

State of Alabama)

City of Oneonta, June 22, 2021

County of Blount)

The Mayor and City Council met during a regularly scheduled council meeting on June 22, 2021, with a work session scheduled for 5:45 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing the agenda items. Present were Mayor Phillips, Council Members, Alexander, Bradley, McAlpine, Pierce and Underwood. Also, present in the meeting were Alex Smith, Tim Moore, Allie Allcorn, Police Chief Clifton, Fire Assistant Payne, Nancy Malcolm, Zac Marsh, Lisa Wester, Pat Clanton, Barbara Andersen, Roland McCoy and Amanda Cole.

Mayor Phillips opened the work session at 5:45 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing the agenda for the council meeting. The Mayor stated agenda items one through three are standard agenda items unless someone has anything to say regarding the June 8<sup>th</sup> council meeting minutes.

The Mayor explained agenda item number four is meant for considering setting a public hearing on July 13, 2021, at 5:20 p.m. for the purpose of discussing rezoning of property located at 510 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue East from zoning O-1 to proposed zoning R-3. Councilwoman Pierce stated that O-1 refers to office zoning and R-3 is residential zoning, which the location of 510 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue consists of majority residential zoning.

Mayor Phillips stated agenda item number five is for considering setting a public hearing on July 13, 2021, at 5:25 p.m. for the purpose of discussing rezoning or property located at 210 3<sup>rd</sup> Street South from zoning M-1 proposed zoning B-3.

The Mayor explained agenda item number six is to consider setting a public hearing on July 13, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. for the purpose of discussing ordinance number 0721-01 amending the Oneonta Zoning Ordinance. He stated at the last Planning Commission meeting they reviewed the new suggested amendments from the City Council concerning the Oneonta Zoning Ordinance and have provided the council with their suggested amendments. Mayor Phillips mentioned there is a draft of ordinance number 0721-01 for anyone interested in reviewing the document.

Mayor Phillips stated the purpose of agenda item number seven is to set a work session on July 13, 2021, immediately following the council meeting to discuss downtown garbage options. He mentioned all the downtown business owners will be invited to attend and anyone else that may be interested is welcome to attend the work session.

Allie Allcorn stated agenda item number eight pertains to awarding Gillespie Construction, LLC with the airport drainage improvement project in the total amount of \$25,970.00. She mentioned once the grant funds are received the project will begin shortly afterwards. She reiterated that 100% of the bid amount and engineering fees will be covered through grant funding.

Allie Allcorn mentioned agenda item number nine refers to 772 tax abatement incentive form she issued to the City Council at the previous council meeting for any suggested amendments before approval. She stated the main purpose of the documents is to provide new and existing businesses with possible tax incentives through the city. Councilman Alexander requested Allie to input different percentages and examples of the what the city can offer, so businesses will have a better idea on what all the city is able to provide a business. Allie replied by explaining the form is vague for the purpose of approving the incentives case by case depending on what the business' need may be at the time. Allie also pointed out that she added language within the text requiring all businesses to be within city limits.

Allie stated agenda item number ten pertains to appointing Brandon Horton as airport manager to the Robbins' Field Airport. She mentioned the position used to be held by Ed Lowe, but since his retirement Brandon Horton and herself split the airport responsibilities. She stated that she will be responsible for the grant and expenditures for the airport and Brandon will be over the safety aspect of the airport due to his experience.

Councilwoman Pierce stated agenda item eleven is concerning to approve a full-time firefighter/paramedic position. Councilwoman Pierce moved to explain agenda item twelve is concerning to approve a part-time firefighter/paramedic position.

Mayor Phillips stated agenda items thirteen through sixteen are regular business items. The Mayor explained agenda item seventeen is the consideration of entering executive session to discuss the purchase/sale of property and there will be no further business following the executive session. Mayor Phillips entertained a motion to adjourn the work session. Councilman Bradley made a motion to close the work session. Councilman McAlpine seconded and the motion carried with all ayes. The work session closed at 5:55 p.m.

The Mayor opened the regular scheduled council meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Councilman Bradley gave the invocation.

Councilman Alexander led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilwoman Pierce made a motion to approve minutes of June 8, 2021, council meeting as written. Councilman Bradley seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman McAlpine made a motion to set a public hearing on July 13, 2021, at 5:20 p.m. for the purpose of discussing rezoning of property located at 510 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue East; Parcel number 1609312001050 from zoning O-1 to proposed zoning R-3. Councilman Alexander seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman Bradley made a motion to set a public hearing on July 13, 2021, at 5:25 p.m. for the purpose of discussing rezoning of property located at 210 3<sup>rd</sup> Street South; Parcel number 16093300102800 from zoning M-1 to proposed zoning B-3. Councilwoman Underwood seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilwoman Underwood made a motion setting a public hearing on July 13, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. for the purpose of discussing ordinance no. 0721-01 amending the Oneonta Zoning Ordinance. Councilwoman Pierce seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman Alexander made a motion setting a work session on July 13, 2021, immediately following the council meeting to discuss downtown garbage options. Councilman Bradley seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Allie Allcorn stated Gillespie Construction, LLC was the lowest bidder for the airport drainage improvement project in the total amount of \$25,970.00. She mentioned once the grant funds are received the project will begin shortly afterwards. She reiterated that 100% of the bid amount and engineering fees will be covered through grant funding. Councilman Bradley made a motion to award Gillespie Construction, LLC with the airport drainage improvement project in the total amount of \$25,970.00. Councilman Alexander seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Allie Allcorn mentioned the council has had the opportunity to review the 772-tax abatement incentive form and will add Councilman Alexander's comments from the work session. Alex Smith stated the form is a guideline and will be changed based on different criteria provided from each business. Councilman Bradley commended Allie on her work producing the 772-tax abatement incentive form and made a motion to approve the form. Councilman Alexander seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Allie recommended appointing Brandon Horton as airport manager to the Robbins' Field Airport due to his experience and safety protocol knowledge. She explained he is already on all the airport documentation as the airport manager after Mr. Lowe's retirement. Councilwoman Underwood made a motion to appoint Brandon Horton as airport manager to the Robbins' Field Airport. Councilwoman Pierce seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilwoman Pierce read recommendation letter from Fire Chief Booth requesting to hire part-time firefighter/paramedic to full-time position within the fire department beginning at grade seven and step three. Councilwoman Pierce made a motion to hire Jeremy Peek as full-time firefighter/paramedic. Councilman Bradley seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilwoman Pierce read recommendation letter from Fire Chief Booth requesting to hire Thomas Faulkner as part-time firefighter/paramedic. Councilwoman Pierce made a motion to hire Thomas Faulkner as part-time firefighter/paramedic. Councilman Bradley seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Barbara Andersen gave a brief update on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce. She reminded everyone of the Open House at the 110 building on June 24<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Barbara stated the Chamber is currently working on a historical scavenger hunt that involves public participation and local merchants but there will be more information on this matter later. She mentioned the Chamber is currently doing a social media series called “Things to do in Blount County” making residents aware of fun activities throughout the county. Barbara also mentioned the Chamber will begin having afternoon events beginning in July and will begin conducting Saturday events at Kind Kups Coffee in Cleveland. Barbara thanked Councilman McAlpine for his assistance with bringing the rib rally cook off event back again. Barbara stated the Dinner Downtown will be the last Monday in September but will send out more information about the event later.

Zac Marsh gave a brief update on behalf of the Oneonta Business Association. He stated the June Fling was a great success with a peak attendance and numerous compliments about the event. Zac thanked the city for everything they assisted with during the June Fling. He extended appreciation to Councilman Alexander for his sponsorship, Councilman McAlpine for his promoting and Councilwoman Pierce for her volunteering. He invited everyone to attend the next Cruise and Croon on July 31<sup>st</sup> from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Zac reviewed the Christmas events for the year and mentioned the next OBA meeting will be July 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at St. Vincent’s.

Allie reviewed the finances for the month of May. She stated revenue looks good for the period and year to date, yet this is the time of the year when the issuance of business licenses stop. Allie mentioned the city was approved for the American Rescue Plan allocation and the first disbursement in the amount of \$781,000.00 is on its way. She also reminded everyone that funding packet requests must be submitted by July 1, 2021, to be considered for the 2022 budget cycle. Councilman McAlpine asked how many entities does the city fund and has the city always required an entity to submit funding packets requests. The Mayor stated there are nine entities and this is the first time the city has required this process but he feels it is important to properly allocated the public’s money. The Mayor mentioned it is a simple packet and it is requesting five things and you can call Allie for any questions you may have regarding the packet.

The Mayor stated the June Fling was a great success and that this was the first time the city had a booth available. He mentioned the second city market was still a success regardless of the weather and the third event will be on July 17<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Phillips stated he was informed the Dogwood Drive project should be completed within the month pending on the weather and he has already spoke to Roland about communicating with the paving company to ensure they are available. The Mayor mentioned the soccer field project bid will be in the paper for advertisement next week and the bid opening will be on July 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. Mayor Phillips stated the city is waiting to get ADEM permit to move dirt then the contractor will begin in hopes to complete the field by October 1, 2021. Councilman McAlpine asked for an update on the Polk road issue. The Mayor stated a lot of the property was private property but the city did as much as they could to mitigate the area and Mrs. Polk was happy with the result.

Councilwoman Pierce commended the OBA on the success with the June Fling and the quality of vendors.

Councilman Bradley commended the police and fire department for having such a great presence during the June Fling.

Mayor Phillips stated there is a need to enter executive session to discuss the purchase/sale of property and there will not be any further business to discuss. The Mayor entertained a motion to enter executive session. Councilman Bradley made a motion to enter executive session to discuss the purchase/sale of real property at 6:33 p.m. Councilman Alexander seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

The Mayor and Council Members: Alexander, Bradley, McAlpine, Pierce and Underwood entered executive session at 6:36 p.m. Also attending were Alex Smith, Allie Allcorn and Amanda Cole. Councilwoman Pierce made a motion to exit the executive session. Councilwoman Underwood seconded and the motion carried with all ayes. Councilwoman Pierce made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Underwood seconded and the motion carried with all ayes. The meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

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Mayor

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City Clerk