

State of Alabama)

City of Oneonta, February 23, 2021

County of Blount)

The Mayor and City Council met during a regularly scheduled council meeting on February 23, 2021 with a public hearing at 5:40 p.m. for the purpose of discussing rezoning the property located at 282 Mountain Drive and a work session beginning at 5:45 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing the agenda. Present were Mayor Phillips, Council Members: Alexander, Bradley, McAlpine, Pierce and Underwood. Also, present in the meeting were Alex Smith, Allie Allcorn, Brandon Horton, Police Chief Clifton, Mark Gargus, Virginia Lindsey, Patti Williams, Tara Murphree, Barry & Lisa Kennamer and Amanda Cole.

Mayor Phillips opened the public hearing held the same date at 5:40 for the purpose of discussing rezoning the property located at 282 Mountain Drive from M-1 zoning to R-1 zoning. Alex Smith stated the parcel of land was originally zoned M-1 due to the cell towers located near property being discussed. Alex Smith stated the Planning Commission unanimously voted to rezone 282 Mountain Drive from M-1 zoning to R-1 zoning. There being no further discussion and no public comment, Mayor Phillips entertained for a motion to close the public hearing. Councilwoman Pierce made a motion to close the public hearing. Councilman Bradley seconded and the motion carried with all ayes. The public hearing ended at 5:43 p.m. Councilman McAlpine left the meeting at 5:34 p.m.

Mayor Phillips opened the work session at 5:45 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing the agenda for the council meeting. Mayor Phillips stated items one through three are standard agenda items unless someone has anything to say regarding the February 9, 2021 council minutes.

The Mayor mentioned there was a public hearing held prior to the work session for the purpose of discussing rezoning property located at 282 Mountain Drive from M-1 zoning to R-1 zoning.

Regarding agenda item five, Mayor Phillips stated there is a need to set a public hearing for the purpose of discussing the alcohol license application on behalf of K5, LLC d.b.a. Tin Town Brewing Company. Barry and Lisa Kennamer, the owners of Tin Town Brewing Company introduced themselves and stated they are excited to be in Oneonta and invited everyone to come and enjoy themselves. Mayor Phillips welcomed them and stated we are glad to have them in Oneonta.

Mayor Phillips stated agenda item six is a standard proclamation the city adopts every year to be a part of Arbor Day Celebration.

Mayor Phillips asked Councilman Alexander to review agenda item seven, regarding upgrades to city streetlights. Councilman Alexander stated he met with Robert Richardson with Alabama Power to discuss the two options of upgrading the streetlights to LED lighting. Councilman Alexander stated the city has 823 streetlights to convert over to LED with one plan saving the city \$600 monthly and with the second plan costing the city an extra \$400 monthly. Councilman

Alexander mentioned he requested to conduct a testing of the two different LED wattage options for a few lights first before signing the contract to convert all 823 lights over. Councilman Alexander stated if the city does approve the contract it will take approximately twelve weeks to complete and the city does not pay anything until the conversion is complete.

Mayor Phillips stated agenda items eight through eleven are all standard agenda items.

Mayor Phillips entertained for adjournment of the work session. Councilman Bradley made a motion to close the work session. Councilman Alexander seconded and the motion carried with all ayes. The work session ended at 6:00 p.m.

Councilman McAlpine returned to council chambers at 6:00 p.m.

The Mayor opened the regular scheduled council meeting at 6:01 p.m.

Councilman Alexander gave the invocation.

Councilman McAlpine led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilwoman Pierce made a motion to approve the minutes of February 9, 2021 council meeting as written. Councilwoman Underwood seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Mayor Phillips stated there was a public hearing held the same date at 5:40 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the rezoning property located at 282 Mountain Drive from M-1 zoning to R-1 zoning. The Mayor stated there were no comments from the council or public regarding the rezoning. Councilman Alexander made a motion to approve the property located at 282 Mountain Drive to be rezoned from M-1 zoning to R-1 zoning. Councilwoman Pierce seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Mayor Phillips stated the city is excited for a new business and welcomed the owners to Oneonta. Councilman Bradley made a motion to set a public hearing on March 9, 2021 at 5:40 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the alcohol license application on behalf of K5, LLC d.b.a. Tin Town Brewing Company. Councilwoman Underwood seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Mayor Phillips read 2021 Arbor Day Proclamation in its entirety. Councilwoman Underwood made a motion to adopt the 2021 Arbor Day Proclamation. Councilman McAlpine seconded and the motion carried with all ayes.

Councilman Alexander stated he spoke with Robert Richardson with Alabama Power regarding upgrading all the streetlights to provide public safety and less maintenance. Councilman Alexander stated the city has 823 streetlights to convert over to LED with one plan saving the city \$600 monthly and with the second plan costing the city an extra \$400 monthly. Mayor Phillips

mentioned Keith Mardis with the Oneonta Street Department will be upgrading the downtown lighting to LED.

Councilwoman Pierce stated once the final inspection is complete on the ladder truck, it will be delivered to the Oneonta Fire Department. Mayor Phillips mentioned the updated pictures of the truck are on social media for anyone interested.

Mayor Phillips stated Barbara Andersen has provided Chamber information in the council packets.

Tara Murphree gave a brief update on the Oneonta Business Association and discussed upcoming events.

Allie Allcorn gave a report on behalf of the January 2021 financials. She stated park and recreation department financials are increasing since COVID. Allie mentioned the business licenses are lower than projected but she suspects that this is due to only weekly deposits versus daily deposits since city hall employees are still on staggered work schedules. Allie commended the department heads on their great work. She mentioned there is another FFA grant available for the airport that the city will apply amount of \$9,000 to be spent on the maintenance and upgrades of the airport over a three-year period.

Mayor Phillips stated he had a zoom meeting with representatives from C-Spire regarding the placement of fiber for the Oneonta area. The Mayor stated there is new legislature that allows smaller communities to tack on to Alabama Power fiber the opportunity for smaller communities. The Mayor stated he will be in contact with local representatives in hopes for Oneonta to be a part of the legislation change.

The Mayor mentioned the bond issuance has been deposited into the city's bank account, so the city is ready to get started on the upcoming projects. The Mayor stated the first two projects to begin will be the soccer fields and aquatic center, which there will be a need to conduct a work session after the next scheduled council meeting to discuss the projects. Mayor Phillips reviewed the aquatic center rendering showing the layout of the pool with zero grade access and the splash pad area allowing one side for toddlers and the other side for older children. The Mayor mentioned there is not a slide on the current rendering, but he is hopeful to be able to utilize the current slide for the center. Mayor Phillips stated the city is going to complete as much work in house as possible to save money on the project.

The Mayor reviewed the soccer field project and stated the project will cost approximately two million dollars. Mayor Phillips mentioned the project is costly due to the location and the requirement of a retaining wall to level the fields. Mayor Phillips mentioned the current concession stand structure is 1800 square feet costing \$300,000, so he is requesting to decrease the size of the structure. The Mayor stated he is hopeful there will be updates on both projects for the upcoming work session.

Mayor Phillips stated the Forestry Commission will be delivering trees to the city and once trees are delivered the city will post information on all social media platforms.

Brandon Horton mentioned he has been working with Roland McCoy on an issue located at Armory Drive. Brandon stated the recent rain has caused erosion to the retaining wall located at Armory Drive which is beginning to collapse. He mentioned at this time it is unsafe to keep the roadway open. He believes the repairs could be declared as emergency repairs, so the city does not have to go through the bid law to complete the repairs.

Brandon mentioned the city will begin phase one of opening city hall facilities on March 1, 2021 since COVID. He stated the senior center will remain closed and follow M4A regulations. He mentioned the Depot and Little Brick Church will remain closed at this time until further notice.

Brandon applauded Councilman Alexander on his work with Alabama Power concerning upgrading the streetlights and he will continue to work with Councilman Alexander with the testing of those lights.

Brandon stated the city issued eighteen different sub-standard structures citations regarding nuisance of property and received eleven replies from property owners beginning the process. He mentioned the city has not received any replies to the other seven property owners, so the next step will be legal citations.

Brandon mentioned the city cited thirty-five individuals for possessing inoperable vehicles on the property or in the roadway. He stated all but two of the individuals have complied with the citation. Brandon thanked Police Chief Clifton and the police department for their work.

Brandon stated the zoning board and adjustments took notice of the ordinance compliance and they want to do their part in complying with the variances and implementing timelines on projects within the city limits.

Mayor Phillips thanked Brandon Horton for all his hard work.

Mark Gargus on behalf of the Oneonta Utility Board stated the work on the CDBG grant has started causing some road closures. He stated the work on Dogwood Drive is still taking place and once the sewer lines are complete, the crew will begin on water and gas.

Mayor Phillips stated he has received many compliments about the Oneonta Utility Board and their work on Dogwood Drive. There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Phillips entertained for a motion to adjourn. Councilman McAlpine made a motion to adjourn the council meeting. Councilman McAlpine seconded and the motion carried with all ayes. The council meeting ended at 6:58 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk