

State of Alabama)

City of Oneonta, October 26, 2021

County of Blount)

The Mayor and City Council met during the regular scheduled council meeting on October 26, 2021 with a public hearing scheduled for 5:30 p.m. for the purpose of ordinance no. 1021-01, establishing and regulating the reserve officer program and a regular 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, Brandon Horton, The Watkins Family, Treieva Oakley, Michael Dunn, Deb Talley, Dalton Farmer, Roland McCoy, Officer Dutton, Officer Sergeant Mitch Latta, Police Chief Clifton, Fire Chief Booth, Tara Murphree, Barbara Andersen, Merri Crow and Amanda Cole.

Mayor Phillips opened the public hearing at 5:33 p.m. for the purpose of ordinance no. 1021-01, establishing and regulating the reserve officer program. Alex Smith stated he was provided with a draft of the recommended ordinance and initially had some liability concerns allowing reserves to carry firearms. Alex mentioned he was looking more from the liability standpoint and not the training aspect but after talking to the Police Chief and others he does feel comfortable with leaving the language within the ordinance. He explained there were changes to typographical errors but none of the content within the draft were changed. Alex mentioned the ordinance allows the city to continue operation of the reserve officer program, which is a voluntarily program consisting of the maximum of ten people. He stated the ordinance requires all reserves to have a background check and are to work directly under the Chief of Police and the Mayor. He explained the reserves cannot wear a badge or uniform while not on duty and are to obey by the regulations within the ordinance. Councilman Bradley had concerns of the age for a member to become APOST certified. He explained when he originally became APOST certified, the individual had to be twenty-one before receiving the certification. Officer Dutton stated the age to become APOST certified has changed to nineteen. Dutton iterated the reserve will be trained in house for domestic violence, traffic stops and all other training before ever getting into a patrol car with another officer. After much discussion, the Mayor ended the public hearing at 5:45 p.m. with a three-minute recess.

The Mayor opened the work session at 5:48 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing the agenda for the council meeting. Mayor Phillips stated agenda items one and two are standard agenda items. The Mayor mentioned item number three is regarding October 12, 2021 council meeting minutes as written unless anyone has anything to state regarding the minutes.

Mayor Phillips explained there was a public hearing held at 5:30 p.m. for agenda item four regarding ordinance no. 1021-01; establishing and regulating the reserve officer program. Councilman Bradley stated he confirmed the age for APOST certification is nineteen instead of twenty-one years of age.

The Mayor stated Councilwoman Pierce would speak about agenda item five for thermal imaging camera bid on behalf of the Oneonta Fire Department during the council meeting.

Mayor Phillips explained agenda item six is to consider approving resolution no. 1021-02 concerning funding agreement for the TAP grant received from ALDOT to complete sidewalk projects at the park and recreation facility.

The Mayor stated agenda item seven is to set a work session on November 9, 2021 to discuss the Oneonta Personnel Policy Handbook.

Mayor Phillips explained agenda item eight is standard annually to approve the 2022 holiday schedule.

Councilwoman Underwood stated agenda item nine is to consider accepting Mitch Latta's retirement and he will be greatly missed.

Councilman Bradley stated agenda item ten is to approve the job description for Athletic Coordinator on behalf of the park and recreation department. Councilman Bradley explained agenda item eleven will be promoting park and recreation employee, Mamie Cornelius, to the Athletic Coordinator in which the promotion has already been included in the 2022 budget.

Councilman Bradley mentioned agenda item eleven is consider hiring part-time; temporary park and recreational employee.

Mayor stated agenda item twelve is to consider appointing Amanda Cole to the beautification board.

Mayor Phillips stated agenda items fourteen through nineteen are all regular business items that will be discussed during the council meeting.

The Mayor stated agenda item twenty will be omitted due to the administrator not being present. Mayor Phillips explained twenty-one is the Mayoral Report and then agenda item twenty-two is to consider entering executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel issues and there will be no further business. Mayor Phillips entertained a motion to adjourn the work session. The Mayor closed the work session at 6:00 p.m.

The Mayor opened the regular scheduled council meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Councilman Bradley gave the invocation.

Councilwoman Underwood led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman McAlpine made a motion to approve minutes of October 12, 2021 council meeting as written. Councilman Alexander seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilwoman Underwood made a motion to adopt ordinance no. 1021-01, establishing and regulating the reserve officer program. Councilman Bradley seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilwoman Pierce stated the fire department advertised and received bids for thermal imaging cameras. She explained the lowest bidder did not meet specifications; therefore, Fire Chief Booth recommended the second lowest bid of \$24,378.00 on behalf of Sunbelt. Councilwoman Pierce made a motion to award the thermal imaging cameras on behalf of the fire department to Sunbelt in the amount of \$24,378.00.

Mayor Phillips read resolution no. 1021-02, concerning the 2022 TAP grant funding agreement. Councilman Bradley made a motion to approve resolution no. 1021-02, concerning the 2022 TAP grant funding agreement. Councilwoman Pierce seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman Alexander made a motion to set a work session on November 9, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing the Oneonta Personnel Policy Handbook. Councilwoman Pierce seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman Bradley made a motion to approve the 2022 holiday schedule. Councilwoman Underwood seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilwoman Underwood read the retirement letter on behalf of Police Sergeant Mitch Latta and mentioned his last day will be on November 18, 2021. Councilwoman Underwood made a motion to accept the retirement of Mitch Latta. Councilman Alexander seconded and the motion carried with all ayes. Councilwoman Underwood presented Mitch Latta a plaque for his twenty-six years of service with the Oneonta Police Department. Councilwoman Pierce and Councilman Bradley thanked Mitch for his service. Mayor Phillips told Mitch he has never been a burden to the city and he knows that Mitch has made his father proud.

Councilman Bradley made a motion to approve the Athletic Coordinator job description on behalf of the park and recreation department. Councilwoman Underwood seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman Bradley made a motion to promote Mamie Cornelius to Athletic Coordinator. Councilwoman Underwood seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman Bradley made a motion to hire Andrew Prusha as part-time; temporary park and recreational employee. Councilman McAlpine seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman Alexander stated during the previous council meeting the council approved to increase the number of beautification board members from seven to nine members. Councilman Alexander made a motion to appoint Amanda Cole to the beautification board. Councilwoman Pierce seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Lawrence Payne was not present for the council meeting.

Mayor Phillips recognized Michael Dunn to the floor. Michael Dunn explained his background and struggles he has faced throughout life and why he feels he will be a great candidate running for Alabama State Senate. Mayor Phillips thanked Michael for his service and thanked him for his willingness to serve.

Mayor Phillips recognized Kylee Watkins to the floor. Kylee presented the Mayor and City Council an idea to display a sign with Oneonta spelled out like the Hollywood sign at the pop-up park. She gave the Mayor and councilmembers each a packet with the idea cost and layout of the project. Mayor Phillips applauded Kylee for her wonderful idea and great work and will take it into consideration.

Mayor Phillips recognized Merri Crow to the floor. She informed every one of the Mitchell Market event scheduled for November 12th and 13th located at Mitchell Farms. She invited everyone out in hopes this could be a bi-annual event. Merri also mentioned she wanted to talk about the OFFER Red Tag Project. She stated there will be a raffle for those that purchase the next 1,000 tags and the winner will have the \$50.00 fee waived and then will be entered into a beach getaway raffle.

Barbara Andersen gave a brief report on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce. She invited everyone to a ribbon cutting for Cuts and Fades on October 30th at 11:00 a.m. She reminded everyone of the opening day for Moody Farm on November 26th and the Christmas Parade will be on December 7th. Barbara invited everyone out to the Sip and Stroll events for November 18th and December 16th. She mentioned the Chamber will be hosting the New Year's Eve to-go event and will have more details later.

Deb Talley gave a brief report on behalf of the Oneonta Business Association. She said the "Spook and Show" was a great event and congratulated all the winners during the BBQ Bravo dinner. She invited everyone to attend the last Cruise and Croon event of the season on October 30th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Mayor Phillips stated Allie Allcorn is not present for the meeting and asked for prayers for her son and family.

Mayor Phillips stated he so happy Woodland Scout Park has become such a great space and so successful. The Mayor reiterated the "Spoke and Show" was a great success and he stated that the city will not be declaring what day "Trick or Treat" is on.

The Mayor stated there is a need to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel issues. Councilwoman Pierce made a motion to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel issues at 6:46 p.m. Councilman McAlpine seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

The Mayor and Council Members: Alexander, Bradley, McAlpine, Pierce and Underwood entered the executive session at 6:48 p.m. Also attending were Alex Smith, Brandon Horton and Amanda Cole. Councilman Bradley made a motion to exit the executive session at 7:08 p.m. Councilwoman Pierce seconded and the motion carried with all ayes. Councilwoman Pierce made a motion to adjourn the council meeting at 7:09 p.m. Councilman Alexander seconded and the motion carried with all ayes. The council meeting ended at 7:09 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk