CITY OF ONEIDA
COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date:	November 3, 2026	Presiding:	Rick Rossi, Mayor
Time:	5:30pm	Clerk:	Sandy LaPera, City Clerk
Location:	Common Council Chambers	Meeting Type:	Regular ☐ Special ☒

CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order by Mayor Rick Rossi, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call.

Attendees	**Present**	**Absent**	**Arrived Late**
Mayor Rossi	☒	☐	☐:_____
City Manager Lovell	☒	☐	☐:_____
Councilor McHugh	☒	☐	☐:_____
Councilor Cimpi	☒	☐	☐:_____
Councilor Smith	☒	☐	☐:_____
Councilor Jones	☒	☐	☐:_____
Councilor Pagano	☒	☐	☐:_____
Councilor Simchik	☐	☐	☒: 5:42p.m.

Also Present: Sandy LaPera, City Clerk
Lee Ann Wells, Comptroller
Jessica Kaiser, Deputy Comptroller/HR Manager

CITY OF ONEIDA COMMON COUNCIL
2027 BUDGET RECAP WORK SESSION

The Common Council conducted a budget recap work session focused primarily on identifying additional revenue sources and potential savings to reduce the proposed 2027 property tax increase. At the beginning of the session, the Council reviewed the current budget and identified that approximately $1,595,000 in additional revenue or expenditure reductions would be

necessary to achieve a zero-percent property tax increase. This represented a proposed tax increase of 26.59%, establishing the starting point for discussions.

REVENUE AND COST-SAVING PROPOSALS

- **Retiree Health Insurance:** At the request of Council**,** Deputy Comptroller/HR Manager Jessica Kaiser reviewed potential savings of $128,767 from discontinuing Medicare Part B reimbursements for retirees without contractual entitlement, including approximately $110,000 attributable to the General Fund. Increasing retiree-dependent health insurance contributions from 20% to 30% could generate an additional $85,000 across City funds. The Council discussed Resolution 92-141, notification requirements, and the need for appropriate legal and procedural review.
- **Inside and Outside Tax Districts:** The Council discussed eliminating the separate outside fire protection tax and equalizing inside and outside district tax rates, potentially generating approximately $300,000 in additional revenue. Members considered differences in municipal services, including snowplowing, street lighting, and fire protection. Further review of the existing district structure and financial implications was recommended.
- **Sale of City-Owned Properties:** The Council discussed increasing anticipated property sale revenue from $150,000 to $400,000. Members supported resuming online auctions through Auctions International and reviewing alternative sale methods, including appraisals and minimum bids. City Clerk Sandy LaPera offered to assist with coordinating property sales, subject to clarification of administrative authority and responsibilities.
- **Potential Sale of the Kallet Theater:** The Council discussed selling the Kallet Theater to a private owner or developer, potentially returning it to the tax rolls and reducing municipal ownership responsibilities. Available Downtown Revitalization Initiative funding could encourage redevelopment. Members emphasized the importance of finding a purchaser committed to maintaining and operating the property rather than allowing it to deteriorate. Further exploration was supported.
- **Additional Revenue Opportunities:** Members discussed pursuing additional sales tax revenue, reviewing the City's share of Oneida Indian Nation-related funding, and exploring fire protection fees for tax-exempt properties. Other potential sources included solar development, electric vehicle charging stations, recreational program fees, and future fee schedule adjustments.
- **Rental Property Registration:** The Council reviewed a proposed rental property accountability and registration program, with $90,000 in anticipated revenue included in the budget. The program would improve owner accountability and code enforcement while offsetting municipal expenses. Members discussed phased implementation, fees, property ratings, administrative requirements, and potential costs passed to tenants.

REVISED BUDGET OUTLOOK

Based on preliminary revenue adjustments and proposed savings, the amount needed to achieve a zero-percent property tax increase was reduced from approximately $1,595,000 to $935,248,

representing a remaining projected tax increase of approximately 13%–14%. Comptroller Lee Ann Wells emphasized that several figures remained preliminary and required verification, particularly the allocation of savings among City funds.

The Council expressed general support for continuing to pursue revenue enhancements before considering further departmental reductions. Additional financial calculations, legal review, and implementation procedures would be addressed as budget deliberations continued.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Smith
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0
Absent: 0
MOTION RESULT: ☒Passed ☐Failed

The meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

CITY OF ONEIDA

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Sandra LaPera, City Clerk