

State of Alabama)
City of Oneonta, June 28, 2022
County of Blount)

Council Meeting Minutes

The Mayor and City Council met during the regularly scheduled meeting on June 28, 2022, with a regularly 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 Alex Smith, Allie Allcorn, Brandon Horton, Police Chief Clifton, Fire Chief Booth, Fire Lt. Ivey, John Chambless, Nathaniel Butler, and Amanda Cole.

Mayor Phillips opened the work session at 5:45 p.m. to review the agenda items for the council meeting. The Mayor stated agenda items one and two are standard items. The Mayor mentioned item three pertains to June 14, 2022, council meeting minutes unless anyone has any comments.

The Mayor stated item four is to consider setting a public hearing for July 12, 2022, for the purpose of discussing the alcohol license application on behalf of Akshar Oil, LLC. Brandon Horton mentioned the owners of Akshar Oil, LLC are already current alcohol license holders in Oneonta with no issues. He stated Akshar Oil, LLC bought the Mobil gas station located on 6th Street South and has applied for a retail wine on-premises and a retail beer on-premises alcohol license application.

Mayor Phillips mentioned item number five pertains to adopting the Proclamation Declaring Local State of Emergency for the Little Brick Church. The Mayor stated the city has been nominated for a Lowe's grant in the amount of \$95,000.00 to go towards the rehabilitation of the church. Mayor Phillips explained he was not able to discuss this publicly until June 23rd in order to stay compliant with the grant requirements. The Mayor stated the quote received from ARK Restorations for the mitigation was in the amount of \$47,000.00 and the roofing was in the amount of \$45,000.00. Mayor Phillips explained any other renovations towards the project will come from the capital improvement funds.

The Mayor explained that he has provided each council member with a letter from Chris Tinsley with ARK Restorations explaining the state of the church and why it needs to be restored as soon as possible. Mayor Phillips mentioned the following requirements of the grant: usage of Lowe's products as much as possible; red vest day for Lowe's volunteers; display of a Lowe's banner at the church.

John Chambless with Chambless King Architects stated the bid opening for the Park and Recreation Complex Project was held on June 16th with only one bidder which came in overly high. He mentioned he is unsure of what caused the bid to be so high other than maybe the subcontractors felt rushed to submit estimates and overestimated the projects. He recommends for the city deny the bid and rebid the project.

The Mayor mentioned items eight and nine will be discussed during the council meeting. Mayor Phillips closed the work session at 5:55 p.m. and will reconvene at 6:00 p.m. for the regularly scheduled council meeting.

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 made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2022, council meeting as written. Councilman Alexander seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Brandon Horton stated Akshar Oil, LLC bought the Mobil gas station located on 6th Street South and has applied for a retail wine on-premises and a retail beer on-premises alcohol license application. Councilwoman Underwood made a motion to set a public hearing on July 12, 2022, at 5:40 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the alcohol license application on behalf of Akshar Oil, LLC. Councilwoman Pierce seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Mayor Phillips stated the Little Brick Church needs to be restored as soon as possible, so there is a need to declare the church as an emergency repair. The Mayor read the Proclamation Declaring Local State of Emergency for the Little Brick Church in its entirety. Councilman Alexander made a motion to adopt the Proclamation Declaring Local State of Emergency for the Little Brick Church. Councilman Bradley seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Mayor Phillips explained the city reached out to multiple contractors for quotes but ARK Restorations was the only one that sent us a full quote for all the work and they are local. Councilman Bradley made a motion to authorize Mayor Phillips to enter into a contract agreement with ARK Restorations for the rehabilitation of the Little Brick Church. Councilwoman Pierce seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

John Chambless with Chambless King Architects stated on June 16th the bid opening was held on behalf of the Park and Recreation Complex Project. He stated that the bids did come in high and after analyzing the bid numbers, his recommendation is to reject the bid and rebid the project. He mentioned a good approach may be to separate the bid into multiple projects to break up the complexity of the project, which in turn will give specialized contractors a chance to bid. John stated the estimated project cost was 4 million dollars but the bid from Milam & Construction came in at 7.2 million dollars.

Mayor Phillips requested to suspend the rules to add an item to the agenda. Councilman Bradley made a motion to suspend the rules to add an item to the agenda. Councilwoman Pierce seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilwoman Pierce made a motion to reject the Park and Recreation Complex Project bid on behalf of Milam & Construction in the amount of 7.2 million dollars. Councilman Alexander seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Allie Allcorn stated she has completed a preliminary draft budget and wanted to review possible purchase requests. She mentioned there is a possibility to donate \$12,500.00 for an endowment scholarship for Wallace State. She stated the scholarship would be matched by Wallace State and would regenerate and the city council can be the one to set the perimeters for the scholarship. She explained the Retirement System has notified the city council of a possible bonus for the current retirees in the lump sum amount of \$14,000.00. She stated if the council is interested in approving the bonus, it must be adopted by resolution by September 1, 2022. Allie mentioned there is a request to add another full-time SRO officer to the school. She stated she has spoken with the school about if they would pay fifty percent of the salary, so she is waiting for the school to let her know. Allie stated she asked Brandon Horton to contact Bancorp on what the cost would be for a new truck for the Park and Recreation Department, Inspection Department, and Public Works Department on the lease program. She stated the cost would be an additional \$6,500.00 per truck for each year, which cost a total of \$20,000.00 annually. Allie mentioned if the city council would like to purchase the trucks for the referenced departments, she would need approval tonight in order to get the vehicles ordered and maintain the quoted pricing. Councilwoman Underwood made a motion to approve the lease-purchase for three trucks in the amount of \$6,500.00 per truck for each year, which costs a total of \$20,000.00 annually through Bancorp. Councilman Alexander seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Allie mentioned she does not have a financial memo available, but once she completes it, she will email it to everyone. She stated she did reach out to David Langham with the Fanier Lazier Company to see the city's option for additional bond money. She mentioned the current bond expires in 2048 and could be extended for a maximum of three years. She stated each million the city receives that would add an additional \$40,000.00 each year to the bond payment. Mayor Phillips stated he is not advocating the city go down the route to receive more bond money but wanted to know the city's options. The Mayor mentioned in July he will be contacting each council member to meet to review the preliminary budget.

Mayor Phillips stated there was a great turnout for the art show Friday night and looks forward to hosting another one. The Mayor mentioned there was a great turnout for the Homemakers Rodeo and the chorus at the school hosted by the Fraternal Police.

There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Phillips entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Alexander made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Underwood seconded and the motion carried with all ayes. The council meeting was adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk