

State of Alabama)
City of Oneonta, March 29, 2022
County of Blount)

Council Meeting Minutes

The Mayor and City Council met during the rescheduled council meeting on March 29, 2022, with a 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, Tim Moore, Fire Chief Booth, Fire Lt. Ivey, Dalton Farmer, Rachel Falkner and family, Allie Allcorn, and Amanda Cole.

Mayor Phillips opened the work session at 5:45 p.m. to review the agenda for the council meeting. The Mayor stated agenda items one and two are standard agenda items. Mayor Phillips mentioned item three pertains to March 8, 2022, downtown garbage work session minutes; item four pertains to March 8, 2022, urgent need Dogwood Drive project public hearing minutes; and item five pertains to March 8, 2022, council meeting minutes as written unless anyone has any comments.

The Mayor stated agenda item six is to consider reappointing Redonia Davis to the Beautification Board since she serves so well on the board. Mayor Phillips mentioned item seven is to consider reappointing Lauren Wilson to the Blount-Oneonta Chamber of Commerce as the municipal appointee. Mayor Phillips explained Lauren has served one term already and has done a great job.

Mayor Phillips stated Councilwoman Pierce will review agenda item eight in regard to the stovetop fire suppression unit on behalf of the fire department during the council meeting. The Mayor explained that Councilman McAlpine will review agenda item nine during the council meeting and Councilwoman Underwood will review agenda item ten during the council meeting.

The Mayor mentioned agenda items eleven through thirteen will be discussed during the council meeting. The Mayor closed the work session at 5:51 p.m.

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 minutes of the March 8, 2022, downtown garbage work session as written. Councilwoman Pierce seconded; Councilman McAlpine abstained due to his previous absence and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman Bradley made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2022, urgent need Dogwood Drive project public hearing as written. Councilman Alexander seconded; Councilman McAlpine abstained due to his previous absence and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilwoman Underwood made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2022, council meeting as written. Councilwoman Pierce seconded; Councilman McAlpine abstained due to his previous absence and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman Alexander stated the Beautification Board is the only board that is not required to follow the two-term limitations. Councilman Alexander made a motion to reappoint Redonia Davis to the Beautification Board. Councilwoman Pierce seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilwoman Underwood made a motion to reappoint Lauren Wilson to the Blount-Oneonta Chamber of Commerce as a municipal appointee. Councilman Bradley seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilwoman Pierce stated the fire department received an AFG safety grant to purchase stovetop fire suppression units which are 95% grant funding and 5% local funding. Councilwoman Pierce explained the bid opening was held on March 23rd and the fire department only received one bid from ACE Hardware. Councilwoman Pierce made a motion to award the stovetop fire suppression units bid to ACE Hardware. Councilman Alexander seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman McAlpine read the "Fair Housing Month Proclamation" in its entirety and made a motion to adopt the "Fair Housing Month Proclamation". Councilman Bradley seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilwoman Underwood read the recommendation letter from Police Chief Clifton to hire reserve officer Rachel Falkner as a full-time police officer with her start date on April 2, 2022. Councilwoman Underwood made a motion to hire Rachel Falkner as a full-time police officer. Councilwoman Pierce seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Dalton Farmer congratulated Rachel Falkner on her hire with the police department. Dalton stated he wanted to inform everyone about the CROWN Act approved through the House by HR2116. He explained the act stands for "Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair" (CROWN) and the main purpose is to protect employees from discrimination based on natural hair and hairstyles associated with race and national origin. Dalton mentioned the main argument is that we should already be adhering to this rule due to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title 7, which prohibits discrimination in virtually every employment circumstance on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, pregnancy, or national origin. Dalton gave tips for department leaders and city employers to ensure certain safety protocols are met but that no one is being discriminatory.

Allie Allcorn stated there is a need to surplus a vehicle within the police department to take it to the auction. She read resolution number 0322-02, to surplus the following vehicle: 2010 Chevy Tahoe VIN No. 1GNUKAE09AR275817. Councilman McAlpine made a motion to approve resolution number 0322-20, to surplus the following vehicle: 2010 Chevy Tahoe VIN No. 1GNUKAE09AR275817. Councilman Alexander seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Allie gave the financial summary for February 2022. She stated the local taxes and services category was the lowest it has been within the last year due to sales tax. She explained that the city has received more business licenses year-to-date than February 2021 by \$243,000.00. She stated the total revenue was above projection by \$571,000.00 due to the large number of business license fees we received. Allie mentioned all departments but one was on or under budget and the one that was over for general repairs and maintenance. She stated that just over \$60,000.00 was paid toward the park projects for equipment rentals and engineering fees, which part of it was paid out of the bond account and the other part paid out of the general account. She explained that overall February was one of the lower months for spending.

Mayor Phillips informed everyone there is a Depot Brick Fundraiser that started this week where individuals can purchase two different sizes of brick with a dedication on each and a portion of the proceeds will go towards the rehabilitation of the Depot. The Mayor reminded everyone there will be an event Friday from 11:00 am until 1:00 p.m. at the 110 building to welcome Rebekah Phillips to the Chamber and congratulate Barbara Andersen on her retirement. Mayor Phillips mentioned the pool will open on Memorial Day weekend and online payments will be available soon. The Mayor reminded everyone of the Easter Egg Drop event on April 9th with the ability to preview the pool the same day.

Mayor Phillips entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Bradley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman McAlpine seconded and the motion carried with all ayes. The council meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk