

State of Alabama)
City of Oneonta, April 25, 2023
County of Blount)

Council Meeting Minutes

The Mayor and City Council met during a scheduled public hearing at 5:40 p.m. with a regularly scheduled work session at 5:45 p.m. with a council meeting followed at 6:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Phillips; Council Members: Bradley, McAlpine, and Underwood. Also, present in the meeting were Alex Smith, Andy Alexander, Tim Moore, Allie Allcorn, Wes and Lauren Gillespie, Mike and Morgan Hellums, Kris Towns, Danny Kelly, and Amanda Cole. Councilman Alexander and Councilwomen Pierce were not present for the meeting.

Mayor Phillips opened the public hearing at 5:40 p.m. for the purpose to discuss the alcohol license application on behalf of PinSeekers, LLC. Allie Allcorn stated the location has applied for beer on-premises only and has passed all inspections. She stated that the location is not located in the entertainment district and there are no issues with the entry or location of the property being adjacent to a church or daycare. Councilwoman Underwood mentioned she attended the soft opening and commended the business. Mayor Phillips entertained any public comments and there were none. The Mayor closed the public hearing at 5:41 p.m.

Mayor Phillips opened the work session at 5:45 p.m. The Mayor stated that agenda items one and two are standard items, and item three is to consider approving the minutes of the April 11, 2023 council meeting as written unless there are any comments.

The Mayor stated there was a public hearing held to discuss the alcohol license application on behalf of PinSeekers, LLC and there were no public comments. Mayor Phillips mentioned that he and Nicole Tolbert will be out of town for the May 23rd council meeting, so there is a need to move the council meeting to May 17th. The Mayor added David Langham will be attending the meeting to provide more information about the proposed development on the McPherson Property.

Mayor Phillips mentioned agenda item six is to consider setting a public hearing for May 9, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the transfer of an estimated four acres for a potential entertainment venue.

The Mayor stated Noon Realty has approached the city for approximately twenty-five acres on the McPherson Property for retail development. Mayor Phillips mentioned that Noon Realty is asking for an option agreement not to purchase the property but for first right of refusal for one year with two; ninety days extension.

Mayor Phillips mentioned agenda item number eight is to consider approving the lease agreement with Hometown Bank of Alabama regarding the downtown amphitheater project. The Mayor stated two public hearings were held on this matter for the public's input. Mayor Phillips

stated the city has been working diligently with Hometown Bank of Alabama on the lease agreement presented tonight and waiver agreements with all adjacent neighbors. The Mayor stated the bank will lease the property for \$1.00 annually for twenty years and will be responsible for constructing the amphitheater during that time.

The Mayor stated agenda item nine is to consider authorizing Mayor Phillips to enter an agreement on the sale of property identified as parcel no. 1609313003039.000 to Hometown Bank of Alabama. Mayor Phillips mentioned the referenced property was included in the two public hearings held for the amphitheater project with Hometown Bank of Alabama. Mayor Phillips stated that Hometown Bank of Alabama intends to build a business building on the property and has agreed to pay the appraised amount of \$65,000.00.

Alex Smith stated state statute requires any municipality that collects ad valorem taxes annually are required to adopt a resolution stating the amount the city collects. Alex stated he has reviewed the matter and has no opposition to it.

Mayor Phillips mentioned Councilwoman Underwood will review agenda item eleven during the council meeting.

The Mayor stated agenda item twelve is to consider appointing Leanne McAlpine to the Chamber of Commerce as the city's representative.

Allie Allcorn mentioned that agenda item thirteen is to consider approving a capital request to purchase a public safety electronic board. She stated the electronic board would be used for public safety purposes and the board originally cost \$25,000.00, but the seller is asking for \$10,000.00 for the board.

Mayor Phillips stated Councilman Bradley will review agenda item fourteen during the council meeting and Councilman McAlpine will review agenda item fifteen during the council meeting. The Mayor mentioned Councilman Bradley will review agenda items sixteen and seventeen during the council meeting. Mayor Phillips stated agenda items nineteen and twenty are regular items that will be discussed during the council meeting.

Mayor Phillips closed the work session at 5:55 p.m.

Officer Falkner and Police Sergeant Buchanan entered the chambers.

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

Councilman Bradley gave the invocation.

Mayor Phillips led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Bradley made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2023 council meeting as written. Councilwoman Underwood seconded; Mayor Phillips abstained and the motion carried with all ayes.

Mayor Phillips stated there was a public hearing held for the alcohol license application on behalf of Pinseekers, LLC, and discussed during the work session with no public comment. Councilwoman Underwood made a motion to approve the alcohol license application for on-premises beer on behalf of Pinseekers, LLC. Councilman Bradley seconded; Councilman McAlpine abstained due to his relation to the owner and the motion carried with all ayes.

