

Town of Onancock  
Town Council  
June 27, 2016  
7:00 PM

Call to Order and Roll Call:

Mayor Jones called the meeting order at 7:00 PM and roll was called. Mayor Russell Jones and Councilmembers T. Lee Byrd, Catherine Krause, Sandra Fox and Joshua Bundick were present. Councilmembers Fletcher Fosque and John Morgan were absent. A majority of members were present and a quorum was established.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Swearing In Ceremony:

Mayor Jones explained that the Accomack County Clerk of Circuit Court, Samuel Cooper, was present this evening to swear in the new members of council along with the re-elected members of council.

Mr. Cooper swore in Mayor Jones and Councilmembers Ray Burger and Robert Bloxom as well as presented them with their election certificates.

Mr. Cooper explained that Councilmember John Morgan would need to be sworn in before the next council meeting since he was recently re-elected.

Consideration and Approval of Minutes from the Regular Meeting on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 and the Special Meeting on May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016:

Mayor Jones asked if there were any changes, corrections or additions to the minutes submitted for either meeting.

*With none, Councilmember Bundick made a motion to approve the May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 and May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016 meeting minutes as submitted. Councilmember Byrd seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.*

Public Business:

- a. Public Hearing: Mayor Jones explained that this issue has been discussed for well over two years. Currently, the town bills locations quarterly this change would move that frequency to bi-monthly. Mayor Jones continued on to say that this change should help alleviate some of the financial burden our customers have with the quarterly billing. The rates were not changed just the minimums for water and sewer and the rates associated with those minimums. (Please note that as a point of clarification the minimum amounts billed for water and sewer were decreased, thus the rates were changed.)

Mayor Jones opened the Public Hearing at 7:13 PM.

Mrs. Fiege explained that the new minimum rates for water and sewer will be one-third less the current minimums. With that being said, the minimum usage was lowered from 5,000 gallons to 3,000 gallons. Trash will continued be billed at a rate of \$10.00 a month which means that a bi-monthly bill will have a trash rate of \$20.00. Also, the Virginia Department of Health fee which

was \$0.74 will now be \$0.50. Mrs. Fiege also shared that for some residents their first bill under the new system will be higher than normal. This is due to the fact that some locations will have three months on their first bi-monthly bill. This is a one-time scenario. The town is also preparing to send out a postcard to all active water and sewer customers letting them know of the change once it is approved by council.

Councilmember Byrd shared that he thought this change to be beneficial to the town's utility customers.

Councilmember Fox asked if the online pay option will be up and running by the time this plan goes into effect. Mayor Jones shared that may be few months before that is an option because the town is also looking into redoing its website.

Mayor Jones asked if there was any public comment on this issue.

With none, Mayor Jones closed the Public Hearing at 7:16 PM.

*Councilmember Byrd made a motion to amendment Sec. 21-45, Amendment to Water and Sewer Ordinance, to allow the town's water and sewer billing to occur bi-monthly. Councilmember Krause seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.*

- b. **Davis Disposal Contract:** Mayor Jones explained that the town's contract for garbage collection through Davis Disposal is up for renewal. Mayor Jones expressed his satisfaction with the service Davis Disposal has provided the town. There is an increase in the cost of the service which is to be expected but not much more than the town had been spending on the service. Mr. Alan Silverman suggested an amendment to the contract, change "in climate" to "inclement" which is under section seven of the contract.

Council and the public were asked for comments on this proposal.

*With none, Councilmember Krause made a motion to approve the amended Davis Disposal Contract effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 through June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Councilmember Fox seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.*

- c. **Zoning Administrator:** Mayor Jones explained that this motion was necessary to give the incoming town manager the tools he needs to hit the ground running when he takes his post July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

*Councilmember Bundick made a motion to appoint the IN-Coming Town Manager, William Kerbin, Jr., as the Onancock Zoning Administrator effective July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Councilmember Byrd seconded the motion. The passed by unanimous voice vote.*

- d. **Town Treasurer:** Mayor Jones reiterated the fact that this motion also enables the in-coming town manager to fulfill his duties as required.

*Councilmember Bundick made a motion to appoint the In-Coming Town Manager, William Kerbin, Jr., as the Onancock Town Treasurer effective July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Councilmember Byrd seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.*

- e. Discussion of Town Hall Façade: Councilmember Krause explained that once the bushes in front of Town Hall were removed it became glaringly obvious that the building is need of some attention. Mrs. Janet Fosque contacted a man that specializes in historical restorations, Mr. Paul Touart. Mr. Touart was kind enough to come out and examine the building and draft a proposal for needed repairs that would be period specific. Councilmember Krause suggested that council and staff look at the proposed scope of work and create a timeline for the different stages of the restoration project. Councilmember Krause also explained that once a decision is made on how to proceed with the building restoration then the proposal from the Tree Board regarding landscaping in front of Town Hall can commence.

Ms. Ann Nock, Market Street, thanked council for looking into this project. Ms. Nock also suggested that Mr. Touart be hired to work on the restoration.

Public Comment:

Ms. Ann Nock, Market Street, thanked the town staff and the Onancock Business and Civic Association for their hard work on fixing up the town gazebo.

Mr. Haydon Rochester, King Street, thanked Councilmembers Fox and Byrd for serving on town council. Mr. Rochester also thanked Mayor Jones for running for one more term. Mr. Rochester continued on to thank newly elected Councilmembers Ray Burger and Robert Bloxom for stepping up to serve the town.

Planning Commission:

No meeting

Personnel Committee:

No meeting.

Waterfront Committee:

Councilmember Byrd shared that Harbormaster Melcher and her assistants were doing a great job at the marina this year. Councilmember Byrd reported that fuel sales are ahead of last year as are slip reservations. Councilmember Byrd commended the Onancock Business and Civic Association for the revolving listing of volunteer drivers for town's transient boating guests. Councilmember Byrd shared that the town was awarded \$200,000 in grant monies from the Virginia Port Authority to begin work on Phase 1 of the marina improvements which will begin with the installment of floating slips. Councilmember Byrd shared that the signage at the wharf has been mostly replaced with the appropriate signs and the parking lot has been restriped to assist with easier parking for trailers. Councilmember Byrd closed with thanking council and members of the public for allowing him to serve on Waterfront for the past four years.

Holiday Committee:

No meeting.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Jones thanked Councilmembers Byrd and Fox for their years of service. Mayor Jones handed out a gift from the town for both of them.

Mayor Jones shared that council is still continuing its work on drafting policy which would lay down the guidelines for town committees. Mayor Jones projected that once the guidelines are in place along with the new town manager and councilmembers the committees will be reconstituted probably in about a month.

Mayor Jones shared that the town was approached by an organization that audits companies' utility bills to make sure that they are paying for services they are actually using. Mayor Jones continued on to say that this is something that the town will be looking into to hopefully curtail unnecessary spending on its telephone and electric services.

Mayor Jones shared the reason for his desire to run again for Onancock Town Mayor. Due to the need for the town to hire a new town manager and with two members of council not seeking re-election, Mayor Jones felt it would be best for the town's continuity to stay on for one more term.

Mayor and Town Council Comment:

Councilmember Bundick thanked Councilmembers Byrd and Fox for their service on town council, sharing that they have both been great mentors to him over the past two years.

Councilmember Krause mimicked the sentiment as well as thanked Mayor Jones for staying on two more years.

Councilmember Byrd thanked council for all their hard work as well as their comradery.

Ms. Nock, Market Street, asked that council reach out to Lt. Governor Ralph Northam by inviting him to the Ice Cream Social up on by the Onancock Business and Civic Association.

Closed Session, if needed:

None.

Adjourn:


*Councilmember Byrd made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Fox seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.*

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 PM.



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Russell Jones, Mayor



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Lisa Fiege, Deputy Clerk