

State of Alabama)

City of Oneonta, May 24, 2022

County of Blount)

Council Meeting Minutes

The Mayor and City Council met during the regularly scheduled meeting on May 24, 2022, with a regularly scheduled 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, Allie Allcorn, Fire Chief Booth, Police Chief Clifton, Roland McCoy, Brandon Horton, Jeremy Cox and family, Lt. Leslie Loggins, Sgt. Josh Gibson, FF/ EMT Quentin Williams, FF/ EMT Mike Gladden, FF Matt Crowe, Lynn Sweatman with Blount EMS, Kelly Hodo with Blount County 911, and Tanya Blakely.

Mayor Phillips opened the public hearing at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the alcohol license application on behalf of LaCazuela Mexican Cuisine L.L.C. d.b.a. LaCazuela Mexican Cuisine # 2. There were no comments from the public. Mayor Phillips closed the public hearing at 5:32 p.m.

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 items. The Mayor mentioned item three pertains to May 10, 2022 council meeting minutes unless anyone has any comments.

The Mayor stated that we just held a public hearing on item four which is to consider approving the alcohol license on behalf of LaCazuela Mexican Cuisine, L.L.C. d.b.a. LaCazuela Mexican Cuisine #2. Brandon Horton explained that this was to approve the retail alcohol and retail liquor license for LaCazuela Mexican Cuisine, LLC d.b.a. LaCazuela Mexican Cuisine # 2 depending on the approval of their final inspection.

The Mayor stated that item five is to consider approving the 2023 Nutrition Agreement between the M4A, the county, and the City of Oneonta. Administrator Allcorn explained that this financial support from the M4A and the County Commission is very much needed and can be used for a variety of things, with just a few being personal care, home-delivered meals, and case management.

The Mayor explained that item six, being considered the transfer of ownership on behalf of Heritage Green has been moved to item twelve.

The Mayor stated that item seven is to recognize the B- Shift Firefighters on behalf of the Oneonta Fire Department.

The Mayor explained that item eight is recognizing Jeremy and Conner Cox.

Mayor Phillips stated that items nine and ten are the City Administrative report and the Mayoral report. The Mayor stated that item eleven is to consider going into executive session for the purpose of selling property.

Mayor Phillips asked the council to suspend the rules and to add another agenda item regarding a grant deadline being tomorrow.

The Mayor explained that item twelve is considered approving the transfer of ownership on behalf of Heritage Green.

Mayor Phillips reminded everyone that the Ribbon cutting for the new Aquatic center is tomorrow at 12:00 p.m. and then also that the opening day for the Aquatic center is Sat, May 28, 2022.

Councilman Bradley wants to make a recommendation to hire Mattie Jackson as a lifeguard during this council meeting.

Mayor Phillips closed the work session at 5:55 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.

Councilwoman Underwood made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2022, council meeting as written. Councilwoman Pierce seconded the motion and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman Alexander made a motion to approve the alcohol license application for the restaurant retail liquor and retail beer (on-premise) on behalf of LaCazuela Mexican Cuisine, LLC pending approval of the final inspection. Councilman McAlpine seconded the motion and the motion carried with all ayes.

Administrator Allcorn explained the approval of the 2023 Nutrition Contract Agreement. This agreement is between the M4A, Blount County, and the City of Oneonta to create funding for the Oneonta Senior Center. Administrator Allcorn stated that the city receives \$ 10,476.00 from M4A and then \$14,590.73 from the Blount County Commission and that this funding is much needed for services for the Senior Center. Administrator Allcorn also commended our Senior Center on the great job they do. Councilman Bradley made a motion to approve the 2023 Nutrition Contract Agreement and Councilwoman Underwood seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

Mayor Phillips asked the council at this time to suspend the rules to add approval of the LWCF grant. Mayor Phillips explained that we have a deadline of tomorrow to meet on the LWCF grant and the information was provided to us too late in order to add to the agenda.

Councilwoman Pierce made the motion to suspend the rules and make this the new item six on the agenda. Councilman McAlpine seconded the motion and the motion carried with all ayes.

Mayor Phillips explained that the application that we are applying for with the LWCF (Land, Water, Conservation Fund) will go towards Phase 2 of the Park and Recreation project.

Councilman Bradley read resolution no. 0522-01 regarding the LWCF Grant and then he put this

in the form of a motion to approve the LWCF grant. Councilman Alexander seconded the motion and the motion carried with ayes.

Mayor Phillips stated that the Oneonta Fire Department wanted to recognize the B-Shift Firefighters and others with 911 and Blount EMS for saving a life of a possible seizure patient. Councilwoman Pierce read the letter recognizing the following for their commitment to their community and their profession: Lt. Leslie Loggins, Sgt. Josh Gibson, FF/EMT Mike Gladden, FF/EMT Quentin Williams, Chief Kenneth Booth, Lynn Sweatman with Blount EMS, and also Kelly Hodo with the Blount County 911. Matt Crowe is the director of Oneonta Fire's EMS program and presented these with awards.

Mayor Phillips recognized Conner and Jeremy Cox with their presentation regarding a scooter and pump track for Oneonta. Mr. Cox and his family showed a slide show and provided information about the tracks and also building the tracks. Mr. Cox and his family then stated that they feel this would be beneficial for the City of Oneonta as everyone has to go out of town to have this fun.

Administrator Allcorn reported that the local taxes and services and sales tax were very close to the April projection and still receiving some business licenses. Administrator Allcorn reported that we have received \$45,000.00 more in business licenses than predicted in the budget and received just over \$36,000.00 in financial excise tax this month. Administrator Allcorn then reported that we have received our capital improvement monies in the amount of \$ 66,825.00 which can be spent on capital improvements in infrastructure or technical improvements in permanent city buildings. Administrator Allcorn also reported that we had actually brought in more sales tax by this time last year and also had received the money for the grant for the fire truck in the amount of \$709,000.00. Administrator Allcorn reported that all departments were within budget or only slightly over for April and that she appreciated their conservative ways to stay within budget. Administrator Allcorn then reported that we expended \$49,495.00 to Blount County for paving the new DHR road and that the Oneonta City Schools Allocation YTD was a quarter % of Beer Excise Tax with the amount being \$18,676.00 and then the appropriation was \$155,895.00. Administrator Allcorn reported that total expenditures were lower in comparison to the last several months.

Mayor Phillips stated that all he had to report was that he received an email from Mr. Shows with Chambless King Architects that they would like to extend the bid opening until June 9th instead of May 26th.

Councilman Bradley makes a motion after a recommendation from the Park and Recreation to hire Mattie Jackson as a lifeguard. Councilman Alexander seconded and the motion carried with all ayes. Mayor Phillips stated that we should have a couple of applicants to hire at the next council meeting and should make our number needed for lifeguards.

Mayor Phillips asked to entertain a motion to enter into an executive session. Councilwoman Pierce made the motion to enter into executive session at 6:36 p.m. The motion carried with all ayes.

Mayor Phillips and Council Members: Alexander, Bradley, McAlpine, Pierce, and Underwood were present in the executive session. Also present were Alex Smith, Allie Allcorn, Brandon Horton, and Tanya Blakely. The executive session started at 6:38 p.m. Councilman Alexander made a motion to exit the executive session at 7:08 p.m. and Councilman McAlpine seconded. The motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman McAlpine made a motion to enter back into the council meeting at 7:09 p.m. Councilman Alexander seconded the motion and the motion carried with all ayes.

Mayor Phillips stated that we will discuss the new agenda item twelve which is considering the transfer of ownership of Heritage Green.

Attorney Alex Smith explained that the public records of the City of Oneonta several years ago say that we offered the owner of Heritage Green a tax deduction for the city to take the title for the golf course in lieu of the golf course going to be turned into a Land Management Trust. Alex Smith also explained that the city sold the property to Mr. Hanvey as part of a public bid offering and that the purpose was to maintain the use of the property as a golf course as property owners in the golf course had expected to be surrounded. Alex Smith then stated that a requirement of conveyance to Mr. Hanvey that should he sell the property was that the City of Oneonta be given first right of refusal to buy the property back unless the purchaser would make the commitment to continue operating as a golf course. Alex Smith explained that Mayor Phillips had received information that there had been a transfer of ownership without the consent and he said that the new owner, Mr. Gore had understood that all had been approved before the transfer. Alex Smith explained that this is the reason for the request for approval and should have been brought before the council in January. Councilwoman Underwood made a motion to approve the transfer of ownership of Heritage Green and Councilman McAlpine seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

Mayor Phillips stated if no one had any other comments that he would entertain a motion to adjourn. Councilman McAlpine made a motion to adjourn at 7:13 p.m. and Councilman Alexander seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

Mayor

Assistant City Clerk