Mayor Phillips reiterated there is a need to reschedule the May 23rd council meeting due to his absence and David Langham is wanting to speak about the potential development of the McPherson Property. Councilman McAlpine made a motion to reschedule the May 23, 2023, council meeting to May 17, 2023, due to a scheduling conflict. Councilwoman Underwood seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman Bradley made a motion to set a public hearing on May 9, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the partial transfer of land located at the McPherson Property. Councilwoman Underwood seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

The Mayor stated Noon Realty has approached the city for approximately twenty-five acres on the McPherson Property for retail development. Mayor Phillips mentioned that Noon Realty is asking for an option agreement not to purchase the property but for first right of refusal for one year with two; ninety days extension. Councilwoman Underwood made a motion to enter into an option agreement with Noon Realty for the partial transfer of land located at the McPherson Property. Councilman Bradley seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Mayor Phillips mentioned agenda item number eight is to consider approving the lease agreement with Hometown Bank of Alabama regarding the downtown amphitheater project. The Mayor stated two public hearings were held on this matter for the public's input. Mayor Phillips stated the city has been working diligently with Hometown Bank of Alabama on the lease agreement presented tonight and waiver agreements will all adjacent neighbors. The Mayor stated the bank will lease the property for \$1.00 annually for twenty years and will be responsible for constructing the amphitheater during that time. Councilwoman Underwood made a motion to approve the lease agreement with Hometown Bank of Alabama regarding the downtown amphitheater project. Councilman McAlpine seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

The Mayor stated agenda item nine is to consider authorizing Mayor Phillips to enter an agreement on the sale of property identified as parcel no. 1609313003039.000 to Hometown Bank of Alabama. Mayor Phillips mentioned the referenced property was included in the two public hearings held for the amphitheater project with Hometown Bank of Alabama. Mayor Phillips stated that Hometown Bank of Alabama intends to build a business building on the property and has agreed to pay the appraised amount of \$65,000.00. Councilwoman Underwood made a motion to authorize Mayor Phillips to enter an agreement on the sale of property

identified as parcel no. 1609313003039.000 to Hometown Bank of Alabama. Councilman McAlpine seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Mayor Phillips stated the city received a letter from the Blount County Commission requesting for the city to approve resolution no. 0423-01 in order to comply with state statute. The Mayor read resolution no. 0423-01; regarding the current tax levy for the city. Councilman Bradley made a motion to approve resolution no. 0423-01; regarding the current tax levy. Councilman McAlpine seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilwoman Underwood read resolution no. 0423-02; regarding police department surplus and made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilman Bradley seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilwoman Underwood made a motion to appoint Leanne McAlpine to the Chamber of Commerce as the city's representative. Councilman Bradley seconded; Councilman McAlpine abstained and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman McAlpine made a motion to approve the capital request for the purchase of a public safety electronic board in the amount of \$10,000.00. Councilman Bradley seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman Bradley read a recommendation letter from Fire Chief Seehusen recommending hiring Thomas Falkner as a full-time firefighter with a start date of April 29, 2023. Councilman Bradley made a motion to hire Thomas Falkner as a full-time firefighter. Councilwoman Underwood seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman McAlpine read a recommendation letter from Roland McCoy recommending hiring Fransisco Marques as a full-time public works employee. Councilman McAlpine made a recommendation to hire Fransisco Marques as a full-time public works employee. Councilman Bradley seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman Bradley made a motion to hire the following individuals as temporary; part-time pool managers: Bailee Johnson, Kalle Killough, and Lauren Roddam. Councilman McAlpine seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman Bradley made a motion to hire the following individuals as temporary; part-time lifeguards: Calleigh Barker, Gracie Berry, Asher Bracker, Tyler Butts, Addison Endress, Emily Fendley, Matelyn Jackson, Kash Key, Kenleigh Key, Hailee Pate, Kaylee Peoples, Baylor Phillips, Maggie Roddam, Tori Tekulve, Carson Strickland, and Lois Ann Wester. Councilwoman Underwood seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Allie Allcorn reported on the March 2023 financial summary. She stated L.T.S.'s numbers for March were the lowest this fiscal year and second lowest within the last twelve months at \$658,000.00. She stated sales tax numbers were the second lowest this fiscal year and third

lowest within the last twelve months at \$479,000.00. Allie mentioned to date the city has brought in \$1,061,000.00 in business license fees and \$86,000.00 in building permits. She stated total revenue to date is \$6,652,000.00 and the total revenue for March is \$789,000.00. Allie mentioned the two main expenditures for park and recreation were a payment to Gameday Athletics in the amount of \$270,360.00, and a payment to Hawk in the amount of \$10,609.70. The other major expenditure went to ARK Restoration in the amount of \$22,362.53 for depot renovations which are being covered by a historic grant.

Mayor Phillips congratulated Pinseekers, LLC, and the new hires and thanked Leanna McAlpine for volunteering. The Mayor stated that Nicole Tolbert attended a conference with Alabama Mountain Lake of Tourism where she received \$750.00 of grant money for the city market.

Mayor Phillips entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Bradley made a motion to adjourn the council meeting. Councilman McAlpine seconded and the motion carried with all ayes. The council meeting was adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk