

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

Council Meeting Minutes

The Mayor and City Council met during the regularly scheduled council meeting on February 22, 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, Allie Allcorn, Ricky Statham, Manuel Villegas, Aleyda Villegas, Superintendent Daniel Smith, Tammy McMinn, Craig Sosebee, Oneonta School Board Members: Maples, Hicks, and Breseale, and Amanda Cole.

Mayor Phillips opened the work session at 5:45 p.m. to review the agenda for the council meeting. The Mayor stated agenda items one and two are standard agenda items. Mayor Phillips mentioned item three pertains to February 8, 2022, council meeting minutes unless anyone comments.

The Mayor stated agenda item four is regarding the Arbor Day Proclamation that the city adopts annually in support of Arbor Day since Oneonta is a Tree City.

Mayor Phillips mentioned agenda item five there is a vacancy on the Historic Preservation Committee, and it will be presented to appoint Ryan Cole during the council meeting.

Mayor Phillips explained agenda item six is to consider hiring Manuel Villegas as a full-time Public Works employee. The Mayor mentioned the position was advertised over a month ago, and Public Works Director, Roland McCoy, expressed Mr. Villegas would be a great fit.

The Mayor mentioned agenda item seven is to consider approving the promotion of Corporal Anthony Brewer to the rank of Sergeant. Mayor Phillips explained the regular process was held, and Mr. Brewer was the recommended employee for the promotion.

Mayor Phillips asked Oneonta Public Library Director Ricky Statham to discuss agenda eight. Ricky explained agenda eight is to consider the reclassification for Programmers Coordinator from grade two to three. He stated the position is separate from regular entry staffing and constants of more duties than regular staffing. Allie Allcorn mentioned the current Programmers Coordinator, Cassandra Brindle, was offered the reclassification pay before turning in her resignation.

Mayor Phillips stated agenda nine is to consider approving the resignation of full-time Programmers Coordinator Cassandra Brindle, and agenda ten is to consider advertising for the full-time Programmers Coordinator position on behalf of the library.

The Mayor explained Councilman Bradley would review agenda item eleven in the meeting, and agenda item twelve is to consider advertising for seasonal lifeguards and two pool manager positions. The Mayor verified that the lifeguards and managers must have CPR and lifeguard certification before applying.

Mayor Phillips stated agenda item thirteen is to recognize Superintendent Daniel Smith and School Board Member Don Maples. The Mayor explained agenda items fourteen and fifteen will be discussed during the council meeting and agenda item sixteen is to consider entering an executive session to discuss the potential of selling property.

The Mayor closed the work session at 5:49 p.m.

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

Councilman Bradley gave the invocation.

Mayor Phillips led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Alexander made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2022 council meeting as written. Councilwoman Pierce seconded, and the motion carried with all ayes.

Mayor Phillips read the 2022 Arbor Day Proclamation in its entirety. Councilman Bradley made a motion to adopt the 2022 Arbor Day Proclamation. Councilwoman Underwood seconded, and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman Alexander stated there are two vacancies on the Historic Preservation Committee and mentioned Ryan Cole would be a good fit due to his background of research and books written about Blount County's history. Councilman Alexander made a motion to appoint Ryan Cole to the Historic Preservation Committee. Councilman Bradley seconded, and the motion carried with all ayes.

After reading the recommendation letter from Roland McCoy, Councilman Alexander made a motion to hire Manual Villegas as a full-time Public Works employee. Councilman McAlpine seconded, and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilwoman Underwood read a recommendation letter from Police Chief Clifton requesting to promote Corporal Brewer to Sergeant with a 5% payroll increase. Councilwoman Underwood made a motion to promote Corporal Brewer to Sergeant with a 5% payroll increase. Councilman Bradley seconded, and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman McAlpine made a motion to reclassify the Programmers Coordinator position on behalf of the Oneonta Public Library from grade two to grade three. Councilman Alexander seconded, and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman McAlpine read the resignation letter on behalf of Cassandra Brindle with her last day of employment on February 25, 2022. Councilwoman Underwood seconded, and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman McAlpine made a motion to advertise a full-time Programmers Coordinator position on behalf of the Oneonta Public Library. Councilman Bradley seconded, and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman Bradley made a motion to hire the following individuals for part-time; temporary park and recreational concession employees: Donivin Ezell, Bryli Howard, and Jason Waldon. Councilman Alexander seconded, and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman Bradley made a motion to advertise for seasonal lifeguards and two pool managers. Councilwoman Pierce seconded, and the motion carried with all ayes.

Mayor Phillips recognized Superintendent Daniel Smith and Oneonta School Board Member Don Maples. Don Maples thanked the Mayor and City Council for allowing them to speak at the meeting. He explained Oneonta offers a quality of life and opportunities to grow that people look for in a place to live. Don thanked the city for the continual growth and funding throughout their partnership.

Police Chief Clifton entered the council chamber at 6:15 p.m.

Superintendent Daniel Smith presented the Mayor and City Council a school system snapshot 2022 edition on behalf of the Oneonta City School System. Mr. Smith explained that the snapshot shows the revenues and expenses required to run the school successfully. Mr. Smith thanked the teachers, community, and fellow entities that continue to support the school system. Mayor Phillips thanked the Superintendent and Oneonta School Board Members for attending the meeting. He explained he is a product of the school and is very thankful for his experience.

Allie Allcorn reported the financial memo for January 2022. She stated January was our best month yet for Local Taxes and Services within the past year with \$893,000.00 for the period. She explained we took in \$166,000.00 for business licenses in the period, which is \$10,000.00 more than January 2021. Allie mentioned we received \$166,000.00 in financial excise taxes for this month, and we received our last reimbursement payment from the Oneonta Utilities Board for health insurance. She stated that all departments were in line with their budget other than necessary repairs and maintenance. She mentioned we paid out \$242,769.36 to Whitaker for the paving completion and paid all entities their allocated money in full. Allie explained the following payments were paid out of the bond account: \$74,000.00 for engineering fees to Chambless King Architects; \$473,000.00 to Edison & Associates for the aquatic facility; \$30,000.00 for stone and gravel for the ballpark and soccer projects.

Mayor Phillips had nothing to report.

Councilwoman Underwood invited everyone to the Celtic Music Festival on March 12th from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. located on 1st Avenue in Downtown Oneonta. She stated the event is free, but all donations will go towards the Blount County Fraternal Order of Police.

Mayor Phillips congratulated Sergeant Brewer on his promotion and Manuel Villegas. Mayor Phillips stated there is a need to enter an executive session, and there will be no further business. Councilwoman Pierce made a motion to enter into an executive session to discuss the potential of selling property at 6:30 p.m. Councilwoman seconded and carried with all ayes.

Mayor Phillips and Council Members: Alexander, Bradley, McAlpine, Pierce, and Underwood were present in the executive session. Also present were Alex Smith, Brandon Horton, Allie Allcorn, and Amanda Cole. The executive session started at 6:32 p.m. Councilwoman Pierce made a motion to exit the executive session. Councilman Bradley seconded, and the motion carried with all ayes. The Mayor and Council exited the executive session at 7:02 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk