

State of Alabama)

City of Oneonta, August 10, 2021

County of Blount)

The Mayor and City Council met during a regularly scheduled council meeting on August 10, 2021, with a regularly scheduled work session at 5:45 p.m. to discuss agenda items. Present were Mayor Phillips, Council Members: Alexander, Bradley, McAlpine, Pierce and Underwood. Also, present in the meeting were Alex Smith, Allie Allcorn, Brandon Horton, Treva Oakley, Pat Clanton, Barbara Andersen, Roland McCoy, Police Chief Clifton, Fire Chief Booth, Fire Lieutenant Ivey, and Amanda Cole.

Mayor Phillips opened the work session at 5:45 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing the agenda for the council meeting. The Mayor stated agenda items one and two are standard agenda items. Mayor Phillips stated agenda item three is concerning the approval of the July 27, 2021 council meeting as written unless someone has anything to state regarding the minutes.

The Mayor mentioned agenda item four is considering the approval of resolution number 0821-01; concerning the "Rebuild Alabama Motor Fuel Act Plan". Mayor Phillips explained this is an annual resolution the city approves to receive funds from the Rebuild Alabama Act. He stated for fiscal year 2022, the city is expected to receive an estimate \$58,000.00 in which the funds can be used for repairs and maintenance on roadway.

The Mayor called on Brandon Horton to expound on agenda item five regarding resolution number 0821-02, concerning the surplus of the Arnold Property. Brandon explained the city already approved this above referenced property as substandard property in which the family signed over to the city. He stated the city has demolished the property and needs to claim the property as surplus to sale the land and incur the demolition cost. Mayor Phillips stated the city can sale the property to an identified buyer or hold an auction if there are no identified buyers.

Mayor Phillips explained the bid packet for the Hometown Market Property demolition was received later in the day and understands if the council did not have a chance to review it in its entirety. Brandon Horton explained the city is using a civil engineering group to conduct the phase one environmental study in which there is a good indication there is nothing to cause the project cost to increase; however, the completed study has not been received. He stated that since the study has not been received there will be a clarification in the bid stating that the bidder will be responsible for any findings. Brandon explained the bid advertisement would have to run in the paper for three consecutive weeks. So, the first advertisement week would begin August 18th, allowing the bid opening to be scheduled on September 13th with the hopes to award the bid at the regular scheduled council meeting on September 14th. Brandon explained the advertisement will have a synopsis of the bid project and where to obtain the packets and mentioned the city will mail out the bid packets to all the known interested bidders. Brandon stated the city has elected to maintain the back part of the building to utilize for training, but the rest of the building will be disposed by the potential bidder.

Mayor Phillips explained agenda item seven is to set another work session to follow-up the initial work session discussing the downtown garbage options.

The Mayor stated agenda item eight is to set a work session following the council meeting to discuss the departmental portion of the FY 2022 budget. He explained the purpose of the work session is to discuss each department and what is required to run the city. Councilman McAlpine requested the city post the draft budget prior to conducting the work session for public input.

Mayor Phillips mentioned the purpose of agenda item nine is to reappoint Rachel Gargus to the beautification board.

The Mayor explained regarding agenda item ten that there has been a transition within city hall reflecting an employment position change, so there is a need to advertise for a full-time revenue officer.

Councilman McAlpine mentioned agenda item eleven is to advertise for a part-time weekend downtown attendant to help lighten the load for the street department.

Councilwoman Pierce stated agenda item twelve is to consider approving Vinson Dupree as part-time firefighter/paramedic to fill the need at the fire department.

Mayor Phillips stated agenda items thirteen through sixteen are all regular business items that will be discussed during the council meeting. Mayor Phillips made a motion to adjourn the work session. Councilman Bradley seconded and the motion carried with all ayes. The work session closed at 5:58 p.m.

The Mayor opened the regular scheduled council meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Councilwoman Underwood gave the invocation.

Councilman McAlpine led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilwoman Pierce made a motion to approve the July 27, 2021 council minutes as written. Councilman Bradley seconded; Councilman McAlpine abstained and the motion carried with all ayes.

Mayor Phillips explained this is an annual resolution the city approves to receive funds from the Rebuild Alabama Act. He stated for fiscal year 2022, the city is expected to receive an estimate \$58,000.00 in which the funds can be used for repairs and maintenance on roadway. The Mayor read resolution number 0821-01 in its entirety. Councilman McAlpine made a motion to approve resolution number 0821-01 concerning the Rebuild Alabama Motor Fuel Act Plan for fiscal year 2022. Councilman Alexander seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Mayor Phillips explained the Arnold Property substandard property in which the family signed over to the city. He stated the city has demolished the property and needs to claim the property as surplus to sale the land and incur the demolition cost. Councilman Bradley made a motion to approve resolution number 0821-02 concerning the surplus of the Arnold Property located at 405 Second Street South. Councilwoman Pierce seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Mayor Phillips explained the bid packet for the Hometown Market Property demolition was received later in the day and understands if the council did not have a chance to review it in its entirety. Brandon Horton explained the city is using a civil engineering group to conduct the phase one environmental study in which there is a good indication there is nothing to cause the project cost to increase; however, the completed study has not been received. He stated that since the study has not been received there will be a clarification in the bid stating that the bidder will be responsible for any findings. Brandon explained the bid advertisement would have to run in the paper for three consecutive weeks. So, the first advertisement week would begin August 18th, allowing the bid opening to be scheduled on September 13th with the hopes to award the bid at the regular scheduled council meeting on September 14th. Councilwoman Pierce with great pleasure made a motion to approve the bid advertisement for the demolition of the Hometown Market Property. Councilwoman Underwood seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilwoman Pierce made a motion to approve setting a work session for the purpose of discussing downtown garbage options on August 24, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. She explained that she would be on vacation but will be available for both work sessions via phone. Councilman Bradley seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilwoman Underwood made a motion to approve setting a work session for the purpose of reviewing the departmental budget for fiscal year 2022 on August 24, 2021 immediately following the scheduled council meeting. Councilman Alexander seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman Alexander made a motion to reappoint Rachel Gargus to the beautification board and stated she does a wonderful job. Councilwoman Underwood seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Mayor Phillips stated due to the recent transition in city hall the revenue officer position is currently vacant. Councilman Bradley made a motion to approve advertisement for a full-time revenue officer.

Councilman McAlpine made a motion to approve advertisement for a part-time weekend downtown attendant, which will open more options for the work session scheduled for August 24th. Councilwoman Underwood seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilwoman Pierce reported the July report for the fire department and congratulated the fire department on getting awarded \$42,250.00 in grant money for turnout gear, new NFPA thermal imaging cameras and updated SCBA masks with improved communication devices.

Councilwoman Pierce made a motion to hire Vinson Dupree as a part-time firefighter/paramedic. Councilwoman Underwood seconded and the motion carried with all eyes.

Councilwoman Underwood reported the July report on behalf of the police department.

Barbara Andersen mentioned her update was going to be different than expected due the recent Chamber Board Meeting held earlier in the day. She stated the recent COVID report is not good and there have been two deaths within the community within the last two days. She explained that all Chamber events have been scheduled for outdoor only and the Chamber will continue to monitor the events with safety being the utmost important factor.

Treva Oakley gave a brief update on behalf of the Oneonta Business Association. She stated the next mingle event will be on September 30th at 5:30 p.m. located at Charlie B's with Grapes and Hops present. She mentioned the latest Cruise and Croon was unfortunately cancelled due to inclement weather, but the next event is schedule for October 30th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Treva stated the OBA is very excited for Christmas this year and expects to have the best year yet in Oneonta.

Allie Allcorn gave a brief financial report for the month of July. She mentioned the local taxes and services were estimated \$15,000 higher for July than for June and the year-to-date local taxes and services was \$6,773,000.00. She stated the city received a grant in the amount of \$56,000.00 in July for the Woodland Park playground equipment. She explained the total expenditures were lower than last month by \$286,000.00 and every department was on budget for July. She stated there were some large expenditures for July, such as the annual firetruck payment, public works tractor, High School Street project and the bond payment. She explained the bond payment due in July is for interest only but the payment due in March is both the principal and interest.

Mayor Phillips invited everyone to attend the upcoming City Market on August 28th from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. The Mayor mentioned the city will be hosting Restaurant Week from September 20th through 26th and will inform everyone with updates as they are available. Mayor Phillips stated the city received a request letter from Chase Moore with the Blount County Arts Council requesting to use the McDaniel Gym to host a wrestling event, which all ticket proceeds would go to the Arts Council and all concession stand proceeds would go to the city. The Mayor stated he will be sure to make sure with park and recreation there are no conflicting events.

Councilwoman Pierce stated during the previous utility board meeting there was discussion of the upcoming sewer line replacement project. She mentioned the utility board will be replacing the sewer line one section at time to create less disruption to traffic flow.

Councilman Bradley invited everyone to the “Steak and Weenie” fundraiser event scheduled for August 13th at 6:00 p.m.

There being no further business, Mayor Phillips entertained a motion to adjourn the council meeting. Councilman Bradley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman McAlpine seconded and the motion carried with all ayes. The council meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Mayor

City Council