

State of Alabama)

City of Oneonta, January 10, 2023

County of Blount)

Council Meeting Minutes

The Mayor and City Council met during the regularly scheduled work session at 5:45 p.m. with a council meeting following at 6:00 p.m. Present was Mayor Phillips; Council members: Alexander, Bradley, McAlpine, Pierce and Underwood. Also present in the meeting was Alex Smith, Andy Alexander, Allie Allcorn, Charles Clifton, Tyler Seehusen and Tanya Blakely.

Mayor Phillips opened the work session at 5:45 p.m. Mayor Phillips stated that agenda items one and two are standard items, and item three is to consider approving the minutes of the December 27, 2022, council meeting unless there are any comments.

Mayor Phillips stated that agenda item number four is to consider approving resolution no. 0123-01; authorizing police officers to work secondary or off-duty employment utilizing municipality-owned and issued equipment. Mayor Phillips asked Police Chief Clifton to step up and explain this in greater detail.

Police Chief Clifton explained that AMIC suggested that the city adopt a resolution for protection for the municipalities where an officer has secondary employment and is utilizing our equipment such as firearms, vests, and radios. Chief Clifton then explained that this has been our common practice to allow officers to utilize our firearms, vests, and radios in secondary employment, but there were some ethic concerns regarding the officers using their firearms during secondary employment. Chief Clifton also mentioned that we also have some work to do regarding the other agencies using our firing range.

Councilman Alexander asked if this would be a concern for the Fire department also since they have secondary employment also.

Fire Chief Seehusen explained that the firefighters are not allowed to use any property or gear of the City of Oneonta Fire department outside the city limits.

Mayor Phillips explained that agenda item number five is to consider approving a proclamation recognizing Coach James Williams. Mayor Phillips then explained that the school board and the school system is naming the basketball court at the High School after Coach Williams.

Mayor Phillips then explained that Coach Williams had a lot of impact on the basketball program but more so had a huge impact on the personal lives of the players and made sure they stayed on track. Mayor Phillips mentioned that there will be a ceremony on January 23rd, 2022, at maybe 5:30 p.m. for this recognition and he will send out an email when he gets confirmation of the time.

Allie Allcorn mentioned that there are three items that we would like to be on the next council agenda. Allie explained that one is reclassifying Megan Kelly's job title and description. Allie explained that Megan is our Inspection Clerk and has taken on some Airport duties. Allie reported that this will come with a five percent pay increase for a yearly increase of \$2,038.40. Allie mentioned that we are wanting to add an additional supervisor position in the Public Works department. Allie explained that we are not adding another body and that this will come with a fifteen percent pay increase to match the other supervisor position. Allie reported that depending on whom should take this position, the yearly increase would be around \$6000.00. Allie then mentioned that we would like to add some supervisor duties to Mamie Cornelius's position in the Park and Rec department. Allie also explained that we would not be changing Mamie's title, and this would come with a ten percent pay increase and a yearly increase of \$4,368.00. Allie explained that Mamie would be over the two employees at the Gym and then the Gym and then relieve Kevin of this and he would be over the three employees at the Ballpark. Allie reported that if these changes were made that the total increase for the year will be \$12,406.00.

Mayor Phillips wanted to point out that during a couple of exit interviews with both the Public Works and Park and Rec departments that the employees stated that there was no room for improvement here and that they were moving where there was potential to climb up the ladder. Mayor Phillips stated that these changes would serve as a good benefit as employee retention and especially with the way the city is growing and then also with the different departments growing.

Allie Allcorn reported that for November 2022 that the sales tax is \$10,000.00 less than November of 2021 but that advalorem taxes are \$29,000.00 more than November 2021. Allie reported that these figures brought the Local Taxes and Services to \$841,000.00 and that this was \$10,000.00 more than November of 2021's total. Allie reported that the total for business licenses is low for November 2022, and this is normal for this time of the year and will not see the total reflected until January through March of 2023. Allie reported that Court fines are low for November due to being closed the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Allie mentioned that we received \$116,000.00 in financial excise taxes in November and hopefully will receive more of those taxes every three to four months. Allie mentioned that Nicole has been working diligently on applying for grants since she was hired, and the city has been awarded several under her watch. Allie reported that one of those grants awarded was through the Alabama Historical Commission to update the train depot in the park.

Allie then explained that this Historical grant was for \$26,000.00 and was deposited into our General Fund in November. Allie explained that the total for November came to be just over \$1,130,000.00 and this number is higher than what we received in November of 2021 both for the period and the YTD. Allie reported that most departments were very much in budget for November 2022. Allie explained that the Police and Fire departments had some overages in salaries due to holidays and the Veteran's Day parade. Allie reported that the Fire and Public

Works departments had significant repairs for the month and is usually expected this time of the year. Allie then reported that we paid out over \$69,000.00 to Whitaker Contracting for the paving of Azure Street and Androse Drive. Allie explained that this was coded to the Public Works department, however it was paid out of our 1 Cent Road and Education Fund. Allie reported that we paid out just over \$289,000.00 to Milam & Company for the soccer project and at this point we owe just over \$376,000.00 to finish their portion of the project.

Mayor Phillips closed the work session at 6:06 p.m. and went right into the council meeting.

Mayor Phillips opened the council meeting at 6:07p.m.

Councilman Bradley gave the invocation.

Mayor Phillips led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Phillips stated that if there were no additional comments regarding the minutes of the December 27, 2022, council, he would entertain for a motion to approve. Councilwoman Pierce made a motion to approve the council minutes of December 27, 2022, and Councilwoman Underwood seconded the motion. Councilman McAlpine and Councilman Alexander abstained.

Mayor Phillips stated agenda item four is to consider approving resolution no. 0123-01; authorizing police officers to work secondary or off duty employment utilizing municipality-owned and issued equipment. Mayor Phillips asked Councilwoman Underwood to read the resolution no. 0123-01. Councilwoman Underwood read the resolution and placed it in form of a motion. Councilman Bradley seconded the motion and the motion carried with all ayes.

Mayor Phillips stated that agenda item number five is consider approving a proclamation recognizing "Coach "James Williams. Mayor Phillips read the proclamation and asked for a motion to approve. Councilwoman Underwood made a motion to approve the proclamation recognizing Coach James Williams and Councilman McAlpine seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

Fire Chief Seehusen reported that they have been trying to develop and revise some policies in the Fire department. Chief Seehusen mentioned that we are also looking at some new positions to fill with Scott Payne retiring. Chief Seehusen reported that we ran 2,433 calls in 2022 and the calls continue to increase. Chief Seehusen reported that we have applied for a Zero Call Share Fire Sub grant to purchase additional education equipment and then also applied for a grant to replace an engine at Station 12.

Chief Seehusen stated that we have made some changes to our management system to get State compliant with our EMS reports and the system seems to be working better. Chief Seehusen then reported that we received a grant through Wal-Mart for \$4,500.00 and will probably use it to purchase hazardous materials and rescue equipment.

Councilwoman Underwood gave the police report for the month of December.

Mayor Phillips stated that the City Administrator report has already been presented during the work session and Allie has nothing further to report.

Mayor Phillips stated in his report that he had heard back from Rock City who purchased property next to Bojangles and that they had originally thought that they were seeing some underground tanks on this property. Mayor Phillips said that after further inspection that all that they were seeing was some residue or displaced dirt under the ground where the tanks had been. Mayor Phillips reported that he expects that within the next month that they will present schematics to our Permitting department.

Mayor Phillips stated that he did not have anything further and asked if anyone had anything to add to the meeting. Mayor Phillips stated that if there was nothing further that he would ask for a motion to adjourn. Councilman Bradley made a motion to adjourn the council meeting and Councilman McAlpine seconded. The motion carried with all ayes. The council meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

Mayor

Assistant City Clerk