

State of Alabama)

City of Oneonta, January 12, 2021

County of Blount)

The Mayor and city council met during a scheduled council meeting on January 12, 2021 with a public hearing beginning at 5:15 P.M. for the purpose of discussing ordinance no. 1220-02, a work session at 5:45 P.M. to review the agenda and then the council meeting to follow at 6:00 P.M. Present was Mayor Phillips, Council Members: Alexander, Bradley, McAlpine, Pierce and Underwood. Also, present in the meeting were Alex Smith, Allie Allcorn, Brandon Horton, Roland McCoy, Police Chief Clifton, Fire Lieutenant Jeff Ivey, Ricky Statham, Brier Fowler, Tara Murphree, Patti Williams, David Dobson, Pat Clanton, Gavin McAlpine, Bill Hendrickenson and Tanya Blakely.

Mayor Phillips opened the public hearing at 5:23 P.M. to discuss ordinance no. 1220-02; concerning sales tax holiday and the severe weather preparedness holiday. Brandon Horton addressed both sections of the ordinance recognized by the state every year. Brandon Horton explained that Section 13-1, Back to School Sales Tax Holiday is the sales tax holiday where the City of Oneonta exempts covered items from municipal sales tax during the period, beginning at 12:01 A.M. on the third Friday in July and ending at twelve midnight the following Sunday. Brandon Horton explained that the Section, 13-2, Severe Weather Preparedness Tax Holiday is where the City of Oneonta exempts covered items from municipal sales and use tax during the same period beginning 12:01 A.M. on Friday of the last full weekend in February and ending at twelve midnight on the following Sunday. Brandon Horton stated that codifying the ability to adopt these in our ordinances will simplify the process and have them forgiven annually from this day forward. Mayor Phillips closed the public hearing at 5:26 P.M.

Mayor Phillips opened the work session at 5:45 P.M. for the purpose of reviewing the agenda for the council meeting.

Mayor Phillips stated the first item to discuss will be to consider adopting ordinance no. 1220-02 concerning Back to School Sales Tax Holiday and the Severe Weather Preparedness Tax Holiday. Mayor Phillips stated that after recently discussing this in the public hearing, the conclusion had been made to adopt this ordinance for these holidays to reoccur every year at the same time as described by law.

Mayor Phillips moved to item five which is advertising for a full-time police officer position to replace officer Stephen's resignation. Mayor Phillips stated that the next item, number six would be to advertise for two temporary full-time police officer positions. Mayor Phillips stated that the reason for these temporary positions is to help assist the police department while being short staffed for a variety of reasons due to resignations and sickness. Mayor Phillips stated that the city can hire these temporary positions for up to six months but that we were just hiring them in three month increments. Discussion was had regarding the benefits for these

temporary positions, applicants being APOST certified and ready to go to work and then also about the city's avenues of advertising for any positions. Councilman McAlpine offered the city to have unlimited advertising at no cost. Mayor Phillips thanked Councilman McAlpine and stated maybe we can start taking advantage of this advertisement with these positions we are about to approve.

Mayor Phillips stated item number seven is to accept voluntary disability separation for Jesse Tidwell and asked Allie Allcorn to explain. Allie Allcorn explained that Jesse Tidwell has had several health issues and to be approved for the disability he has to be removed from our payroll. Allie Allcorn also explained to the council that this was nothing that Mr. Tidwell did wrong.

Mayor Phillips stated that item eight is to discuss recycling service options and after talking with Roland McCoy, the city has hopefully come up with a solution. Mayor Phillips stated that the city is thinking about placing a recycling dumpster up at the City Barn where it will be monitored inside a locked gate and will also be in a well lighted area. Mayor Phillips informed everyone that the city has access to use one of the recycling dumpsters and is built into the city's costs and will not be any costs to the residents. Mayor Phillips stated after talking with Roland McCoy that the gate at the City Barn will be open one day a week and possibly Thursday from 7 A.M. – 6 P.M. for recycle drop offs. Mayor Phillips stated that someone would be at the City Barn during these hours but just not right at the dumpster and also there will be signage affixed informing residents of items that can be recycled. Mayor Phillips reminded residents that this is not for certain and the residents will be notified of the starting of the recycling. Councilwoman Pierce asked how we can monitor if only Oneonta residents use the dumpster. Mayor Phillips stated that this may not be possible. Alex Smith stated in the past that the city has had problems with items such as couches and things that can not be recycled being dropped off. Brandon Horton stated that we can track down any one dropping nonrecyclable items.

Mayor Phillips asked if no one had an objection, that the work sessions will begin at 5:45 instead of 5:30 unless there are more items on the agenda. Mayor Phillips entertained for adjournment of the work session. Councilman McAlpine made the motion to close the work session. Councilman Bradley seconded and the motion carried with all ayes. The work session ended at 6:00 P.M.

The Mayor opened the regular scheduled council meeting at 6:00 P.M.

Councilman McAlpine gave the invocation.

Councilwoman Underwood led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilwoman Pierce made the motion to approve the December 22, 2020 council minutes as written. Councilman Alexander seconded the motion and the motion carried with all ayes.

Mayor Phillips stated that item number four is to consider adopting ordinance 1220-02 and he briefed everyone of the public hearing earlier regarding this matter. Councilman Bradley made a motion to adopt ordinance no. 1220-02. Councilwoman Pierce seconded the motion and the motion carried with all ayes.

Mayor Phillips stated that agenda item five is to advertise for a full-time police officer to replace resignation of Officer Stephens who has taken another job. Councilwoman Underwood made a motion to advertise for a full-time police officer. Councilman Alexander seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Mayor Phillips stated that the next item, item six is to hire two temporary full-time police officers. Mayor briefed everyone on the discussion at the work session earlier on the reasons and requirements for the new temporary hires and also the length of employment for the new temporary hires. Councilwoman Underwood made a motion to hire the two temporary full-time police officers. Councilwoman Pierce seconded the motion and the motion carried with all ayes.

Mayor Phillips stated that regarding the next agenda item, item seven, the city is considering accepting voluntary disability separation for full time employee, Jesse Tidwell. Mayor Phillips stated as Allie Allcorn had explained earlier in the work session that this termination is simply for Mr. Tidwell to take advantage of the disability and is no reflection of his job duties. Mayor Phillips explained for this to happen that the city will need to completely remove him from the payroll. Councilman Alexander made a motion to accept the voluntary disability separation for Jesse Tidwell. Councilman McAlpine seconded the motion and the motion carried with all ayes.

Mayor Phillips stated that item number eight is to go forward with the recycling service plan as discussed. Councilwoman Pierce made the motion to go forward with recycling service plan as discussed. Councilman Bradley seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Mayor Phillips stated that agenda number nine is the Chamber of Commerce and he explained that Barbara Andersen is still providing updates via documents. Mayor Phillips reminded everyone about the award nomination forms and to be sure to email Barbara Andersen if anyone would like to make any nominations.

Mayor Phillips stated that the Oneonta Business Association was item number ten. Pat Clanton thanked the mayor and council for allowing her to share what the OBA is striving to do in 2021 and then announced the upcoming events for 2021.

Mayor Phillips stated that the last item is item eleven and is the Administrative Report. Allie Allcorn reported that she was very pleased with the financials and all of the departments were either under budget or on budget. Allie Allcorn then explained that the only major expense was the remainder of what we owe to Whitaker for the paving and that the Fire department had grant expenses that the city will be reimbursed for. Allie Allcorn also wanted to commend the

city for getting an A plus rating. Mayor Phillips says that the rating agency says that if it was not for COVID, we would be due for an upgrade which also speaks highly for our community.

Mayor Phillips stated that he had recently had a promising phone call with a Fiber internet provider called C-Spire. Mayor Phillips explained that they are emerging into Alabama and coming to Trussville but that it will be a year before their services can be obtained. Mayor Phillips then explained that they operate with a direct wire to your home and are very highly rated. Mayor Phillips reported that C-Spire is proposing a franchise agreement and will be contacting us when this completed.

Mayor Phillips reported that we have identified three parking spaces in the back area of the Little Brick Church parking lot for safe exchange zone. Mayor Phillips explained that these are marked in green for any safe exchange needs.

Mayor Phillips asked Brandon Horton to give a COVID update. Brandon Horton reported that all of our municipal offices are still currently closed and working remotely or by appointment. Brandon Horton then explained that traffic is restricted to the lobby area. Brandon Horton also informed everyone that a lot of the city services are done online such as business license, accident reports, building permits and this could not have been done without the work of Tim Moore, Andy Alexander, Megan Kelly and Tracie Roybal. Brandon Horton also explained that the city is working on more of the services to be done online. Brandon Horton then informed everyone that the municipal court is also accepting online payments for traffic tickets and he commended Glenda Reed, Stephanie Preston, Stephanie Sims and Tanya Blakely for making this come together. Brandon Horton informed everyone that the first wave of COVID vaccinations for health care workers, first responders and also persons 75 years and older is scheduled for January 18, 2021 at the Blount County Health Department and also Mainstreet Urgent Care by appointment only. Brandon Horton also stated that there will also be a drive thru COVID vaccination clinic at the Blount County Agribusiness Center and that there is an eight hundred number to register for this. Brandon Horton explained that the City of Oneonta is not making the decision on who is to receive the vaccinations first but that we are only trying to push the information out to everyone. Brandon Horton stated that some of our first responders have already received the vaccination in other places. Brandon Horton then encouraged everyone to take precautions if they feel they need it.

Mayor Phillips announced that weather permitting this week, everyone should be able to see the new Gateway sign being erected.

Mayor Phillips entertained for adjournment. Councilman Bradley made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Alexander seconded and the motion carried with all ayes. The council meeting was adjourned at 6:35 P.M.

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Assistant City Clerk

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Mayor

