

State of Alabama)

City of Oneonta, October 11, 2022

County of Blount)

Council Meeting Minutes

The Mayor and City Council met during a regularly scheduled work session at 5:45 p.m. to review the agenda items. Present were Mayor Phillips; Council Members: Alexander, Bradley, McAlpine, Pierce, and Underwood. Also, present in the meeting were Alex Smith, Brandon Horton, Andy Alexander, Fire Chief Booth, Bill Hendrickson, Tara Murphree, Treieva Oakley, and Amanda Cole. Allie Allcorn was not present in the meeting.

Mayor Phillips opened the regularly scheduled 5:45 p.m. work session to review the agenda items for the council meeting. Mayor Phillips stated that items one and two are standard items. The Mayor mentioned item three is to consider approving the minutes of the September 27, 2022, work session for the 2022/2023 fiscal year allocation budget as written. Mayor Phillips stated item four is to consider approving the September 27, 2022, council meeting as written, and item five is to consider approving the minutes of the September 27, 2022, work session to discuss the development of a comprehensive plan as written unless anyone has any comments.

The Mayor stated agenda item six is to consider approving the development of a comprehensive plan on behalf of Chambless King Architects. Councilman McAlpine stated that it was his understanding from a prior conversation with Mayor Phillips that shopping around for competitive pricing was illegal in the case of hiring a firm to conduct the comprehensive plan. Alex Smith stated the plan is exempted from the bid law but a municipality has the right to interview different consultants to complete a comprehensive plan but the plans will not compare to one another. Councilman McAlpine asked if it would be wrong to listen to other presentations or if the council was just supposed to approve what is presented to them.

Mayor Phillips asked Andy Alexander to speak about the research he has completed about other municipalities and their experience developing a comprehensive plan. Andy stated with his research a lot of municipalities have not updated their plans for more than a decade and unfortunately put the updating of the plan on the back burner. He mentioned he spoke with the city clerk at Rainbow City to get details on their recent experience updating their plan. Andy stated Rainbow City used Chambless King Architects and paid \$198,000.00 for the plan and the city is extremely pleased with the end result. He explained Julie from Northport explained the city used KPS Services and paid \$300,000.00 to complete the overhaul of updating their comprehensive plan and zoning.

Andy explained some cities have used the East Alabama Group and TARGO to complete their plan, but the issue with those entities is they provide a "cookie-cutter" plan that is not unique to your municipality. Andy explained this document is too important to let slip through the cracks and believes it would benefit the city. Mayor Phillips explained the cost of the plan would come from the ARPA funds and will not affect the general funding. The Mayor stated there are ways to decrease the cost of the plan but it will not be a true result for this community. Councilwoman Pierce explained the city wants public involvement because ultimately this is the public's plan for the community.

Councilman Alexander stated he does not know a better use for the ARPA funding than to update the city's comprehensive plan.

Mayor Phillips stated that agenda item seven is to consider setting a public hearing for October 25, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the alcohol license application on behalf of El Tejano Mexican Restaurant and Seafood. Brandon Horton mentioned there are only a couple of things to be fixed before passing their final inspection.

The Mayor mentioned agenda item eight is to consider advertising for a full-time investigator on behalf of the Oneonta Police Department and Councilwoman Underwood will discuss that during the council meeting.

Mayor Phillips stated agenda item nine is to consider hiring a full-time police officer and will be discussed by Councilwoman Underwood during the council meeting.

The Mayor explained agenda item ten is to recognize the Oneonta Business Association and the agenda item will be a regular agenda item. Mayor Phillips stated agenda twelve is to consider entering into an executive session for the purpose of personnel issues. The work session ended at 6:03 p.m.

Police Chief Clifton, Officer Heard, and Joshua Southwell entered the council chambers.

Mayor Phillips opened the council meeting at 6:04 p.m.

Councilman Bradley gave the invocation.

Mayor Phillips led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Bradley made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2022, work session for the 2022/2023 fiscal year allocation budget as written. Councilman Alexander seconded; Councilwoman Pierce abstained, and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman Alexander made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2022, council meeting as written. Councilwoman Underwood seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman Bradley made a motion to approve the September 27, 2022, work session to discuss the development of a comprehensive plan as written. Councilwoman Pierce seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilwoman Underwood made a motion to approve the development of a comprehensive plan on behalf of Chambless King Architects. Councilwoman Pierce seconded; Councilman McAlpine voted no and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman Alexander made a motion to set a public hearing for October 25, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the alcohol license application on behalf of El Tejano Mexican Restaurant and Seafood. Councilman Bradley seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilwoman Underwood read a recommendation letter from Police Chief Clifton to advertise for a full-time investigator on behalf of the Oneonta Police Department. Councilwoman Underwood made a motion to advertise for a full-time investigator on behalf of the Oneonta Police Department. Councilwoman Pierce seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilwoman Underwood read a recommendation letter from Police Chief Clifton to hire Joshua Southwell as a full-time police officer. Councilwoman Underwood made a motion to hire Joshua Southwell as a full-time police officer. Councilman Alexander seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Mayor Phillips recognized the Oneonta Business Association on the floor. Bill Hendrickson gave a brief update on behalf of the OBA. He invited everyone to a Spook and a Show on October 24, 2022, and the final cruise-in for the season on October 29th from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. downtown. Bill mentioned the OBA will begin painting the mural on the 300th block soon and updated everyone on the Christmas events.

Mayor Phillips did not have anything to report.

Councilwoman Underwood gave the September report on behalf of the police department. Councilman Bradley commended the police department for assisting with a situation at the football game last week.

Councilwoman Pierce gave the September report on behalf of the fire department.

Mayor Phillips stated there is a reason to enter into an executive session to discuss personnel issues and there will be no further business afterward. Councilwoman Pierce made a motion to enter into an executive session to discuss personnel issues. Councilman Alexander seconded and the motion carried with all ayes at 6:19 p.m.

Mayor Phillips and Council Members: Alexander, Bradley, McAlpine, Pierce, and Underwood were present in the executive session. Also present were Alex Smith, Brandon Horton, and Amanda Cole. The executive session started at 6:22 p.m. Councilwoman Pierce made a motion to exit the executive session. Councilwoman Underwood seconded and the motion carried with all ayes. The executive session ended at 7:05 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk