

State of Alabama)
City of Oneonta, August 19, 2021
County of Blount)

Special Called Meeting

The Mayor and City Council met during a special called meeting on August 19, 2021, at 7:30 a.m. for the purpose of discussing the continuation of park and recreation activities during the Delta variant of COVID outbreak. 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, Angela and Jeremy Hyde, Brett Moore, Megan Kelly, Mamie Cornelius, Joey and Melanie Prusha, Brad Brooks, Shelly Butler, Joshua Silver, Amanda Cole, and many other concerned residents.

Mayor Phillips opened the special called meeting at 7:30 a.m. The Mayor stated the intent of the meeting was never to cancel park and recreation activities, but to simply determine proactive measures to safely protect our children and community during the Delta variant outbreak. Mayor Phillips explained Kevin Nicodemus, Park and Recreation Director, was not able to attend the meeting due to his family being sick but he was present on speaker phone to give his recommendations. Kevin mentioned he was able to listen to the Blount County Youth Football League meeting held the previous night and it was discussed to continue all activities while monitoring the situation weekly. Kevin recommended to continue practices and games but screening all children's temperatures, not allowing children to share drinks, and if there is a rise in cases then reevaluating for a possible "soft" shutdown.

Mayor Phillips opened the conversation up to each council member to express their recommendations on the matter.

Councilwoman Underwood reiterated the recommendations that Kevin mentioned and to ensure we monitor the situation on a weekly basis.

Councilwoman Pierce stated the decision should be left up to the parents on rather or not they feel comfortable enough with their child playing sports this season. She expounded on the matter by explaining the side effects the previous shutdown had on children, mentally and psychically and stated it is a must to allow these kids to be kids.

Councilman Bradley read statistics from the CDC reporting children are more prone to dying in a car accident than dying from COVID and requested to allow the activities to continue.

Councilman Alexander stated it is not a council member's duty to make decisions parents should make and expounded if there are proactive measures in place, the city should allow the children to continue playing and continue to monitor the matter.

Councilman McAlpine restated nobody wants to cancel sports for the children or to take away a parent's right on allowing their children to participate.

Mayor Phillips explained with the park and recreation activities continuing the city will require every parent to complete a waiver stating that if their child or family member was to contract COVID or have any complications from COVID, the liability is not on the City of Oneonta.

The Mayor opened the floor to the public for comment. Many parents voiced their opinion on wanting to continue the activities with the proactive measures in place. Jeremy Hyde requested the city to add quarantine requirements on the waiver, so that the parents have a guideline to follow if there is a positive case or exposure to COVID. Mayor Phillips stated that he would incorporate CDC guidelines to the waiver and then it will be available to the public.

Mayor Phillips thanked everyone for attending the meeting and explained keeping the community safe is the city's top priority. The Mayor entertained a motion to adjourn. Councilman McAlpine made a motion to adjourn the special called meeting. Councilman Alexander seconded and the motion carried with all ayes. The special called meeting adjourned at 7:59 a.m.

Mayor

City Clerk