

State of Alabama)  
City of Oneonta, October 25, 2022  
County of Blount)

### ***Council Meeting Minutes***

The Mayor and City Council met during a scheduled public hearing at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the alcohol license application on behalf of El Tejano Mexican Restaurant and Seafood with the 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, Allie Allcorn, Tim Moore, Fire Chief Booth, Police Chief Clifton, Police Sgt. Buchanan, Randy Underwood, Keith Mardis, Tyler Seehusen, and Amanda Cole.

Mayor Phillips opened the public hearing to discuss the alcohol license application on behalf of El Tejano Mexican Restaurant and Seafood at 5:30 p.m. Amanda Cole stated that Brandon Horton was not able to attend the meeting due to the active storms in the area. She explained that El Tejano Mexican Restaurant is located at the old "O'So Good BBQ" location at 55545 US Highway 231 and the applicant is applying for restaurant retail liquor, retail beer- on-premises, and retail wine-on-premises. Amanda stated the applicant has passed all inspections except for the bottom of the bar needs to be finished, but everything else has been approved. Mayor Phillips entertained questions or comments. There were no questions or comments, Mayor Phillips closed the public hearing at 5:31 p.m.

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 11, 2022, as written. Councilman McAlpine stated he would like to change the wording of sentence two in paragraph three in the minutes. Councilman McAlpine suggested the sentence be amended to the following: 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.

Mayor Phillips explained item four is to consider approving the alcohol license application on behalf of El Tejano Mexican Restaurant and Seafood. The Mayor mentioned Amanda Cole reviewed the application and location of the restaurant during the previous public hearing.

The Mayor mentioned item five is to consider approving resolution number 1022-01 in support of appointing Tyler Seehusen as Oneonta Fire Chief. Mayor Phillips mentioned in the search for a new fire chief, Mr. Seehusen was offered the job and he accepted.

Mayor Phillips stated agenda item six is to recognize the Chamber of Commerce and items seven and eight are regular business items that will be discussed during the council meeting.

The Mayor ended the work session at 5:50 p.m.  
Bekah Phillips, Chance Payne, Matthew Crow, and Joe Pate entered 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 McAlpine made a motion to approve the October 11, 2022 council minutes with the amendment discussed during the previous work session. Councilman Bradley seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Amanda Cole stated that Brandon Horton was not able to attend the meeting due to the active storms in the area. She explained that El Tejano Mexican Restaurant and Seafood is located at the old "O'So Good BBQ" location at 55545 US Highway 231 and the applicant is applying for restaurant retail liquor, retail beer- on-premises, and retail wine-on-premises. Amanda stated the applicant has passed all inspections except for the bottom of the bar needs to be finished, but everything else has been approved. Councilman McAlpine made a motion to approve the alcohol license application on behalf of El Tejano Mexican Restaurant and Seafood. Councilwoman Pierce seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Mayor Phillips read Tyler Seehusen's biography and stated the city is very happy to have him on board. The Mayor recognized Mr. Seehusen to the floor. Tyler thanked the Mayor and City Council for the opportunity to represent Oneonta and he knows he has made a great decision. Councilman Alexander stated Tyler has big boots to fill but knows he will do a great job. Councilwoman Pierce told Tyler she is excited to have him aboard. Mayor Phillips read resolution number 1022-01 in support of appointing Tyler Seehusen as the Oneonta Fire Chief. Mayor Phillips made a motion to approve resolution number 1022-01. Councilman Alexander seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Bekah Phillips gave a brief update on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce. She stated the Dinner Downtown and Covered Bridge Festival were both a success this year. She thanked the city for all their assistance during the festival and mentioned she was so surprised how many hands go into making it a success. She mentioned the Christmas Parade will be on December 12<sup>th</sup> and the Chamber Christmas Breakfast will be on December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m. at Lester Memorial.

Allie Allcorn reviewed the financial summary for September. She mentioned the local taxes and services for September came in at a median range of \$716, 000.00. She explained the total for business license in the fiscal year 2021-2022 was \$1,044,376.00 that comes out to be about \$70,000.00 more than fiscal year 2020-2021. She stated the major expenditures for September were to Milam & Co. for the soccer project in the amount of \$426,471.00. She mentioned the street department had major repairs and maintenance costing the city \$147,600.00 for Dogwood Drive and \$24,400.00 for Hudson Avenue.

The Mayor reminded everyone the next council meeting will be on November 10, 2022, instead of November 8, 2022. Mayor Phillips thanked Wallace State for dressing up the concrete pad at the library as a part of the PULSE project. The Mayor stated he attended the Senior Citizens

Center open house to invite the community back into the building since COVID. Mayor Phillips reminded everyone that Fire Chief Booth's last day of employment with the city is on October 29<sup>th</sup> and he will be greatly missed. The Mayor thanked Chief Booth for his capacity as Chief and for his efforts in getting the fire department to where they are now.

Fire Lt. Ivey presented Chief Booth with a plaque of recognizing his service. Ivey told Chief Booth that he appreciates Booth for not only his leadership but for his friendship. Chief Booth thanked the city for allowing him to be the fire chief and stated Oneonta is the best city and organization he has ever worked for and commended the firefighters on their work and dedication to the department.

There being no further business, Mayor Phillips entertained 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 was adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

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Mayor

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City Clerk