

State of Alabama)

City of Oneonta, October 12, 2021

County of Blount)

The Mayor and City Council met during the regular scheduled council meeting on October 12, 2021 with three public hearings scheduled for 5:00 p.m.; 5:15 p.m.; 5:30 p.m. and a regular scheduled work session at 5:45 p.m. to discuss agenda items. Present were Mayor Phillips, Council Members: Alexander, Bradley, McAlpine, Pierce and Underwood. Also, present in the meeting were Allie Allcorn, Alex Smith, Tim Moore, Ricky and Kimberly Statham, Cassandra Brindle, Kay Butts, Shonna Carranza, Wayne Rowe, Tracie Williams, Jimmy Wester, Gabriel Hackney, Pat Clanton, Randy Casson, Amanda Wright, Emma Wright, Bailey Glover, Tara Murphree, Treieva Oakley, Barbara Andersen, Fire Chief Booth, Fire Lt. Ivey, Police Chief Clifton, Police Officer Dutton, and Amanda Cole.

Mayor Phillips opened the public hearing at 5:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the rezoning of property located on Park Avenue filed by Quality-of-Life Health Service from R-1 zoning to O-1 zoning. The Mayor stated the rezoning has already been presented to the Planning Commission and approved to present it to city council. Mayor Phillips stated the location is the lot behind the old hospital building on Park Avenue and the intent is to build a new building for Quality-of-Life Health Service. The Mayor opened the floor for any discussion. Resident Shonna Carranza is very concerned on the impact the new building will present for her and her family. She mentioned the building will be adjacent to her home and her main concern is not having the proper security and privacy in her own home. Mrs. Carranza's main requests to the city are to require Quality-of-Life Health Service to build some type of barricade around the building, and for the city to display signs in the alleyway stating that no one is allowed to drive through the alleyway. Mr. Wayne Rowe, representative for Quality-of-Life, stated he does not have a problem putting up some type of barricade around the facility and parking area. Mr. Rowe also mentioned the lot next to the projected building site will remain vacant and has no plans of building on that one lot. The Mayor ensured Mrs. Carranza the city will do their part and put-up signage not allowing any through traffic in the alleyway. After much discussion, the Mayor closed the public hearing at 5:35 p.m.

Mayor Phillips opened the 5:15 p.m. public hearing at 5:35 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the rezoning of property located on 201 and 203 Shirley Street filed by Real Estate Holding Venture from B-1 zoning to B-2 zoning. Mayor Phillips stated the Planning Commission was presented plans on behalf of Real Estate Holding Ventures, LLC to turn the property located at 201 Shirley Street into multi-purpose retail and the property located at 203 Shirley Street into climate control storage units. Mr. Gabriel Hackney stated the property has sat vacant for over two years and he feels this location is great and will not require any more parking than what is already there. Alex Smith mentioned Mr. Hackney will have to present the plans and recommendation to the Zoning Board of Adjustments for a variation. After much discussion, the Mayor closed the public hearing at 5:40 p.m.

Mayor Phillips opened the 5:30 p.m. public hearing at 5:40 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the alcohol license application on behalf of Southern Smokes, LLC. Mayor Phillips stated Southern Smokes, LLC has applied for an alcohol license application to open a cigar lounge located at 105-B 3rd Street North. Mayor Phillips mentioned the application applied for is for retail beer on and off premise and retail table wine on and off premise. There was no public comment, Mayor Phillips closed the public hearing at 5:41 p.m.

The Mayor 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 and two are standard agenda items. Mayor Phillips mentioned item number three is regarding September 21, 2021 council meeting minutes as written and item number four is regarding October 5, 2021 public hearing minutes as written unless anyone has anything to state regarding those items.

Mayor Phillips mentioned there was a public hearing held at 5:00 p.m. for agenda item five, unless anyone has anything to state regarding the rezoning. There was no comment. Mayor Phillips stated there was a public hearing held at 5:35 p.m. for agenda item six, unless anyone has anything to state regarding the rezoning. There was no comment. Mayor Phillips explained there was a public hearing held at 5:40 p.m. for agenda item seven, unless anyone has anything to state regarding the alcohol license application. There was no comment.

Mayor Phillips stated any questions for agenda item eight needs to be directed to the Oneonta Police Department, but there is a new law in place for us to establish an ordinance of our reserve program.

Mayor Phillips explained the Oneonta Fire Department received grant money to purchase thermal imaging cameras; therefore, agenda item nine is for the purpose to bid out that request.

Amanda Cole stated agenda item ten is to consider approving a Debris Removal and Monitoring Services Memorandum of Understanding between the Blount County Commission and the City of Oneonta. She explained this is a mutual agreement between the entities during times of natural disaster that the city approves annually.

Allie Allcorn mentioned it is time to update the police department's taser agreement and she has been working with Officer Dutton and Police Chief Clifton to get the best option for the city. Allie explained the city is currently paying \$19,000 annually for tasers only. She stated the city has been presented the following two options in which both offer tasers, body cameras, video storage and evidence software on behalf of Axon Enterprise, Inc.:

Option 1- 5 years in the amount of \$140,422.16

Option 1- 10 years in the amount of \$283,417.92

Allie explained either bundle could be purchased with the American Rescue Plan money due to the capabilities of accessing the video anywhere and the officer can be at further distance to deploy the taser. She stated she is comfortable with either bundle but would recommend the ten-year bundle because Axon can raise their rates after the five-year bundle. Councilman McAlpine asked if the purchase price includes all software and firmware updates. Officer Dutton

explained the bundle includes all updates and the tasers are updated every five years and the cameras are updated every two and half years.

Mayor Phillips explained agenda items twelve and thirteen are to consider hiring Jonathan Dempsey and Alex Heard as full-time police officers.

The Mayor stated agenda item fourteen is to advertise to hire full-time employee on behalf of the Oneonta Public Library. Mayor Phillips explained agenda item fifteen is to consider advertising hire to full-time public works maintenance employee. The Mayor stated agenda item sixteen is to accept the resignation of part-time firefighter Bailey Brothers.

Councilman Alexander explained agenda item seventeen is to consider the recommendation on behalf of the Beautification Board to increase the board members from seven members to nine members.

Mayor Phillips stated agenda item eighteen is to recognize resident Jimmy Wester.

The Mayor mentioned agenda items nineteen through twenty-four are all regular business items that will be discussed during the council meeting. Mayor Phillips entertained a motion to adjourn the work session. Councilman McAlpine made a motion to adjourn the work session. Councilman Alexander seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

The Mayor opened the regular scheduled council meeting at 6:05 p.m.

Councilman Bradley gave the invocation.

Boy Scout Troop 4161 led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Bradley made a motion to approve minutes of September 21, 2021 council meeting as written. Councilwoman Underwood seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilwoman Underwood made a motion to approve minutes of October 5, 2021 public hearing as written. Councilwoman Pierce seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilwoman Pierce made a motion to approve the rezoning of property located on Park Avenue filed by Quality-of-Life Health Service from R-1 zoning to O-1 zoning. Councilman Bradley seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman Bradley made a motion to approve the rezoning of property located on 201 and 203 Shirley Street filed by Real Estate Holding Venture from B-1 zoning to B-2 zoning. Councilman Alexander seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman Alexander made a motion to approve the alcohol license application on behalf of Southern Smokes, LLC. Councilman McAlpine seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilwoman Underwood made a motion to set a public hearing on October 26, 2021 for the purpose of ordinance no. 1021-01; establishing and regulating the reserve officer program. Councilman Bradley seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilwoman Pierce stated the fire department received a grant for the purpose to purchase thermal imaging cameras. Councilwoman Pierce made a motion to approve the request for bid on behalf of the Oneonta Fire Department for three NFPA thermal camera imaging cameras and three truck charging units. Councilman Alexander seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Amanda Cole stated the Debris Removal and Monitoring Services Memorandum of Understanding between the Blount County Commission and the City of Oneonta. She explained this is a mutual agreement between the entities during times of natural disaster that the city approves annually. Councilman Alexander made a motion to approve the Debris Removal and Monitoring Services Memorandum of Understanding between the Blount County Commission and the City of Oneonta. Councilwoman Pierce seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilwoman Underwood made a motion to approve the capital request on behalf of the Oneonta Police Department to purchase the ten-year taser, cameras and iCloud storage through Axon Enterprise, Inc. in the amount of \$238,417.92. Councilman Bradley seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilwoman Underwood read a recommendation letter from Police Chief Clifton in support of hiring Reserve Jonathan Dempsey and Reserve Alex Heard as full-time police officer. Councilwoman Underwood stated both candidates will have eight months to become APOST certificated after becoming full-time employees. Councilwoman Underwood expounded on the importance of the reserve program and a lot of great candidates have come from the reserve program through Oneonta Police Department.

Councilwoman Underwood made a motion to hire Alex Heard as full-time police officer. Councilman Bradley seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman Alexander made a motion to hire Jonathan Dempsey as full-time police officer. Councilwoman Underwood seconded; Councilman McAlpine abstained and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman McAlpine made a motion to advertise to hire full-time employee on behalf of the Oneonta Public Library. Councilwoman Underwood seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman Alexander made a motion to advertise to hire full-time public works maintenance employee. Councilman Bradley seconded and the motion carried with all ayes. Mayor Phillips stated that both agenda items fourteen and fifteen were budgeted for in the 2021/2022 budget.

Councilwoman Pierce read resignation letter on behalf of Bailey Brothers. Councilwoman Pierce made a motion to approve the resignation of part-time firefighter Bailey Brothers. Councilman Alexander seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman Alexander explained agenda item seventeen is to consider the recommendation on behalf of the Beautification Board to increase the board members from seven members to nine members. Councilman Alexander made a motion to increase the Beautification Board from seven members to nine members. Councilwoman Pierce seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman Alexander awarded Fellowship Baptist Church with the commercial beautification award and awarded Randy Casson located at 407 B Street South with the residential beautification award.

Jimmy Wester thanked the Mayor and City Council for allowing him to speak. He stated he wants to speak on the parking issues downtown. He mentioned there are two signs downtown that state two-hour parking but no one obeys by them. Mr. Wester stated if the two-hour parking is in the city ordinance, he wants to push for others to obey the law. He mentioned his main problem right now is one business owner allowing his twenty employees to take over all the downtown parking. Police Chief Clifton explained it would be an issue to supervise the two-hour parking under the police department's current structure. Chief Clifton explained the police department could go back to chalking the tires or put in meters for the parking. He stated if the city wants to enforce the two-hour parking daily, we could hire an individual that is not APOST certified and serve as a parking meter. Mayor Phillips stated now would be a great time to structure downtown differently and possibly establish a ten-year goal for downtown from an engineering company. Councilman Bradley requested the city to mail out the two-hour parking ordinance to all the business owners downtown to begin the process.

Councilwoman Pierce gave the September report on behalf of the Oneonta Fire Department.

Councilwoman Underwood gave the September report on behalf of the Oneonta Police Department.

Barbara Andersen gave a brief update on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce. She stated there was a great turnout for the "Covered Bridge Festival" and thanked the city for all their assistance. She mentioned the next Sip, Shop and Stroll will be on October 21st. Barbara informed everyone the Christmas parade will be on December 7th and there are registration forms available.

Pat Clanton gave a brief update on behalf of the Oneonta Business Association. She reminded everyone of the BBQ Bravo this Saturday, October 16th and the Spook and Show Event on Tuesday, October 19th. She invited everyone to attend the last Cruise and Croon of the season scheduled for October 30th.

Allie Allcorn had nothing to report on for this meeting.

Mayor Phillips invited everyone to attend the Spook and Show Event on Tuesday with the showing of “Hocus Pocus” at 7:30 p.m. The Mayor stated the city was chosen to participate in the Alabama League of Municipality Economic Development Academy. He explained the committee is made up of the Mayor and two councilmembers willing to serve. The Mayor mentioned the program lasts one year and involved five required meetings where the committee will establish a strategic plan. Mayor Phillips congratulated the new police department hires and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Councilman McAlpine asked Ricky Statham, Jr. to come to floor to speak. Ricky Statham, Jr. explained two of the library employees wrote and published a book about Mayor Phillips. After showing the book, Mayor Phillips thanked Ricky and his staff for creating such a great book.

Mayor Phillips entertained for a motion to adjourn the council meeting. Councilman McAlpine made a motion to adjourn the council meeting. Councilwoman Pierce seconded and the motion carried with all ayes. The council meeting ended at 6:45 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk