

State of Alabama)

City of Oneonta, December 22, 2020

County of Blount)

The Mayor and City Council met during a scheduled council meeting on December 22, 2020 with a work session beginning at 5:30 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing the agenda. Present were Mayor Phillips, Council Members: Alexander, Bradley, McAlpine, Pierce and Underwood. Also, present in the meeting were Ed Lowe, Alex Smith, Allie Allcorn, Brandon Horton, Roland McCoy, Joan Epps, Tammie Noland, Karen Lowe, Police Chief Clifton, Mike Harris, James Stephens, Jr., Mitch Latta, Steve Gunn, Fire Chief Booth, Aimee Wilson, Brian Fowler, Tara Murphree, Patti Williams, Eddie Lowe and Amanda Cole.

Mayor Phillips opened the work session at 5:30 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing the agenda for the council meeting. Mayor Phillips stated items one through four are standard agenda items. The Mayor stated agenda item five is the 2021 holiday schedule that the city mirrors from the county commission. Councilwoman Pierce stated the Thanksgiving dates for the holiday schedule should be November 25th and 26th, not November 25th and 25th.

Mayor Phillips mentioned the park and recreation board met and approved an amendment to the by-laws requiring seven board members instead of nine board members. The Mayor stated agenda item six is regarding the city council requirement to vote on behalf of the park and recreation by-law amendment.

The Mayor stated the planning commission is in need for a new councilmember to serve on the commission, due to Hal Blackwood no longer holding office as a councilmember. Mayor Phillips mentioned Councilwoman Pierce has volunteered to serve on the planning commission.

Regarding agenda item eight, Mayor Phillips mentioned Fire Chief Booth submitted a letter requesting to promote Scott Payne to the rank of Captain with the Oneonta Fire Department.

Mayor Phillips stated there were two previous meetings concerning the park and recreation re-development projects. The Mayor stated David Langham with Frazier Lanier Company was present at the December 8, 2020, council meeting to discuss the bond issuance for the park and recreation re-development project. Mayor Phillips mentioned Keith Strickland with Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood was present during the December 17, 2020, work session to discuss the possibilities for the park and recreation project. Mayor Phillips stated the purpose of agenda item nine is to give the Mayor authority to enter bond issuance with Frazier Lanier Company. The Mayor mentioned the authorization would allow the bond issuance to be \$10 million dollars and would allow him to deposit the money into a separate account. Once Frazier Lanier Company notifies the city the best time to enter the issuance, Mayor Phillips will be authorized to entry into the bond. Councilman Bradley asked if the six million dollars owed on the 2018 bond would be added to the ten million dollars to be composed of one bond. Mayor Phillips stated yes, the two bonds would be combined, and the city would save \$500,000 dollars on the 2018 bond.

Mayor Phillips mentioned the purpose for agenda item ten is to recognize Officer Mitch Latta for his twenty-five years of service with the police department. The Mayor stated the reason for agenda item eleven is to recognize Ed Lowe for all his hard work and dedication to the city.

The Mayor stated the following two items are not agenda items: approval for advertising full-time secretary position on behalf of the police department and approval of James Stephens, Jr. resignation as full-time police officer on behalf of the police department.

Mayor Phillips entertained for adjournment of the work session. Councilman McAlpine made a motion to close the work session. Councilwoman Underwood seconded and the motion carried with all ayes. The work session ended at 5:40 p.m.

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

Councilwoman Underwood gave the invocation.

Councilman Bradley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilwoman Pierce made a motion to approve the minutes of December 8, 2020 council meeting. Councilman Alexander seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman McAlpine made a motion to approve the minutes of December 17, 2020 work session. Councilman Bradley seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Mayor Phillips stated the city mimics the same 2021 holiday schedule as the Blount County Commission. Councilman Bradley made a motion to approve the 2021 holiday schedule once changing dates November 25th and 25th to November 25th and 26th. Councilwoman Pierce seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman Alexander stated under the current park and recreation board by-laws is compressed of nine members, but after a recent meeting the park and recreation board voted to amend the by-laws to compress the board of seven members. Councilwoman Underwood made a motion to approve the park and recreation board by-laws to compress of seven members instead of nine members. Councilwoman Pierce seconded; Councilman Bradley abstained, and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman Alexander made a motion to appoint Councilwoman Sherry Pierce to the Oneonta Planning Commission. Councilwoman Underwood seconded; Councilwoman Pierce abstained, and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilwoman Pierce read a recommendation letter from Fire Chief Booth requesting to promote Scott Payne to the rank of Captain with the Oneonta Fire Department. Councilwoman Pierce made a motion to promote Scott Payne to the rank of Captain with the Oneonta Fire Department. Councilman Bradley seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman Bradley made a motion to approve Mayor Richard Phillips authorization to enter a bond issuance with Frazier Lanier Company for the purpose of the park and recreation redevelopment project. Councilwoman Pierce seconded and the motion followed with all ayes.

Councilwoman Underwood presented Officer Mitch Latta with a plaque of recognition for his twenty-five years of service on behalf of the Oneonta Police Department. Officer Latta stated it has been an honor to serve the community.

Mayor Phillips stated City Manager, Ed Lowe, has served in many capacities and is sad to see him go but he has served the city with honor and integrity and his absence will leave a hole at Oneonta. Ed Lowe thanked the current and previous Mayor and City Council and the community for all they have done to support him during his time of service. Ed stated his biggest accomplishment while working as city manager is the downtown redevelopment, but he iterated he did not accomplish the redevelopment on his own that it is truly the commitment of the community. Ed mentioned over his time of service the city has received 12 million dollars towards the community.

Mayor Phillips stated there is Chamber of Commerce information in everyone's packet.

Patti Williams gave a brief update on behalf of the Oneonta Business Association. She reviewed all the OBA accomplishments over 2020 and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Allie Allcorn had nothing to report.

Councilwoman Pierce read a letter from Police Chief Clifton requesting approval of advertisement for full-time secretary for Oneonta Police Department due to hiring Stephanie Gonzalez as a full-time police officer. Councilwoman Pierce made a motion to advertise for a full-time secretary for the Oneonta Police Department. Councilwoman Underwood seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman Bradley read the resignation letter on behalf of Officer James Stephens, Jr with his last day of employment effective as January 15, 2021. Councilman Bradley made a motion to approve the resignation of Officer James Stephens, Jr with his last day of employment effective as January 15, 2021. Councilman McAlpine seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Mayor Phillips mentioned there will be updates to the sound system and chamber to better serve the community during council meetings. The Mayor also requested the Infrastructure and Maintenance Panel meet and discuss solutions to the downtown garbage issues.

Councilman Alexander stated the community has benefited having Ed Lowe as the City Manager and thanked him for all his hard work and long hours.

Councilwoman Pierce exclaimed Ed has done a remarkable job with accomplishing what he did over the last decade. She also thanked OBA for doing such a great job and expressed gratitude to the Oneonta Fire Department on the Santa event held on Saturday.

Councilwoman Underwood thanked Ed Lowe and Mitch Latta for their dedication and agreed with Councilwoman Pierce about the Santa event held on Saturday.

Councilman McAlpine thanked Ed Lowe for everything he has done for the city.

Mayor Phillips thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The Mayor entertained for a motion to adjourn the council meeting. Councilman Alexander made a motion to adjourn the council meeting. Councilwoman Underwood seconded and the motion carried with all ayes. The council meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

City Clerk

Mayor