

State of Alabama)
City of Oneonta, August 8, 2023
County of Blount)

Council Meeting Minutes

The Mayor and City Council met during the regularly scheduled work session at 5:45 p.m. and a council meeting at 6:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Phillips; Council Members: Alexander, Bradley, McAlpine, Pierce, and Underwood. Also, present in the meeting were Alex Smith, Brandon Horton, Fire Chief Seehusen, Asst. Fire Chief Ivey, Cindy Lyda, Vernell Phillips, Matt Taylor, Ricky Statham, Dalton Farmer, Allie Allcorn, and Amanda Cole.

Mayor Phillips opened the scheduled 5:45 p.m. work session. The Mayor stated items one and two are standard items and item three to consider approving the July 25, 2023 council meeting minutes as written. There was no comment.

The Mayor stated item four was to set a work session on August 22, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. to discuss the fiscal year 2023/2024 budget.

Mayor Phillips asked Amanda Cole to review item agenda five concerning resolution no. 0823-01; "Rebuild Alabama Motor Fuel Act" Plan. Amanda stated resolution no. 0823-01 is an annual resolution the city has to approve in conjunction with Act No. 2019-2, for the Rebuild Alabama Motor Fuel Act Plan. She mentioned the resolution is for the fiscal year 2023/2024 and the estimated amount for the fiscal year will be \$63,097.08. She stated the city receives payment monthly from that fuel tax.

Mayor Phillips stated agenda item six will not be voted on tonight due to an unusual circumstance that Allie Allcorn will explain in detail. Allie stated the solid waste bid opening was today and we received one bid from Arrow Disposal and Republic Services, which came in at the same amount of \$19.95 per residential cart. She recommended the city council set a special called meeting for next week to award the bid, so the city can do its part and vet both companies. Alex Smith stated during the bid opening both bidders were professional and had nothing negative to say about the other one. Mayor Phillips stated that if anyone needs any information let us know.

Mayor Phillips asked Dalton Farmer to review item seven concerning the addition of a maternity leave option to the personnel policies and procedures manual. Dalton stated the new policy draft includes adoption and foster care along with the mother that physically had the child. He added the parental definition to page two and updated the notice of requirements which is the same documentation required when filing for FMLA. Dalton stated the previous policy presented at the last meeting allowed the mother that physically had the child to receive four weeks of paid leave. The policy presented tonight gives four weeks to the mother to physically recover with two more weeks for bonding and then gives two weeks for bonding to all aspects of parents. In summary that would be a total of six weeks for the mother recovering from birth and two weeks for the

father, mother, adopting, or fostering. Councilwoman Pierce asked if the policy could still be only four weeks for the mother that is physically recovering and then two weeks for all other parents. Dalton stated yes, the way it can be handled is the mother that is physically recovering would get two weeks for bonding and two weeks for recovering totaling four weeks, and then two weeks for bonding for the other parental situations.

Mayor Phillips stated Matt Taylor with Carr, Riggs, and Ingram will discuss the city's recent audit during the council meeting. The Mayor mentioned the Chamber will discuss all updates during the meeting as well.

Mayor Phillips mentioned items ten through sixteen will be discussed during the council meeting, and for item seventeen there is a need to enter an executive session for the purpose to discuss the buy/sale of property. Mayor Phillips closed the work session at 5:59 p.m.

Mayor Phillips opened the council meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Councilman Bradley gave the invocation.

Mayor Phillips led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Alexander made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 25, 2023 council meeting as written. Councilman Bradley seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman Bradley made a motion to set a work session on August 22, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. to discuss the fiscal year 2023/2024 budget. Councilwoman Pierce seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilwoman Pierce made a motion to approve resolution no. 0823-01; "Rebuild Alabama Motor Fuel Act" Plan. Councilwoman Underwood seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Allie Allcorn stated the following bid information:

Arrow Disposal came in at \$19.95 residential per unit per month; \$5.25 commercial per cubic yard; \$425 recycling per haul

Republic Services came in at \$19.95 residential per unit per month; \$7.01 commercial per cubic yard; \$395 recycling per haul

Mayor Phillips entertained the council to set a special called meeting for next week to award the bid. Councilwoman Underwood made a motion to set a special called meeting on August 15, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. Councilman McAlpine seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Mayor Phillips stated Dalton Farmer reviewed the addition of a maternity leave option to the personnel policies and procedures manual. Councilwoman Pierce made a motion to approve the addition of a maternity leave option to the personnel policies and procedures manual with the change of mothers that physically recovering receive four weeks of parental leave and all other

parental leave will be two weeks for bonding. Councilman Alexander seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Matt Taylor with Carr, Riggs and Ingram gave an overview of the 2022 financial statements. He began by stating the city received an unmodified opinion which is what you want to see. Matt explained pages four through ten known as "Management's Discussion and Analysis" is a new requirement by state law the auditors have to include. He explained on pages sixteen and seventeen explain governmental funds which show a deficit of \$3,168,343.00, which seems like a lot but it is mainly due to the income of the bond. Matt reviewed page 53, notes for pension plan (RSA). He mentioned the net pension liability is \$3,348,312.00 which has decreased from the last audit. Matt stating beginning with page sixty-six is the section for the single audit, which is required when a municipality receives more than \$750,000.00 in federal funds and there were no findings there which is what you want. Matt stated the internal controls and compliance looked great and that if anyone has any questions at any time to reach out to him.

Bekah Phillips gave a brief update on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce for all of their upcoming events.

Chief Seehusen gave the July report on behalf of the fire department.

Ricky Statham gave the July report on behalf of the public library.

Councilman Bradley gave the July report on behalf of the park and recreation department.

Councilwoman Underwood gave the July patrol report on behalf of the police department. She read a commendation letter from Police Chief Clifton commending the following officers for helping catch a theft at PinSeekers: Officer Rachel Falkner, Officer Cory Glasscock, and Officer Spencer Self.

Councilman Alexander stated Doug and Carol Roberts were nominated for the residential beautification award. He stated that Little Brick Church was nominated for the commercial beautification award and recognized Cindy Lyda for her hard work in completing that project. Cindy thanked the city for their continued support of the beautification board. Councilman Alexander gave the July report on behalf of the street department and commended them for their hard work with the bad weather Oneonta has experienced lately.

Allie Allcorn mentioned that Roland McCoy requested a purchase request for a counterweight for the brush cutter in the amount of \$4,945.97. Councilman McAlpine made a motion to purchase a counterweight for the brush cutter in the amount of \$4,945.97. Councilwoman Underwood seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Allie stated Fire Chief Seehusen applied for the Assistance Firefighters Grants for Radios which is a 5% match for the city. She stated the total amount of the grant amounted to \$96075.00 which would cost the city \$7956.21 due to the 5% match. Allie stated she needs a vote for the \$7956.21

in order to complete grant requirements. Councilman Alexander made a motion to approve the 5% match in the amount of \$7956.21 for the radio grant. Councilwoman Pierce seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Mayor Phillips stated during one of the storms last week the pool pumps were struck by lightning causing the city to have to shut the pool down for the season. The Mayor reminded everyone of the Midsummer Night's Fun and city market is this Saturday. Mayor Phillips mentioned he was able to attend the recent meeting about the construction of the new ballfields. He stated Milam should be completed by September or October, then they will hand it over to Gameday and then it will be sent to another company for the tennis courts, and then finally onto paving which the timeline for everything is still February. The Mayor read a commendation letter on behalf of Brandon Horton recognizing the following employees for saving lives in the recent flooding: Officer Stephen Dossey, Officer David Pritchett, Officer Jonathan Dempsey, Assistant Fire Chief Ivey, Paramedic/Firefighter Joe Pate and Firefighter Blake Gladden. Mayor Phillips thanked everyone for their hard work during these trying times.

The Mayor stated there is a need to enter into an executive session for the purpose to discuss the buy/sale of property and there will not be any further discussion. Councilwoman Pierce made a motion to enter into an executive session for the purpose to discuss the buy/sale of property and there will not be any further discussion at 6:40 p.m. Councilwoman Underwood seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Present in the executive session were Mayor Phillips; Council Members: Alexander, Bradley, McAlpine, Pierce, and Underwood. Also, present was Alex Smith, Allie Allcorn, Brandon Horton, and Amanda Cole. The executive session began at 6:42 p.m.

Councilman Alexander made a motion to exit and close the executive session at 7:16 p.m. Councilwoman Pierce seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Mayor

City Clerk