

State of Alabama)  
City of Oneonta, November 22, 2022  
County of Blount)

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

The Mayor and City Council met during the regularly scheduled work session at 5:45 p.m. to review the agenda items, and the council meeting followed at 6:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Pro-Tem Bradley; Council Members: Alexander, McAlpine, Pierce, and Underwood. Also present in the meeting were Alex Smith, Allie Allcorn, Andy Alexander, Kay Butts, Fire Chief Seehusen, Fire Lt. Ivey, Ray Blanton, Police Chief Clifton, Investigator Latta, and Amanda Cole.

Mayor Pro-Tem Bradley opened the regularly scheduled 5:45 p.m. work session to review the agenda items for the council meeting. Mayor Pro-Tem Bradley stated that Brother Blanton with Joy Baptist will be in attendance to give the invocation. Mayor Pro-Tem Bradley mentioned that item two is a standard item, and item three is to consider approving the minutes of November 11, 2022, as written unless there are any comments.

Mayor Pro-Tem Bradley stated that item number four was discussed at the previous council meeting explaining an individual interested in opening a medical cannabis manufacturing location. Alex Smith stated the timeframe has passed for individuals to apply for an application with the state, but the applicant interested in coming to Oneonta has confirmed they have applied timely and are waiting on the city for approval to finish the application. Amanda Cole stated she will email the council the Alabama State Commission website for them to review.

Amanda Cole stated that item five is regarding increasing the business license issuance fee from \$12.00 to \$14.00 beginning January 2023. She mentioned Alabama Department of Revenue adjusts the fees every five years based on the U.S. Department of Labor's producer price index. She explained that it is not required but at the discretion of each municipality to adopt the amendment. She stated that the ordinance provided is a draft and will not be up for voting until the next council meeting.

Allie Allcorn stated that in regard to item six, she received a call from Mark Gargus recommending the council reappoint Dan Buckner to the Oneonta Utilities Board.

Mayor Pro Tem Bradley stated that agenda item seven is to consider approving or denying retirees' health insurance option. He mentioned that if the option is approved tonight, then the council can come back at a later date and get a policy in place. Councilwoman Pierce asked if the option is approved tonight; if the retiree denies it, will he/she be eligible for COBRA? Allie Allcorn stated that Dalton was not present for the meeting and that he would be the one that would be able to answer the question. Councilman Alexander mentioned

that if the option was approved, the city would have to pay for an actuary annually, which could cost an additional \$5,000-\$10,000. Mayor Pro Tem Bradley stated he would like to see this option offered on a tiered basis, depending on the employee's years of service and age. He explained that offering this type of benefit is a way to retain better employees. After much discussion, Mayor Pro Tem Bradley moved on to say that item eight would be discussed during the council meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Bradley opened the regularly scheduled council meeting at 6:13 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Bradley requested Brother Blanton from Joy Baptist to give the invocation.

Mayor Pro Tem Bradley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Alexander made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2022, council meeting as written. Councilwoman Pierce seconded; Councilman McAlpine abstained, and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman McAlpine made a motion to set a public hearing for December 13, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. to discuss an ordinance authorizing the operation of medical cannabis dispensing sites. Councilwoman Underwood seconded, and the motion carried with all ayes.

Amanda Cole stated that item five is regarding increasing the business license issuance fee from \$12.00 to \$14.00 beginning January 2023. She mentioned Alabama Department of Revenue adjusts the fees every five years based on the U.S. Department of Labor's producer price index. She explained that it is not required but at the discretion of each municipality to adopt the amendment. Amanda stated that the ordinance provided is a draft and will not be up for voting until the next council meeting. Councilwoman Pierce made a motion to set a public hearing for December 13, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. to discuss an ordinance amending section 13-3 in the city code to increase business license issuance fees. Councilwoman Underwood seconded, and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman Alexander made a motion to approve reappointing Dan Buckner to the Oneonta Utilities Board. Councilwoman Underwood seconded, and the motion carried with all ayes.

Kay Butts stated she has been an employee with the city for almost fifty years and thanked the council for tackling the decision on whether or not to provide retirees with the option of health insurance. Fire Chief Seehusen stated that the City of Birmingham offers a "buy-in plan" where the employees put in money throughout their employment until they retire and then use the money to help with the cost of healthcare. Police Chief Clifton stated he appreciates the council taking the time to see if the option is feasible for the city. Chief Clifton explained private sector is no comparison to government health insurance, and there are employees hanging on for the health insurance alone. Mayor Pro Tem Bradley stated that if the option is approved, then once Mayor Phillips returns, a work session can be set

up on the requirements. Councilwoman Underwood made a motion to approve retirees' health insurance option. Councilman Alexander seconded; Councilwoman Pierce voted no, and the motion carried with all ayes.

Allie Allcorn stated there is no financial memo due to the auditors being present.

Mayor Pro Tem entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman McAlpine made a motion to adjourn the council meeting. Councilman Alexander seconded, and the motion carried with all ayes. The council meeting ended at 6:28 p.m.

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Mayor

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City Clerk