

State of Alabama)  
City of Oneonta, January 24, 2023  
County of Blount)

### ***Council Meeting Minutes***

The Mayor and City Council met during the regularly scheduled work session at 5:45 p.m. with a council meeting followed at 6:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Phillips; Council Members: Alexander, Bradley, McAlpine, Pierce, and Underwood. Also present in the meeting were Alex Smith, Chief Clifton, Allie Allcorn, Chief Seehussen, Tim Moore, Randy Underwood, Ricky Statham, Gavin McAlpine, Peggy Grove, Bill and Jan Denson, and Amanda Cole.

Mayor Phillips opened the work session at 5:45 p.m. The Mayor stated that agenda items one and two are standard items, and item three is to consider approving the minutes of January 10, 2023, meeting unless there are any comments. Councilman McAlpine stated that on the last page in paragraph two, the council minutes state “property next to Bojangles” when it should state “property for Bojangles.”

Mayor Phillips mentioned item four to recognize the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Oneonta Public Library. He stated that this is an exciting occasion to be a part of, and the library is a landmark in the community.

The Mayor stated that both agenda items five and six pertain to the reappointment of members of the Oneonta Historical Preservation Committee.

Allie Allcorn mentioned that agenda item seven is to consider amending the inspection clerk to include all airport duties Mrs. Kelly is already completing. Allie mentioned that the additional airport duties range from maintaining airport records to invoicing hanger rental payments. She explained that agenda item eight is to amend the job classification of the inspection clerk with a five percent raise to compensate for the additional duties.

Councilwoman Underwood asked why the city was not adding additional supervisors for the park and recreation department and the public works department. Mayor Phillips stated there is a need to table the topic to assess the needs of each department better.

Councilwoman Pierce explained item nine is for a capital request on behalf of the fire department for new turnout gear due to the expiration on the current gear.

Mayor Phillips explained that Ricky Johnson with Pike Engineering met with him and Alex Smith previously to discuss the city granting an easement for his crew to complete work for Alabama Power. Mayor Phillips stated that APCO received a grant to fund the placement of ariel powerlines underground; therefore, the property needing an easement is down 231 South to the old water tower. The Mayor mentioned that the private property owner and the Oneonta Utility Board have both already signed for the twenty-foot easement.

The Mayor mentioned that Councilman Alexander would handle the presentation for three historical designations. Mayor Phillips stated that the three designees applied through the Oneonta Historical Preservation Committee.

Mayor Phillips stated that items twelve and thirteen would be discussed during the council meeting. The Mayor explained that for item fourteen, there is a need to enter an executive session for the purpose of discussing the sale of property, and after that, there will be no further business. The Mayor adjourned the work session at 5:57 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 McAlpine motioned to approve January 24, 2023, council minutes with the amendment discussed during the previous work session. Councilwoman Pierce seconded, and the motion carried with all ayes.

Mayor Phillips read the proclamation recognizing the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Oneonta Public Library. Councilwoman Underwood motioned to adopt the proclamation recognizing the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Oneonta Public Library. Councilman McAlpine seconded, and the motion carried with all ayes. The Mayor thanked Ricky Statham for everything he does for the betterment of the library and community.

Councilman Alexander motioned to reappoint Patrick Fendley to the Oneonta Historical Preservation Committee. Councilman Bradley seconded, and the motion carried with all ayes. Councilman Alexander motioned to reappoint Ryan Cole to the Oneonta Historical Preservation Committee. Councilman Bradley seconded, and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman Bradley made a motion to amend the job description of the inspection clerk. Councilwoman Underwood seconded, and the motion carried with all ayes. Councilman Bradley made a motion to amend the job classification of the inspection clerk authorizing a five percent salary increase. Councilwoman Underwood seconded, and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilwoman Pierce stated that the fire department submitted a capital request for seven turnout gear with boots and gloves for \$22,112.00. Councilwoman Underwood seconded, and the motion carried with all ayes.

The Mayor stated that item ten was reviewed in length during the previous work session. Councilman McAlpine motioned to approve an easement request on behalf of Alabama Power. Councilwoman Pierce seconded, and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman Alexander explained that there were three plaques to present for historical designations within the city. Councilman Alexander mentioned that the first plaque recognizes the Methodist Church, known as the Little Brick Church, owned by the city. Councilman Alexander stated that the

second plaque recognizes George Bennett's home located at 100 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue East, which was the first modern funeral home in the city. Councilman Alexander stated that the third plaque recognizes H.H. Garner Home located on Adams Avenue. Councilman Alexander explained if someone wants to apply for a historical designation, he/she can go to the Oneonta Historical Preservation's Facebook page and submit an application.

Councilman Alexander updated everyone on recent projects the public works department completed over the last two weeks. Councilman Alexander stated that the public works department is so instrumental in saving the city money through all the work they do.

Allie Allcorn reviewed the financial summary for December 2022. She explained that the local taxes category was the most the city received in a month within the last year at 908,000.00. She stated that the city received \$187,000.00 in advalorem taxes, \$541,000.00 in sales taxes, and \$82,000.00 in use taxes. She stated that the city had a record-breaking month for building permits at \$26,000.00. Allie explained that the city received the first payment from the opioid lawsuit settlement for \$12,888.00. She explained that all departments were in the budget other than salaries due to holiday pay and the Christmas parade. She commended the department heads on low spending through the months from October to December.

Mayor Phillips stated RSVP is collecting warm clothing until February 14<sup>th</sup>, and city hall is one of the many drop-off locations. The Mayor mentioned that the comprehensive plan committee had its first meeting, which was very productive, and he will keep everyone updated on the progress.

The Mayor thanked all the historical designations for all the hard work they put into the upkeep of the properties that are so significant to the community. Mr. Bill Denson asked Mayor Phillips for an update on the amphitheater project. Mayor Phillips mentioned that the city has been working with Hometown Bank on the lease agreement and details, and once that is complete, it will come before the council for discussion.

Mayor Phillips stated there is a need to enter an executive session for the purpose of discussing the sale of property, and there will be no further business once the council exits. Councilman McAlpine made a motion to enter to executive session for the purpose of discussing the sale of the property at 6:22 p.m. Councilwoman Pierce seconded, and the motion carried with all ayes.

Present in the executive session were Mayor Phillips; Council Members: Alexander, Bradley, McAlpine, Pierce, and Underwood. Also, present were Alex Smith, Allie Allcorn, and Amanda Cole. The executive session began at 6:22 p.m.

Councilman McAlpine motioned to exit the executive session at 6:37 p.m. Councilwoman Pierce seconded, and the motion carried with all ayes. Councilwoman Pierce made a motion to adjourn the council meeting. Councilwoman Underwood seconded, and the motion carried with all ayes. The meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

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Mayor

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City Clerk

