email response sent today. Mr. Bundick said that Ms. Salazar’s response can be “we received your email – come to the Council meeting”. Mr. Ferguson said that he thought we have a “no harassment” policy in place for our employees. Ms. Salazar said that one was adopted under Mr. Maggard’s tenure as Town Manager, but it doesn’t really have any teeth. Mr. Bundick said that if threats are made, they can become a criminal complaint. Mr. Campbell asked if there have been threats made. Ms. Salazar said there have been no threats and nothing that she feels would warrant a criminal complaint. She added that she does not mind responding to anyone and the town is an open book – as it should be, we will answer any questions that anyone has (with very few exceptions) but when someone continues to bombard us with questions because they don’t like the answer, it feels argumentative and is certainly time consuming. Mayor Finney said she has called Ms. Salazar a liar. Ms. Salazar agreed that the implication is that she has lied on occasion. She added that while she has probably made a mistake or two working here over the last eighteen years, she has never intentionally lied about anything. Mr. Campbell said that Ms. Salazar is free to respond if she wishes but should not feel that she has to respond every time. Ms. Salazar said that she just does not want it to look like we are hiding things from anyone or being untruthful.

Department Reports

Police Report

Chief Long presented Council with the monthly reports. He stated that Ms. Salazar has reviewed the daily logs for August. He reported that he has just returned today from training in Fairfax on Decertification of Law Enforcement Officers & Crime Prevention. He is trying to get more money for the department so they can purchase more things that they need as well as possibly acquire accreditation. There is an electrical problem with Officer Eder’s car, and it will be taken to Mr. Nottingham tomorrow. Mr. Campbell cautioned that accreditation is a lot of work, noting that ACSO had one deputy whose job was just to keep the accreditation records. He commended Chief Long on the new report, noting that it

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is full of good information. Mr. Lang asked about the traffic enforcement directives on East Main & Pennsylvania. Chief Long said that he recently spoke with Officer Eder about it, and he noted that he has not written a single ticket in those areas. He added that he (Chief Long) and Officer Anderson have also spent some time in those locations and did not catch anyone speeding. Mr. Lang asked if the speed sign was slowing people down. Chief Long said he thinks that it helps but it is not the reason for no speeders. Mr. Bundick said his opinion is that speed signs don't slow people down – officer presence slows people down. Mr. Campbell agreed with Mr. Bundick. He noted that the speed sign report is misleading because if someone is driving two miles over the speed limit, they are classified as speeding, however, no officer will write a ticket for someone two miles over the limit. He feels that we have larger issues in other areas of the town, and he worries that we are not using our resources appropriately. He added that we do not have to do something just because one resident in town wants it. He said that if speeding does pick up on Pennsylvania Avenue, we will re-visit the matter, but he wants to run our agency based on evidence and not opinion. Mr. Ferguson agreed. Mr. Lang said that he has sat with police officers while they are running radar and it can look like cars are speeding when they actually aren't – it's misleading.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Salazar presented her written report to Council, noting that this is the second month of the new fiscal year.

Motion: To pay the August 2026 payables by Bill Ferguson 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

Ms. Salazar read her report into the minutes. A copy of the report will be attached to the original minutes and available upon request.

In the matter of Zoning, the town has received a SUP application from Mustafa Cuce & Happy Buffet to replace the current sign. She noted that the current sign is non-conforming and they want to replace it with another sign that is smaller than the current one but still larger than our zoning allows. Ms. Salazar said that the next step is to ask for the Planning Commission to review it and make a recommendation as well as send it to Public Hearing for both bodies once they have completed their review.

Motion: To send the above SUP application to the Planning Commission for review and recommendation 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

Attorney's Report

Mr. Bundick reported that he had a quiet month. He spoke with Ms. Salazar about one matter last week relating to a matter that was discussed earlier tonight.

Consideration of Minutes

Motion: To adopt the minutes of August 3, 2026, Regular Monthly Meeting 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

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Public Comments

Billye D. Custis said that she has spent more time at the park lately and she has noticed that the rubber mulch and the stone from the path is in every crack on the benches. She also noticed that the barbeque grills are full of rocks. She does not agree that there needs to be a child living on a street before a Children Playing sign is erected. She said that kids come and go on every street. She said that no matter what job that you have, there are complaints. She added that FOIA requests must be answered. She said that a lot of Ms. Salazar's time is spent answering questions from Council and she thinks that a sign-in sheet should be placed at the front of the office noting the time someone comes in and the time that they leave. She cautioned Council to be careful about doing things that are more important to them than other people.

Council Comments

Mr. Campbell thanked Mr. Burgess for his speech and said that his earlier comments were not directed at him. He cited some information from Chief Long's report. He likes that our officers are enforcing speeding on the highway where the majority of crashes are and he encourages everyone to make the right decision based on evidence – not emotions. He agreed with Ms. Custis that we need to make the best choices for the town and not our own personal opinions. He added that in the matter of FOIA requests, Ms. Salazar has always fulfilled them, and he does not expect that to change. He said that she does a lot for the town, she is very busy, and he does not want to see her doing repetitive or unnecessary work. He thanked his neighbor for a great job on the cornhole boards. He said we are making progress.

Mr. Ferguson said he wished to echo Councilman Campbell's comments. He thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Mr. Bloxom also agreed with Councilman Campbell's comments and issued a thank you to law enforcement and first responders for responding so quickly to the fire at this house.

Mr. Corbin agreed with everything that was said by the other Council Members. He thanked the Planning Commission for coming together and their work. He said the new town office is not progressing as fast as he would like but it is progressing so he's okay with that. He did not realize that the Children Playing signs would be so much effort, but he does think they are necessary.

Mr. Zember thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He said everything is going well. He is anxious to see what happens with the Children Playing signs. In the matter of the emails from residents, Ms. Salazar knows what she needs to answer and what she doesn't.

Mr. Lang thanked Mr. Burgess and his family for coming to the meeting. In the matter of Children Playing signs, he thinks public safety and protecting all the kids in Onley is a priority. He appreciates Ms. Salazar and how well she is doing her job.

Mayor Finney thanked Council and stated that they do a great job. He appreciates that there is no arguing and they talk about everything. He thanked the audience for attending the meeting.

Closed Session

Motion: To go into Closed Session (7:20pm) 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 & Police Department, specifically related to a citizen's complaint against employees by Bill Ferguson 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 (7:44pm) by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Rodney Lang. 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**

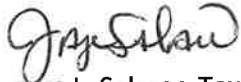
Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson – yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Adjourn

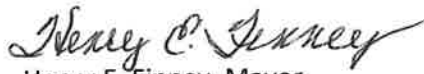
Motion: To adjourn (7:45pm) by Jason Campbell and seconded by Woody Zember. Roll Call Vote:

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

Respectfully submitted,



Jamie L. Salazar, Town Manager



Henry E. Finney, Mayor