

State of Alabama)
City of Oneonta, November 10, 2022
County of Blount)

Council Meeting Minutes

The Mayor and City Council met during a rescheduled work session at 5:45 p.m. to review the agenda items and the council meeting following at 6:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Phillips; Council Members: Alexander, Bradley, Pierce, and Underwood. Also, present in the meeting were Alex Smith, Brandon Horton, Officer Adamson, Officer Brewer, Police Chief Clifton, Marlene Stroud, Fire Lt. Ivey, Dalton Farmer, and Amanda Cole. Councilman McAlpine and Allie Allcorn were not present for the meeting.

Mayor Phillips opened the regularly scheduled 5:45 p.m. work session to review the agenda items for the council meeting. The Mayor stated that items one and two are standard items. Mayor Phillips mentioned item three is to consider approving the minutes of October 25, 2022, as written. The Mayor stated item four is to consider approving the 2023 holiday schedule, which has the same days as last year.

The Mayor mentioned Councilwoman Underwood would discuss items five through eight during the council meeting. Mayor Phillips mentioned Councilwoman Pierce would review item nine during the council meeting, and item ten will be reviewed as well during the council meeting.

The Mayor ended the work session at 5:51 p.m.

Lisa and Jim Wester, Stacy and Jena Mann, James Stephens, and his family enter the council chambers.

Mayor Phillips opened the council meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Councilman Bradley gave the invocation.

Mayor Phillips led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Alexander made a motion to approve the October 25, 2022, council minutes as written. Councilman Bradley seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Mayor Phillips stated item four is to consider approving the 2023 holiday schedule, which includes all holidays from last year. Councilman Bradley made a motion to approve the 2023 holiday schedule. Councilwoman Pierce seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilwoman Underwood read a recommendation letter to hire James Stephens as a full-time investigator on behalf of Police Chief Clifton. Councilwoman Underwood made a motion to approve a recommendation letter to hire James Stephens as a full-time investigator on behalf of the Oneonta Police Department. Councilman Alexander seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilwoman Underwood read a resignation letter for part-time police officer Deric Raney on behalf of Police Chief Clifton. Councilwoman Underwood made a motion to approve the resignation of part-time police officer Deric Raney. Councilman Bradley seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilwoman Underwood read a recommendation letter to hire the following individuals as part-time police officers: Kenneth Booth, Tracy Lipscomb, and Wesley Neil. Councilwoman Underwood made a motion to approve to hire of the following individuals as part-time police officers: Kenneth Booth, Tracy Lipscomb, and Wesley Neil. Councilman Bradley seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilwoman Underwood discussed the October police report and commended Sgt. Brewer for his work on obtaining a "Spirit of Blue" grant awarding \$3,024.50 in the purchase of twenty-five (25) Elite Series Blue/Blue personal lighting devices (Guardian Angel).

Councilwoman Pierce reviewed the October fire report.

Councilman Alexander recognized Stacy and Jena Mann for receiving the residential beautification award. Mr. Mann thanked everyone for his work being recognized. Councilman Alexander recognized West One for receiving the commercial beautification award. Jim Wester thanked the beautification board, city council, and Marlene Stroud for the recognition. He thanked Oneonta for all they do and reiterated how important it is to keep Oneonta clean.

Alex Smith added to the conversation that the city has ended ten (10) dilapidated home cases within the city limits. He mentioned the city has kept all cases as non-aggressive as possible to be more understanding with the homeowners. Councilwoman Pierce stated the progress is great and overdue, and it also helps with people not having the opportunity to nest in dilapidated homes.

Mayor Phillips informed the city council that the public works department was able to get a bucket truck through a state auction for \$35,000.00, instead of the approved purchase amount of \$65,000.00. Mayor Phillips also commended the public works department on their help with the turkey project at the city pool.

The Mayor recognized full-time employee, Tim Preston, for obtaining his CDL with the highest ranking. Mayor Phillips recognized the city for receiving the certificate from the Alabama League of Municipalities' Economic Development Academy. The Mayor explained in order for the city to obtain the certificate a five-member board consisting of Allie Allcorn, Lee Alexander, Sherry Pierce, Bekah Phillips, and Mayor Phillips had to attend five different workshops pertaining to economic development.

Mayor Phillips recognized Brandon Horton to the floor. Brandon stated the city has been approached by Alabama Botanical Extraction to open a medical cannabis manufacturing location within the industrial park. Brandon explained everything from how the product is

produced, distributed, or sold will be controlled by the state. He mentioned in order for the state to approve the location the following steps must be approved:

1. Determine site location
2. Oneonta is required to pass an ordinance to allow the products to be sold within city limits. In this case, the products will be hemp oil, gummies, and soft gels.
3. Both items one and two have to be approved by December 31, 2022, before the state will approve them.

Brandon informed the council the location would be for manufacturing only with no retail available. He assured the council there would not be any overstock of any items laying around available due to all products being regulated according to batch numbers. Brandon explained the next step would be to hold a public hearing for the stockholders to be present and discuss the plans with the council and the public. He mentioned the projected number of sales is ten million annually but being wholesale the city would not remit all sales taxes but it would add ten to fifteen jobs and would be the only manufacturer located in the northeast area.

Mayor Phillips recognized Dalton Farmer to the floor. Dalton stated there were two items that he needed to bring to the city council. The first item is changing the eligible date of obtaining insurance for new hires. He stated currently an employee has to wait a full month until he/she will have insurance available, but recently LGHIP has changed the policy to if a municipality wants to offer an employee insurance on his/her first day of employment that benefit is available. The council did not have an issue with offering new employees insurance coverage on their first day of employment. The second item of discussion is whether or not the council wants to approve offering retirees' insurance coverage. He mentioned the city can offer to cover a portion of a retiree's health insurance. His thoughts are the city and retiree both pay 50% of coverage for single and if the retiree wants to cover any dependents, they are required to pay the portion of the dependents. Dalton mentioned the council does need to approve a policy moving forward to regulate the option, such as the retiree must have 30 years of service and be 60 years of age. There was a lot of discussion on whether or not the years of service should be 25 years instead of 30 years to match the Retirement Systems of Alabama; moreover, the council discussed what liability that could have on the city in the future. Mayor Phillips stated Dalton will get together different models to set in place before the next council meeting.

Mayor Phillips thanked everyone for attending the meeting and congratulated the beautification board winners and the new hires. There being no further business, Mayor Phillips asked for a motion to adjourn the council meeting. Councilman Bradley made a motion to adjourn the council meeting. Councilwoman Pierce seconded and the motion carried with all ayes. The council meeting ended at 6:55 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk