CITY OF ONEIDA
COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date:	November 23, 2026	Presiding:	Rick Rossi, Mayor
Time:	6:30pm	Clerk:	Sandy LaPera, City Clerk
Location:	Common Council Chambers	Meeting Type:	Special Meeting

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

ATTENDANCE

NAME	TITLE/POSITION	ATTENDANCE STATUS
Rick Rossi	Mayor	PRESENT
Kyle Lovell	City Manager	ABSENT
Lynne McHugh	Councilor-Ward 1	PRESENT
Dave Cimpi	Councilor-Ward 2	PRESENT
Nate Smith	Councilor-Ward 3	PRESENT
Janet Jones	Councilor-Ward 4	PRESENT
Bill Pagano	Councilor-Ward 5	PRESENT
Tom Simchik	Councilor-Ward 6	PRESENT

Chris Militello	City Attorney/Designee	PRESENT
Scott Jones	Fire Chief	PRESENT
Steve Lowell	Police Chief	PRESENT

NEW BUSINESS: Consider a resolution for action regarding a particular employee matter.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION/ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE SESSION
RESOLUTION 26-179

Requested by: Mayor Rick Rossi

Motioned by Councilor Jones
Seconded by Councilor McHugh

RESOLVED, to enter into Executive Session at 6:31 p.m. for the purpose of, pursuant to Public Officers Law §105:

☐ Matters which will imperil public safety if disclosed

☐ Any matter which may disclose the identity of a law enforcement agent or informer

☐ Information relating to current or future investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense which would imperil effective law enforcement if disclosed

☐ Discussions regarding proposed, pending or current litigation

☐ Collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law

☒ The medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation

☐ The preparation, grading or administration of examinations

☐ The proposed acquisition, sale or lease of real property or the proposed acquisition of securities, or sale or exchange of securities held by such public body, but only when publicity would substantially affect the value thereof

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0
Absent: 0

MOTION RESULT: ☒Passed ☐Failed

ATTENDEES:

☒Mayor Rick Rossi
☒City Attorney/Designee Chris Militello
☒Councilor McHugh-Ward 1
☒Councilor Cimpi-Ward 2
☒Councilor Smith-Ward 3
☒Councilor Jones-Ward 4
☒Councilor Pagano-Ward 5
☒Councilor Simchik-Ward 6

Motion to adjourn to Regular Meeting by Councilor McHugh
Seconded by Councilor Smith

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

Session adjourned to the regular meeting at: 7:09 p.m. with:

☐No action taken (No minutes required-Public Officers Law §106(2)
☒Action taken

CITY OF ONEIDA
COMMON COUNCIL RESOLUTION
Removal of the City Manager Pursuant to Section 12.2 of the Oneida City Charter

RESOLUTION 26-180

Moved by Councilor Smith
Seconded by Councilor McHugh

WHEREAS, Section 12.2 of the Oneida City Charter establishes a process for the Oneida City Common Council to suspend or remove the City Manager; and

WHEREAS, Section 12.4(I) of the Oneida City Charter establishes that it is the duty of the City Manager to prepare the current expense and revenue estimates for the annual budget in cooperation with department heads and compile the capital expenditures estimates for the annual budget; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager is expected to perform his duties in a professional manner and refrain from conduct that is disruptive to City operations, and

WHEREAS, the Common Council believes that in the process of preparing and submitting the annual budget for fiscal year 2026, the City Manager made public and private statements regarding his salary and benefits that were inaccurate and misleading and which resulted in the City Council adopting a budget resolution for 2026 that provided the City Manager more compensation than was expected or understood by the Council; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council believes that the City Manager's failure to provide the Common Council with complete, accurate information about the contents the 2026 budget and specifically the amount of salary it authorized to be paid to the City Manager in fiscal year 2026 raises serious questions about the City Manager's competence and ability to perform the duties of his position and the ability of the Council to trust and rely upon information he provides, and

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WHEREAS, on or about November 23, 2026, after being made aware of the Common Council's intent to consider a resolution to suspend him and possibly seek his removal, the City Manager became irate and acted in an unprofessional and threatening manner toward one or more City employees, which employees have expressed concern for their personal safety because of the City Manager's actions, which caused disruption to City operations;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is

RESOLVED, that the Common Council hereby suspends the City Manager pending completion of the process to his remove him from office pursuant to Section 12.2 of the Oneida City Charter; be it further

RESOLVED, that the Common Council directs that a copy of this resolution be served immediately upon the City Manager; be it further

RESOLVED, that the City Manager shall have 15 days from the date of this resolution in which to submit a written reply to this resolution, which may be submitted to the attention of the Mayor and may include the City Manager's request for a public hearing if the City Manager so desires; be it further

RESOLVED, that if the City Manager shall request a public hearing regarding this resolution, such a hearing shall be held no less than 10 and no more than 15 days after such hearing request is received; be it further

RESOLVED, that after any public hearing or the expiration of time for the City Manager to request such a hearing, the Common Council shall convene to consider a final resolution to remove the City Manager from office.

Mayor Rossi	YES
Councilor McHugh	YES
Councilor Cimpi	YES
Councilor Smith	YES
Councilor Jones	YES
Councilor Pagano	YES
Councilor Simchik	YES

MOTION CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn regular meeting by Councilor McHugh
Seconded by Councilor Jones

Ayes:	7
Nays:	0
Absent:	0

MOTION RESULT: ☒Passed ☐Failed

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the regular meeting adjourned at: 7:14 p.m.

Minutes taken by: Sandy LaPera
Title: City Clerk
Date: November 23, 2026

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