

State of Alabama)

City of Oneonta, January 26, 2021

County of Blount)

The Mayor and City Council met during a scheduled council meeting on January 26, 2021 with a work session beginning at 5:45 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 Alex Smith, Allie Allcorn, Brandon Horton, Roland McCoy, Police Chief Clifton, Chief Booth, Lieutenant Ivey, Briar Fowler, Tara Murphree, Patti Williams, Lisa Wester, and Amanda Cole.

Mayor Phillips opened the work session at 5:45 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing the agenda for the council meeting. Mayor Phillips stated items one through three are standard agenda items. The Mayor stated agenda item four is the amended 2021 holiday schedule, adding Friday, December 31, 2021 to observe 2022 New Year's Day.

Mayor Phillips stated agenda item five is regarding the annual professional service contract with Goodwyn, Mills & Cawood for the 2021 FAA airport project. The Mayor reminded the council this is an annual grant and statements will be paid as the money is received. Alex Smith stated the terrain at the airport will have to be reconstructed causing extra engineering work than in previous years causing the price to increase. Mayor Phillips mentioned that Allie Allcorn and Brandon Horton are now the airport contacts, due to Ed Lowe's retirement. Allie Allcorn stated the presented contract is an estimate; however, the cost will not exceed the amount on the draft presented to council.

The Mayor stated agenda item six is to consider appointing Andy Alexander as the designated city representative on the Planning Commission. Mayor Phillips mentioned the previous designated representative was Ed Lowe, but upon his retirement the city is in need to replace him with the most knowledgeable person.

Mayor Phillips stated for agenda item seven is to request any input from council members or the community to identify areas within the community for trash clean-up by contract services provided by Blount County inmates. The Mayor mentioned the inmates get paid for eight-hour days, so the requested areas need to be enough for that length of time. Brandon Horton stated ALDOT controls the clean-up on highway 231 and highway 75, so the community needs to concentrate on areas within the city. Councilwoman Pierce made a request for 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue near the Worship Center to be a clean-up area. The Mayor mentioned the city can utilize the inmates as much as possible, but it does cost daily to utilize them. Mayor Phillips expressed the importance of maintaining cleanliness within the community; to maintain cleanliness, Mayor Phillips mentioned some upcoming events the city will put on to have community involvement. Mayor Phillips stated he submitted a CAWACO grant earlier in the same day, requesting ten new trash cans for the downtown area.

In review of agenda item eight, Mayor Phillips stated Councilwoman Pierce will discuss the fire department year-end review.

Mayor Phillips stated agenda items nine through eleven are standard agenda items and will be discussed more in detail during the council meeting.

Mayor Phillips entertained for adjournment of the work session. Councilman McAlpine made a motion to close the work session. Councilman Bradley seconded and the motion carried with all ayes. The work session ended at 5:58 p.m.

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

Councilman Bradley gave the invocation.

Councilman McAlpine led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilwoman Pierce made a motion to approve the minutes of January 12, 2021 council meeting as written. Councilwoman Underwood seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Mayor Phillips stated the 2021 holiday schedule was amended to add Friday, December 31, 2021, in observance of the 2022 New Year's Day. Councilman McAlpine made a motion to approve the amended 2021 holiday schedule, adding Friday, December 31, 2021, in observance of the 2022 New Year's Day. Councilman Alexander seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman Bradley made a motion to approve the professional service contract with Goodwyn, Mills & Cawood for the 2021 FAA airport project. Councilwoman Pierce seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman Alexander made a motion to appoint Andy Alexander as the designated city representative on the Planning Commission. Councilwoman Pierce seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Mayor Phillips stated agenda item seven was discussed in the previous work session and there is nothing to be voted on; however, if anyone has any input to please contact city hall regarding the requested areas for clean-up by Blount County inmates.

Councilwoman Pierce commended the fire department for all their hard work and stated the fire department received a total of \$945,445.00 grant money within the 2020 fiscal year. Mayor Phillips agreed the fire department does an excellent job.

Mayor Phillips mentioned Barbara Andersen provided the council with information on the Chamber of Commerce available in their packet.

Lisa Wester gave a brief update on behalf of the Oneonta Business Association. She thanked the city for their visible effort with everything they are doing. Lisa stated the OBA has a lot of exciting events for the upcoming year, so for everyone to stay tuned for them.

Allie Allcorn gave a financial update for the month of December 2019. She stated revenue is higher than projected for the year 2020 and higher than the year 2019. Allie mentioned the inspection department and municipal court are lower than usual but that is expected due to COVID. She also mentioned the city had to pay the annual workers compensation insurance in December for the upcoming year, which cost the city \$120,000 coming out of the Capital Expense account.

Mayor Phillips mentioned the month of January is school board appreciation month and thanked the Oneonta School Board for all the challenges they have faced during these times. The Mayor stated the latest update on Dogwood Drive is the utilities board is removing stumps and trees to get it ready for the city to pave the road. Mayor Phillips told everyone Judge Green delivered a check in the amount of \$100,000 on behalf of the Blount County Commission towards the Wallace State project. The Mayor explained the Blount County Commission owes a total of \$200,000, which they are obligated to pay \$100,000 annually.

Mayor Phillips stated recycling will begin Thursday, February 4, 2021, and thanked Brandon Horton, Roland McCoy and the street department for their hard work with getting this project complete for the public to utilize.

The Mayor stated he spoke with David Langham with Frazier Lanier Company to enter the bond issuance. Mayor Phillips explained that now is a great time to enter the bond issuance causing the city's annual debt to go from the projected total of \$850,000 down to the total amount of \$814,000. Mayor Phillips requested a motion to accept the warrant obligation bond funds and deposit money into a bank account. Councilman Bradley made a motion to accept the warrant obligation bond funds and deposit money into a bank account. Councilwoman Pierce seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Mayor Phillips stated there is a need to set a work session to identify what projects the city will move forward with once receiving the bond funds. The Mayor explained he would like to move forward with the aquatic center and the new soccer fields unless anyone has opposition to that request. Mayor Phillips stated since the park and recreation re-development is projected to cost 4.5 to 5 million dollars, he would like to seek other options by courting another engineering firm. The Mayor stated to seek another option, it will cost the city to obtain renderings from another firm. Councilman McAlpine questioned rather or not spending money on a second option would be the best choice for the bond money. Councilman Bradley requested the city to display both renderings for the public's input on the projects. Councilman Alexander mentioned getting a better prospective of the community needs before making final decisions on what projects to complete. After much discussion, the Mayor entertained for a motion to set a work session at 5:00 p.m. on February 9, 2021 before the regular scheduled meeting to discuss the options for the park and recreational re-development project. Councilwoman Pierce made a motion to set a

work session at 5:00 p.m. on February 9, 2021 before the regular scheduled meeting to discuss the options for the park and recreational re-development project. Councilwoman Underwood seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman McAlpine asked everyone to keep Lori Criswell and her family in your thoughts and prayers due to the loss of her husband Mike Criswell. Mayor Phillips mentioned Mike Criswell was a great assist to the community and will be missed.

There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Phillips entertained a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Pierce made a motion to adjourn the council meeting. Councilman Alexander seconded and the motion carried with all ayes. The meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

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City Clerk

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Mayor