

State of Alabama)

City of Oneonta, January 11, 2022

County of Blount)

The Mayor and City Council met during the regularly scheduled council meeting on January 11, 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, Brandon Horton, Andy Alexander, David Butler, Tara Murphree, Bill Hendrickson, Leanne McAlpine, Fire Chief Booth, and Amanda Cole. Allie Allcorn was present via cell phone for the work session.

Mayor Phillips opened the work session at 5:45 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing the agenda for the council meeting. The Mayor stated agenda items one and two are standard agenda items. Mayor Phillips mentioned item number three pertains to December 28, 2021 council meeting minutes as written, unless anyone has any comment.

The Mayor stated regarding agenda item four there is a need to set a work session on January 25th with Chambless King Architects to discuss park progress and budget. Mayor Phillips explained agenda item five there is a need to set another work session on January 25th to discuss potential uses for ARPA funds. The Mayor explained the city has received \$780,000.00 and is expected to receive a second draw later this year. He explained there are limitations on how to use the funds and it is important the council discuss the potential uses.

Mayor Phillips stated in support of the Unity Celebration hosted by Blount County and Chamber of Commerce, the city adopts a Unity Celebration Proclamation annually. The Mayor explained agenda item seven is to consider adopting Human Trafficking Awareness Month Proclamation.

The Mayor explained after interviewing three candidates for the assistant community developer position, Dalton Farmer is recommending hiring Nicole Tolbert. Mayor Phillips stated the increase to support the position from part-time to full-time will only cost the city an additional \$12,000.00.

Mayor Phillips stated agenda item nine is to consider hiring David Pritchett as a full-time police officer. The Mayor explained this position was advertised over a month ago and the candidate has been interviewed two previous times in the past, but the city always pulled from the reserve program to fill those full-time positions.

Mayor Phillips explained Councilman Bradley will review agenda item ten during the council meeting. The Mayor stated agenda items eleven through fifteen are all regular business items, but due to the absence of Allie Allcorn he would like to open the floor for any questions for Mrs. Allcorn. Councilman McAlpine asked if the assistant community developer working hours would double compare to the previous employee that worked part-time. She explained the previous employee did work part-time but she still worked an estimate of fifty hours bi-weekly and she stated the city is in good operational standing to support the increase for the position.

Mayor Phillips recognized David Butler, owner of Swamptails, to the floor. David thanked the present and previous Mayor and City Council for everything they did to help with their restaurant. He explained due to unforeseen circumstances him and his family had to make the difficult decision to close their doors. David stated it was a difficult decision due to his love for the people and community. The Mayor thanked David for everything and assured him the city is sad to see the restaurant close.

The Mayor closed the work session at 5:59 p.m.

Police Chief Clifton, Police Lt. Egan, Nicole and Josh Tolbert entered the chambers.

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

Councilwoman Underwood gave the invocation.

Councilman McAlpine led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Bradley made a motion to approve minutes of December 28, 2021, council meeting as written. Councilwoman Underwood seconded; Councilman Alexander and Councilman McAlpine abstained and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman McAlpine made a motion to set a work session on January 25, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. with Chambliss King Architects to discuss park progress and budget. Councilman Alexander seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilwoman Underwood made a motion to set a work session on January 25, 2021, immediately following the council meeting to discuss potential uses of the ARPA funds. Councilwoman Pierce seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman Alexander read the Unity Celebration Proclamation in its entirety and made a motion to adopt the proclamation in support of the Annual Unity Celebration. Councilman McAlpine seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman Bradley read the Human Trafficking Awareness Month Proclamation in its entirety and made a motion to adopt the proclamation in support of Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Councilwoman Pierce seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Mayor Phillips read recommendation letter on behalf of Dalton Farmer to hire Nicole Tolbert as full-time assistant community developer. Councilman Alexander made a motion to hire Nicole Tolbert as full-time assistant community developer. Councilwoman Underwood seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilwoman Underwood read recommendation letter on behalf of Police Chief Clifton to hire David Pritchett as full-time police officer. Councilman Bradley seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman Bradley made a motion to advertise part-time; temporary park and recreational concessions for the spring sports. Councilwoman Pierce seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilwoman Pierce gave the fire department report for the month of December.

Councilwoman Underwood gave the police department report for the month of December and the annual report for 2021.

Councilman Alexander stated the commercial beautification board award to Oneonta Nutrition and the residential beautification board award to Jennifer and Emmett Roddam.

Bill Hendrickson gave a brief update on behalf of the Oneonta Business Association. He thanked Roland McCoy and public works department for their help with the Christmas décor clean-up. Bill stated phase three of "Paint the Town" will begin soon on the 300th block. He mentioned the OBA is trying to change from a 501 (c) 6 organization to a 501 (c) 3 organization in hopes to apply for more grant funding.

Brandon Horton stated both the Armory Drive project and Dogwood Drive project are complete and thanked Roland and his crew for their work and all the residents for their patience. He explained all the lights within neighborhoods have been upgraded to LED, if there are any lights that are not LED it is due to them being privately owned. He mentioned the park facilities and Highway 231 and Highway 75 are next on the list to being upgraded. Brandon stated the Hometown Market building and slab are completely gone and the contractor plans to bring topsoil later this week. He explained the city has applied for a flood mitigation grant through FEMA for the property to create a safer area for flooding and complete sidewalks around the property.

Andy Alexander mentioned the inspection department are back full force sending out substandard violations and notification letters to property owners. He stated if anyone has a property that needs to be added to list to call his office and he will ensure it is on the list. Andy updated everyone on the temporary moratorium on behalf of Southern Smokes, LLC. He explained that the city was able to gain access to the rooftop and identified four areas of concern. Andy explained the city outlined those areas of concerns to both the property owners and advised to have a third party enter the premise and test the seal of the property. He stated the property was tested by a blow door test by a certified contractor on Monday and the contractor calculated the air exchange rate to seven percent (7%) which is almost as good as new construction. Once that information was presented to the Mayor, Mayor Phillips lifted the moratorium allowing smoking on premise. Andy stated that both property owners were given a

notice and there has not been any complaints yet and the property follows the Fire and Zoning Code.

Mayor Phillips read a thank you letter on behalf of Coach Phil Phillips for the Mayor and City Council presenting the high school football for their hard work.

The Mayor reviewed statistics and pictures for the aquatic center project. Mayor Phillips stated that to date there have been five change orders equaling to \$75,095.00 making the original contract sum go from \$1,613,500.00 to \$1,688,595.00. The Mayor explained that line eight; current payment due amount \$371,600.82 has been mailed to the contractor; therefore, the amount owed is \$96,205.38. Mayor Phillips stated the project date to open the pool is Memorial Day of this year.

There was discussion on the soccer field project and park and recreation projects. The Mayor explained the goal is to complete the park and recreation projects in two phases. The first phase will be the soccer and flag football fields and the top tier of the park and recreation fields. Then phase two will be the completion of the bottom tier of the park and the depot. Mayor Phillips explained the need of the two phases is to have the ability to continue providing sports.

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending the council meeting and congratulated the two new hires. Mayor Phillips entertained a motion to adjourn. Councilman McAlpine made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Bradley seconded and the motion carried with all ayes. The council meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk