

State of Alabama)  
City of Oneonta, July 26, 2022  
County of Blount)

### Council Meeting Minutes

The Mayor and City Council met during the regularly scheduled council meeting on July 26, 2022, 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, Brandon Horton, Andy Alexander, Allie Allcorn, Fire Chief Booth, Police Chief Clifton, Police Lt. Egan, Officer Heard, Bekah Phillips, Don Maples, Pat Adams, Matt Taylor, Craig Sosebee, Pamela Casey and family, Roland McCoy, and Amanda Cole.

The Mayor opened the work session at 5:45 p.m. to review the agenda items for the council meeting. Mayor Phillips stated agenda items one and two are standard items. The Mayor mentioned item three pertains to July 12, 2022, council minutes unless anyone has any comments. Councilman McAlpine stated that on page two of the minutes the name Nick McCurry should be Nick McCurry. Mayor Phillips mentioned that the error would be amended to reflect the change.

Mayor Phillips mentioned agenda item four is to set a public hearing for August 9, 2022, immediately following the council meeting for the purpose of discussing the downtown revitalization proposal on behalf of Hometown Bank of Alabama.

Alex Smith stated the City of Oneonta is one of many municipalities throughout the state part of the opioid litigation. Mr. Smith mentioned the resolution on the agenda for tonight is required to be signed by the city clerk in order to receive any funds from the litigation.

Amanda Cole mentioned agenda item six is concerning the Rebuild Alabama Act. She explained this is the fourth year the city has adopted this resolution in order to receive the Rebuild Alabama Act funds. She stated the estimated funding for the fiscal year 2023 is \$50,678.50 and the money is used to maintain roadways and bridges within the city limits.

Amanda Cole explained agenda item seven is concerning appointing poll workers for the Oneonta School Board Election for place four on August 23, 2022.

Amanda Cole stated agenda item eight is an agreement between the Blount County Commission and the City of Oneonta for assistance with the Oneonta School Board Election. She mentioned the cost would be a flat \$2,000.00 and \$40.00 an hour for employees working the machines.

Amanda Cole explained agenda items nine through eleven are all documents required to approve and file with the Probate Office due to Oneonta School Board Election; the place 2 position being unopposed.

Mayor Phillips stated Councilwoman Underwood would review agenda item twelve during the council meeting. The Mayor explained there is a need to add another School Resource Officer (SRO) at the school due to recent events and safety precautions.

Patrick Adams, President of Oneonta School Board, thanked the city for their continued partnership and for allowing the school to have another SRO to protect their students and staff. Mr. Adams invited the Mayor and City Council to come to visit the school and see all the improvements that have been made. Mayor Phillips thanked Patrick Adams and the Oneonta School Board for their continued participation and explained how important the school is for the community.

The Mayor explained agenda item thirteen will be a Chamber of Commerce update. He mentioned agenda item fourteen will be the city recognizing Matt Taylor with Carr, Riggs, and Ingram to review the 2021 financial statements.

Mayor Phillips stated agenda item fifteen Brandon Horton will review the Emergency Preparedness Plan, so the residents know the plan in place and are able to form their own home plan.

The Mayor stated agenda items sixteen and seventeen will be discussed during the council meeting. Mayor Phillips explained that agenda item eighteen is to consider entering an executive session to discuss the potential sale of the property. He explained there may be the further business after the executive sessions. So, anyone interested in staying is welcome to stay. Mayor Phillips closed the work session at 5:55 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 16, 2022, council meeting as written with the amended change discussed during the work session. Councilman McAlpine seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilwoman Pierce made a motion to set a public hearing for August 9, 2022, immediately following the council meeting for the purpose of discussing the downtown revitalization proposal on behalf of Hometown Bank of Alabama. Councilwoman Underwood seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Mayor Phillips stated Alex Smith thoroughly explained the opioid litigation during the work session. Amanda Cole read resolution number 0722-01; concerning the opioid litigation in its entirety. Councilman Alexander made a motion to approve resolution number 0722-01; concerning the opioid litigation. Councilman Bradley seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Amanda Cole read resolution number 0722-02; concerning the Rebuild Alabama Act in its entirety. She stated the estimated amount for the city to receive for the fiscal year is \$50,678.50 and the money can only be used for maintenance and improvements to roads and bridges. Councilman Bradley made a motion to resolution number 0722-02; concerning the Rebuild Alabama Act. Councilwoman Pierce seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Amanda Cole read resolution number 0722-03; concerning appointing Oneonta School Board Election poll workers in its entirety. Councilman Alexander made a motion to approve resolution number 0722-03; concerning appointing Oneonta School Board Election poll workers. Councilman McAlpine seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Amanda Cole stated the Blount County Commission and the City of Oneonta agreement for assistance with the Oneonta School Board Election would be for the flat rate of \$2,000.00 with an additional \$40.00 an hour for employees. Councilwoman Underwood made a motion to approve the Blount County Commission and the City of Oneonta agreement for assistance with the Oneonta School Board Election. Councilwoman Pierce seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Amanda Cole read a resolution for an officer elected without opposition in the Oneonta School Board Election- place two. She stated that Matthew Taylor was the only candidate that qualified for place two and would be duly elected to office on the first Monday in October 2022. Councilman McAlpine made a motion to approve a resolution electing Matthew Taylor as place two for the Oneonta School Board Election due to no opposition. Councilman Alexander seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Amanda Cole read a certificate of election for Oneonta School Board- place two. The certificate mentions Matthew Taylor was the only candidate to qualify by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 19, 2022. Councilman Bradley made a motion to approve the certificate of election for Oneonta School Board- place two. Councilwoman Pierce seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Amanda Cole read the statement of single qualification for election; Oneonta School Board- place two. The statement mentions Matthew Taylor was the only candidate to qualify by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 19, 2022. Councilwoman Underwood made a motion to approve the statement of single qualification for election; Oneonta School Board- place two. Councilwoman Pierce seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilwoman Underwood read recommendation letters from Police Chief Clifton and Superintendent Craig Sosebee requesting an additional full-time SRO at the school. Councilwoman Underwood made a motion to advertise for a full-time SRO for Oneonta School System. Councilman Alexander seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Bekah Phillips gave an update on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce. She stated the Chamber has participated in many community events since the last update and the next event will be on September 26<sup>th</sup> for the Dinner Downtown and the Covered Bridge Festival on October 8<sup>th</sup>.

Matt Taylor with Carr, Riggs, and Ingram gave a review of the 2021 financial statements on behalf of the city. He stated the city was required to have an additional single audit due to receiving more than \$750,000.00 in federal funding, in which there were no findings in the single audit. Matt referenced page four where it stated there is an unmodified opinion which is what you want to have when it comes to financial statements. He explained the net change on page nine is high due to the bond taken out during 2021. Matt mentioned he always likes to refer to the RSA pension plan liability payout on page forty in order for the city to understand the importance of how the amount can change even by one percent. After further review, Mayor Phillips thanked Matt for attending the council meeting.

Mayor Phillips recognized Brandon Horton to address the "Emergency Preparedness Plan" on behalf of the city. Brandon started off by mentioning the plan is a tool to help guide the community during emergency situations while utilizing federal regulations. He stated the plan incorporates partnerships among churches, schools, daycares, ambulance services, Red Cross, FEMA, and ALDOT. Brandon stated both the police and fire department train on a regular basis throughout the year on how to respond during emergency events. He mentioned for regular updates on emergency-related events, residents are able to view the city's Facebook page, the city's app, the radio, and the news and even be able to receive NIXLE alerts. Brandon provided his contact information and stated he is available for any questions.

Allie Allcorn stated the city council approved for the city to enter into a lease agreement with Bancorp for three municipal vehicles; one for inspection, one for public works, and one for park and recreation. She explained the state bid for the reference lease agreement is no longer valid so the city is not able to lease those vehicles. Allie explained the city can buy out two used vehicles through the state bid list for no more than \$60,000 for both and the ARPA funding can be used to purchase them. Councilman Bradley made a motion to authorize Brandon Horton to purchase two vehicles on a state bid not to exceed \$60,000.00 for both. Councilwoman Underwood seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Allie reviewed the financial summary for June 2022. She mentioned local taxes and services came in a bit below the yearly average. She stated the municipal court received \$49,000.00 for the month of June. She mentioned the Oneonta Aquatic Facility brought in \$41,358.00 for the month of June in revenues.

Mayor Phillips stated the city market was incredibly successful and he believes the city will continue to host the event at night. The Mayor stated there is a need to enter an executive session to discuss the potential sale of property and there may be further business after the session.

Councilwoman Pierce made a motion to enter into an executive session to discuss the potential sale of the property. Councilman Alexander seconded and the motion carried with all ayes at 7:07 p.m.

Mayor Phillips and Council Members: Alexander, Bradley, McAlpine, Pierce, and Underwood were present in the executive session. Also present were Alex Smith, Brandon Horton, Allie Allcorn, and Amanda Cole. The executive session started at 7:07 p.m. Councilman Bradley made

a motion to exit the executive session. Councilwoman Pierce seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Mayor Phillips mentioned during a previous council meeting the council approved the sale of the property between Pizza Hut and Wallace State Tech on Highway 75 North. The Mayor explained that the project has been halted due to all business in Alabama has been paused for the time being. Mayor Phillips stated Rockmart Property Group, LLC is interested in the same property under the same agreement terms. Councilwoman Underwood made a motion to authorize Mayor Richard Phillips to enter into an agreement with Rockmart Property Group, LLC with the purchasing of property located on highway 75 north, between Pizza Hut and Wallace State Tech. Councilwoman Pierce seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Mayor Phillips entertained a motion to adjourn the council meeting. Councilman McAlpine made a motion to adjourn the council meeting. Councilman Bradley seconded and the motion carried with all ayes. The council meeting ended at 7:19 p.m.

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Mayor

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City Clerk