

State of Alabama)

City of Oneonta, April 27, 2021

County of Blount)

The Mayor and City Council met during a regularly scheduled council meeting on April 27, 2021 with a work session beginning at 5:45 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing the agenda. Present were Mayor Phillips, Council Members, Alexander, Bradley, McAlpine and Underwood. Also, present in the meeting were Alex Smith, Allie Allcorn, Brandon Horton, Ricky Statham, Jr., Briar Fowler, Patti Williams, Pat Clanton, Stephanie and Tim Preston, Roland McCoy, Police Chief Clifton, Tom Albritton, and Amanda Cole. Councilwoman Pierce was absent for the work session and council meeting.

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 one through four are standard agenda items unless someone has anything to say regarding the April 13, 2021 minutes.

Councilman Alexander reviewed agenda item five concerning the upgrade to city streetlights and mentioned the contract would save the city \$600.00 monthly. Mayor Phillips mentioned there is a list of all intersections that would be upgraded to the 53 wattage bulbs in the council's packets and the remaining take out lights would be upgraded to the 35 wattage bulbs.

Brandon Horton reviewed agenda item six regarding the Armory Drive Project bids. He stated the city received three bids which were all exceeding the approximate budget for the project. Brandon stated GMC recommended the city reject all three bids, then authorize GMC to redesign the specifications of the project allowing the city to purchase piping for the project, which would leave the bids requesting for someone to only install the piping. Mayor Phillips stated the piping is an alternative design, but the city should still get approximately thirty to forty years of usage. The Mayor mentioned the city's budget for the project was \$180,000.00 to \$200,000.00; however, the city received the following bid amounts: \$263,651.79; \$307,426.50; \$352,990.32.

Alex Smith discussed agenda item seven regarding accepting the deeded substandard property of Arnold Property. He stated the owners are not willing to pay the demolition price, therefore they have agreed to deed the property to the city. Alex mentioned there are five heirs to the property, so he had to mail out five different warranty deeds and has received two deeds granting the approval. Alex stated the city will have to approve the deeded substandard property then demolition will be allowed to begin. He mentioned the city has prolonged the substandard property at 3rd Ave East another month to give the property owner time to demolish the home. Alex mentioned the Old Motel Property at the top of Highway 231 and a substandard property located on State Road will be next in court. Alex confirmed the Hometown Market gift of deed was received by the city today and he has been working with Brandon Horton on the groundwork for demolition. The Mayor thanked Alex Smith and Brandon Horton for all their hard work with these projects.

Regarding agenda item eight, Councilman Bradley read a capital request letter from the park and recreation department, requesting a ZD1211-3-60 lawnmower from Blount County Tractor. Councilman Bradley stated there are two different options: one with canopy \$14,511.00 and the other without canopy \$14,061.00.

Mayor Phillips reviewed agenda item nine stating there is a need to amend the current ordinance regulating the sale and distribution of alcoholic beverages. The Mayor mentioned the ordinance will remove the term "city manager" and be replaced with the term "designated city representative"; the alcohol review committee will be removed. Amanda Cole stated there will be clarification on lawful and unlawful hours of sale and there is clarification of the alcohol license application price.

Councilwoman Underwood stated agenda item ten is regarding a resolution to surplus weapons that are no longer in use for the police department.

Regarding agenda item eleven, Councilman Bradley stated the park and recreation conducted three interviews for the full-time park and recreation maintenance employee and Caden Evans is the recommended hire.

Concerning agenda item twelve, Councilman McAlpine stated the city has advertised for a full-time municipal court clerk/magistrate and recommends promoting Stephanie Preston into the position.

Councilman Alexander mentioned agenda item thirteen is requesting to advertise for two much needed seasonal, temporary employees for the upcoming summer season.

Involving agenda item fourteen, Mayor Phillips recap on the council approving the resolution which set board term limits allowing members to only serve two consecutive terms, unless the board can prove the appointee is much needed due to extreme circumstances. The Mayor mentioned the city received a request letter from Chris Hardeman, President of the Park and Recreation Board, to reappoint Marla Smith due to the ongoing projects.

Mayor Phillips stated that agenda items sixteen through twenty all pertain to either reappointing or appointing board members to the Zoning Board of Adjustments or the Planning Commission.

The Mayor mentioned agenda item twenty-one is recognizing Tom Albritton with the Alabama Ethics Commission to the floor.

Mayor Phillips stated agenda item twenty-two is recognizing resident Mike Currier to the floor.

The Mayor stated agenda items twenty-three through twenty-five are regular business items to discuss during the council meeting.

Mayor Phillips entertained for adjournment of the work session. Councilman Bradley made a motion to close the work session. Councilman Alexander seconded and the motion carried with all ayes. The work session closed at 6:08 p.m.

The Mayor opened the regular scheduled council meeting at 6:10 p.m.

Mayor Phillips apologized for beginning the council meeting late, but the work session ran over.

Councilman Bradley gave the invocation.

Councilwoman Underwood led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Bradley made a motion to approve minutes of April 13, 2021 council meeting as written. Councilman McAlpine seconded, and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman Alexander made a motion to approve minutes of April 13, 2021 work session as written. Councilman Bradley seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman Alexander stated he has been working with Alabama Power on upgrading the city streetlights to LED to save the city cost and maintenance and create a safer community. Councilman Alexander mentioned there is no upfront cost and the city will save \$600.00 monthly. Councilman McAlpine made a motion to approve the City of Oneonta LED streetlight project with Alabama Power. Councilwoman Underwood seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Brandon Horton reviewed agenda item six regarding the Armory Drive Project bids. He stated the city received three bids which were all exceeding the approximate budget for the project. Brandon stated GMC recommended the city reject all three bids, then authorize GMC to redesign the specifications of the project allowing the city to purchase piping for the project, which would leave the bids requesting for someone to only install the piping. Mayor Phillips stated the piping is an alternative design, but the city should still get approximately thirty to forty years of usage. The Mayor mentioned the city's budget for the project was \$180,000.00 to \$200,000.00; however, the city received the following bid amounts: \$263,651.79; \$307,426.50; \$352,990.32. Councilwoman Underwood made a motion to reject all three referenced bids received by the city regarding the Armory Drive Project. Councilman McAlpine seconded, and the motion carried with all ayes. Brandon stated for GMC to move forward with redesigning the bid specifications and advertising for bids, the council would have to approve the authorization. Alex Smith stated since the city received more than one bid, they are required by law to rebid the new proposal. Councilman Alexander made a motion to authorize GMC to redesign bid specifications and advertise for bids regarding the Armory Drive Project. Councilman Bradley seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Alex Smith stated the heirs of the Arnold Property do not have the money to demolish the home, so they have agreed to deed the substandard property to the city. Alex mentioned the hope is to demolish the home then auction it so the city can get the demolition refunded. Councilman Bradley made a motion to accept the deeded substandard property of the Arnold Property. Councilwoman Underwood seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman Bradley made a motion to approve the following capital request on behalf of the park and recreation department: ZD1211-3-60 lawnmower with canopy from Blount County Tractor in the amount of \$14,511.00. Councilman Alexander seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Mayor Phillips reviewed agenda item nine stating there is a need to amend the current ordinance regulating the sale and distribution of alcoholic beverages. The Mayor mentioned the ordinance will remove the term "city manager" and be replaced with the term "designated city representative"; the alcohol review committee will be removed. The Mayor mentioned with the ARC being removed, all applications would be reviewed by the Police Chief, Fire Chief and Public Safety Director. The other change mentioned was the unlawful and lawful hours have been explained more clearly. Councilman McAlpine made a motion to set a public hearing on May 11, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing ordinance no. 0521-01 regulating the sale and distribution of alcoholic beverages. Councilman Alexander seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilwoman Underwood read resolution number 0421-01 concerning police department surplus. Councilwoman Underwood made a motion to approve resolution number 0421-01 concerning surplus approval for the police department which in turn the proceeds will go towards buying new shotguns. Councilman Bradley seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman Bradley read a recommendation letter from Kevin Nicodemus on behalf of the park and recreation department hiring Caden Evans for the full-time park and recreation maintenance position. Councilman Bradley made a motion to hire Caden Evans as full-time park and recreation maintenance position. Councilman McAlpine seconded, and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman McAlpine made a motion to promote Stephanie Preston to full-time municipal court clerk/magistrate position. Councilman Bradley seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman Alexander made a motion to advertise for two part-time, seasonal employees for the street department. Councilman Bradley seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman Bradley made a motion to hire Ja'Nya Polk and Michael Polk as seasonal, temporary park and recreation employees. Councilwoman Underwood seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Mayor Phillips recapped on the council approving the resolution which set board term limits allowing members to only serve two consecutive terms, unless the board can prove the appointee is much needed due to extreme circumstances. The Mayor read a request letter from Chris Hardeman, President of the Park and Recreation Board, to reappoint Marla Smith due to the ongoing projects. Councilman Alexander made a motion to reappoint Marla Smith to the park and recreation board due to the ongoing projects in the park and recreation. Councilwoman Underwood seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman McAlpine made a motion to appoint Steven Love from alternate position to permanent position to the Zoning Board of Adjustments. Councilwoman Underwood seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman Bradley made a motion to appoint Melinda Anderton as alternate position to the Zoning Board of Adjustments. Councilwoman Underwood seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman Alexander made a motion to appoint Aleyda Villegas as alternate position to the Zoning Board of Adjustments. Councilman McAlpine seconded, and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilwoman Underwood made a motion to appoint Shannon Longshore to the Planning Commission. Councilman Bradley seconded, and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman Alexander made a motion to appoint Jon Gehri to the Planning Commission. Councilman McAlpine seconded, and the motion carried with all ayes.

Mayor Phillips recognized Tom Albritton with the Alabama Ethics Commission to the floor. Tom thanked the Mayor and City Council for having him attend the meeting and thanked Amanda Cole for being such a great help and being so pleasant with establishing this opportunity. Tom reminded the Mayor and City Council the purpose of the Alabama Ethics Commission and mentioned the commission is always available for questions and encourage the interaction.

Councilman Alexander stated Mike Currier was not able to attend the council meeting but left his business cards for anyone interested.

Mayor Phillips stated Barbara Andersen provided information on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce in each council packet.

Pat Clanton gave a brief update on behalf of the Oneonta Business Association. Pat thanked the city for all the clean sweep efforts throughout the community. She also thanked all the departments throughout the city for all their hard work with the June Fling. She mentioned the OBA's Christmas theme is "Home for Christmas" and looks forward to having a wonderful holiday season.

Allie Allcorn congratulated all the new hires and Stephanie Preston on her promotion. She stated the city was going to do the runway approach clearing in two phases due to the availability of FAA funding, but the FAA is going to require an environmental assessment for both phases. To make the overall projects more cost effective, we are going to do all the environmental this year and all the construction next year. The change of plans will cause costs to go from \$101,874.00 to \$68,566.00, which is all covered by grant funds. Allie mentioned the city has received \$18,067.00 through the CARES Act and \$9,000.00 through Rescue Act for any projects at the airport. She stated the city plans to pay the utility bill, internet and paint the beacon with those funds, but if anyone has any other airport projects to please let her know.

Mayor Phillips updated everyone on the basketball court at Woodland Park, stating there is a delay of installation of the retaining wall and fencing but as Mayor Phillips stated as soon as that is done the city will place basketball goals in place and paint and the project will be complete. The Mayor also mentioned there has been an issue with the public using private dumpsters within downtown Oneonta, so he would like for the panel to get together and brainstorm downtown trash issues and come back with a possible solution.

Councilman Alexander updated everyone on the community garden located at the Oneonta Public Library. Councilman Alexander mentioned the garden boxes and filtration are in place, and they are just wanting to mulch the area. He still hopeful on receiving the grant he applied for pertaining to the community garden. Councilman Alexander also stated all the food that is grown in the community garden will be donated to the "Grow More, Give More" Foundation.

Councilman McAlpine stated the concrete area located at the Oneonta Public Library is now complete and the next step is to build a retaining wall and install benches.

Mayor Phillips thanked Councilman Alexander and Councilman McAlpine for all their hard work on these projects and thanked all the new appointees and employees.

Mayor Phillips entertained for a motion to adjourn. Councilman McAlpine made a motion to adjourn the council meeting. Councilman Alexander seconded and the motion carried with all ayes. The council meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk

