

State of Alabama)

City of Oneonta, December 17, 2020

County of Blount)

#### Work Session

The Mayor and City Council held a work session on Thursday, December 17, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the park and recreation re-development.

Present at the work session were Mayor Phillips, Council Members: Alexander, Bradley, Pierce, McAlpine and Underwood. Also, present were Ed Lowe, Brandon Horton, Allie Allcorn, Keith Strickland with Goodwyn, Mills & Cawood, Kevin Nicodemus, Marla Smith, Carolyn Grisso, Kevin Marazzi, Gene Gonsoulin, Chris Walters, Shannon Longshore and Amanda Cole.

Mayor Phillips opened the work session stating there are two GMC representatives via phone and GMC representative, Keith Strickland is present for the work session. The Mayor stated the work session is to discuss the overall park and recreation facilities and get the public's input. Mayor Phillips mentioned there are packets for everyone in the work session and those viewing from Facebook have the capability to see the images on the website.

The Mayor gave everyone the opportunity to view the packets and the semantics present in the work session. Mayor Phillips requested Ed Lowe to speak on behalf the park and recreation re-development and its importance to the community. Ed stated people are shifting now more than ever to outdoor activities and working from home, so the city needs to look at other aspects for the community, such as education and infrastructure. Ed mentioned now is the time for the residents to have an opportunity to embrace the re-development and offer any ideas.

Mayor Phillips asked local real estate agent, Shannon Longshore to touch base on the importance of the park and recreation re-development. Shannon stated every time she shows a real estate property, she is asked what education is provided and what park and recreation activities are available. She stated the park and recreation re-development will help drive local real estate sales.

Keith Strickland stated he is here to review the park and recreation re-development plans but most importantly he wants to answer any questions from the residents. He mentioned he has worked with the City of Oneonta for seventeen years and is extremely happy to see the project begin. Keith addressed the audience asking them what the number one improvement they want to see at the park and recreation re-development is. Marla Smith mentioned she would like to see a pool and splashpad apart of the re-development. Keith Mazzari stated he would like to see better field drainage on the fields. Keith stated GMC mains focus for the project is to create better accommodations and facilities with environmentally friendly green spaces. Keith also mentioned GMC wants to maintain the multi-level drainage but shift things around and create connectivity to access the park.

Keith mentioned the new soccer fields are on the fast track of getting started and GMC should be able to begin bids in early spring. He stated the Railroad Market and Amphitheater are great projects for the community and create a lot of room to utilize with low maintenance. Mayor Phillips thanked Keith for doing such a great job reviewing the packet and answering all questions asked during the work session. Keith stated there will be more meetings to come concerning the project, but in the meantime, GMC will provide new semantics for the community to view and comment on the city's website and Facebook.

Keith stated the park and recreation re-development will be a work in progress and the city only gets one shot to make sure the project is done to the highest potential. Mayor Phillips mentioned there will also be meetings at the beginning of the new year to discuss grant options to possibility off-set some the cost for the Champion Trail. After much discussion, Mayor Phillips entertained for a motion to adjourn the work session. Councilman Bradley made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Alexander seconded and the motion carried with all ayes. The work session ended at 6:20 p.m.



City Clerk



Mayor