



CITY OF ONEIDA COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date:	July 7, 2026	Presiding:	Rick Rossi, Mayor
Time:	6:30pm	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	☒	☐	☐ : _____

Also Present

City Attorney Bell	☐	Supervisor: Mary Cavanagh	☒
Attorney Wendy Loughnot	☒	Supervisor: _____	☐
Fire Chief Jones	☒	City Engineer Jeff Rowe	☒
Police Chief Lowell	☒	Other: _____	☐

PUBLIC HEARING:

A Local Law amending Chapter 190 (Zoning) of the Code of the City of Oneida regarding Wireless Communication Facilities and Towers within the City of Oneida

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

**A LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 190 (ZONING) OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ONEIDA
REGARDING WIRELESS COMMUNICATION FACILITIES AND TOWERS WITHIN
THE CITY OF ONEIDA**

RESOLUTION 26-95

Motion by Councilor McHugh
Seconded by Councilor Jones

RESOLVED, that the Public Hearing on a Local Law amending Chapter 190 (Zoning) of the Code of the City of Oneida regarding Wireless Communication Facilities and Towers within the City of Oneida is hereby closed at 6:31pm.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

MOTION RESULT: ☒ Passed ☐ Failed

PUBLIC COMMENT

BOB BRITTON-ONEIDA

Resident Bob Britton acknowledged the efforts made by Jim Chamberlain and all involved with making the recent car show such a success.

Mr. Britton stated that he disagreed with the City Manager's decision to appoint someone other than Fire Chief Scott Jones to serve as Acting City Manager during the City Manager's vacation, noting that he believed Chief Jones had performed the role well in the past and there was no need to make a change.

Mr. Britton also expressed concern about the potential cost of a citywide reassessment, which was estimated at approximately \$600,000. He questioned where the funding would come from and whether the City would use fund balance to cover the expense. He stated that the City's fund balance is already declining and expressed concern that using additional fund balance for a reassessment would further weaken the City's financial position. He urged the City to consider how the cost would be recovered and emphasized the need for a budget approach that avoids continued reliance on fund balance.

OLD BUSINESS: None

MAYOR'S REMARKS: Mayor Rossi echoed Mr. Britton's comments regarding the success of the car show event. He thanked Jim Chamberlain, Helen Acker, Melissa King, the Karing Kitchen, and everyone involved for doing an outstanding job and expressed his appreciation for everyone's efforts and cooperation in making the event a success.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: See Attachment A

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilor Simchik
Seconded by Councilor Jones

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on June 16, 2026, are approved as presented.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

MOTION RESULT: ☒ Passed ☐ Failed

APPROVAL OF WARRANT

Motion by Councilor Simchik
Seconded by Councilor Jones

RESOLVED, that Warrant No. 13, including checks and ACH payments totaling \$878,293.69, as audited by the Voucher Committee, is hereby approved for payment in the usual manner at the discretion of the Comptroller.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

MOTION RESULT: ☒ Passed ☐ Failed

Proposed Action: City of Oneida Sewer Collection System Improvements Project

RESOLUTION DETERMINING THAT THE PROPOSED CITY OF ONEIDA SEWER COLLECTION SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT IS A TYPE 1 ACTION AND WILL NOT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

RESOLUTION 26-96

Moved by Councilor Simchik
Seconded by Councilor Cimpi

WHEREAS, the City of Oneida (City) is proposing the City of Oneida Sewer Collection System Improvements Project (Project), located in the City of Oneida, Madison County, New York; and

WHEREAS, the Project has been classified as a “Type I Action” as defined by the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) in 6 NYCRR Part 617.4; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oneida Common Council sent a letter and Part 1 of a Full Environmental Assessment Form (FEAF) to other potentially “Interested Agencies” and “Involved Agencies” (as these terms are defined in the SEQRA Regulations found at 6 NYCRR Part 617.2), indicating the Village’s desire to serve as the “Lead Agency” (as this quoted term is defined in the SEQRA Regulations) and to complete a coordinated review of the Project (in accordance with 6 NYCRR Part 617.6); and

WHEREAS, responses from Interested and Involved Agencies were requested, and each of the potentially Interested and Involved Agencies has agreed to, or raised no objections to, the City of Oneida Common Council serving as Lead Agency for the Project; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the SEQRA Regulations, the City of Oneida Common Council has considered the significance of the potential environmental impacts of the Project by (a) using the criteria specified in Section 617.7 of the SEQRA Regulations, and (b) examining the FEAF for the Project, including the facts and conclusions in Parts 1, 2 and 3 of the FEAF, together with other available supporting information, to identify the relevant areas of environmental concern:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the City of Oneida Common Council hereby establishes itself as Lead Agency for the Project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that based upon an examination of the FEAF and other available supporting information, and considering both the magnitude and importance of each relevant area of environmental concern, and based further upon the City’s knowledge of the area surrounding the Project, the City of Oneida Common Council makes the determination that the Project will not have a significant adverse environmental impact and that the Project will not require the preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that as a consequence of such findings and declaration, and in compliance with the requirements of SEQRA/SERP, the City of Oneida Common Council, as Lead Agency, hereby directs the City of Oneida Mayor to sign the FEAF Part 3 – Determination of Significance indicating that a Negative Declaration has been issued for the Project; this Resolution shall take effect immediately and will be properly noticed.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote, and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

Mayor Rick Rossi	YES
Councilor Lynne McHugh	YES
Councilor Dave Cimpi	YES
Councilor Nathan Smith	YES
Councilor Janet Jones	YES
Councilor Bill Pagano	YES
Councilor Tom Simchik	YES

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

ADOPT A LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 190 (ZONING) OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ONEIDA REGARDING WIRELESS COMMUNICATION FACILITIES AND TOWERS WITHIN THE CITY OF ONEIDA

RESOLUTION 26-97

Motion by Councilor Simchik
Seconded by Councilor Pagano

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of the Municipal Home Rule Law, a proposed local law titled “A Local Law Amending Chapter 190 (Zoning) of the Code of the City of Oneida Regarding Wireless Communication Facilities and Towers,” was presented and introduced at a regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Oneida held on April 21, 2026; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was opened on such proposed local law on May 19, 2026, and continued on June 2, 2026, June 16, 2026, and July 7, 2026, and by the Common Council of the City of Oneida and proof of publication of notice of such public hearing, as required by law, having been submitted and filed, and all persons desiring to be heard in connection with said proposed local law having been heard, and said proposed local law having been in the possession of the members of the Common Council of the City of Oneida in its final form in the manner required by Section 20 of the Municipal Home Rule of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, the enactment of the Proposed Local Law has previously been determined to be a Type I action for purposes of the State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA") and the Common Council further determined that a Full Environmental Assessment Form ("Full EAF") was required in connection with this matter; and

WHEREAS, said EAF having been prepared and reviewed by the Common Council and the Common Council has considered the adoption of said Local Law, has considered the criteria contained in 6 N.Y.C.R.R. Part 617.7 and has compared the impacts which may be reasonably expected to result from the adoption of said Local Law against said criteria; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council, having duly referred the Local Law to the City of Oneida Planning Commission/ Zoning Board of Appeals ("PC/ZBA"), received the advisory recommendation from the PC/ZBA, dated June 9, 2026, which concluded that the proposed Local Law "provides appropriate local review standards for wireless communication facilities and towers and does not raise concerns requiring objection by the Board," and did further recommend that the Common Council adopt the proposed Local Law; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council referred the proposed Local Law to the Madison County Planning Department pursuant to General Municipal Law ("GML") Section 239, and the County Planning Department, by GML Recommendation Report Log# 051-26, dated June 23, 2026, returned the Local Law for "Local Determination," opining that the "proposed local law will establish and govern standards for wireless communications facilities and large-scale telecommunications towers, serving to strengthen the standards for an already conditionally permitted land use;" and

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest to enact said Proposed Local Law.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is

RESOLVED, that the Common Council, as Lead Agency, does hereby determine that this Type I action shall have no significant adverse impact on the environment and, accordingly, an environmental impact statement ("EIS") shall not be required; and, does further render a negative declaration under SEQRA; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Oneida, Madison County, New York, does hereby enact a Local Law of 2026 as follows:

**A LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 190 (ZONING) OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ONEIDA
REGARDING WIRELESS COMMUNICATION FACILITIES AND TOWERS**

Be it enacted by the Common Council of the City of Oneida as follows:

Section 1. Authority.

This local law is adopted pursuant to the Municipal Home Rule Law of the State of New York, the General City Law, and Section 3.4 of the Charter of the City of Oneida.

Section 2. Legislative Intent.

The Common Council finds that the City's existing zoning regulations do not contain comprehensive standards governing large-scale wireless communication towers. The purpose of this local law is to establish clear siting, dimensional, design, safety, co-location, and removal standards to protect the public health, safety, and general welfare while permitting telecommunications infrastructure in appropriate zoning districts.

Section 3. Amendment to Chapter 190.

Chapter 190 of the Code of the City of Oneida is hereby amended as follows:

A. Section 190-5, titled "Definitions," is hereby amended to include the following additional definitions:

"Co-location. The placement of antennas or wireless communication equipment on an existing or approved tower or structure.

Large-scale wireless communication tower. A wireless communication facility mounted on an existing building, structure, or utility pole, or constructed as a freestanding support structure, including but not limited to a monopole or lattice tower, exceeding fifty (50) feet in total height and designed primarily to support antennas and related wireless communication equipment.

Small wireless facility. A wireless communication facility mounted on an existing building, structure, or utility pole that does not exceed fifty (50) feet in total height as measured from finished grade.

Total height (wireless communication facilities and towers). The vertical distance measured from finished grade at the base of the structure to the highest point of the tower or wireless facility, including all antennas and appurtenances."

B. Chapter 190 is further amended by adding a new section, § 190-26.4, to read, in its entirety, as follows:

"§ 190-26.4. Wireless Communication Facilities and Towers.

A. Applicability and Review.

(1) Small wireless facilities shall be permitted only in the zoning districts authorized by Schedule A and shall require approval of a Conditional Use Permit pursuant to § 190-28 and Site Plan Review pursuant to § 190-29, except to the extent otherwise required or preempted by applicable federal or state law. Small wireless facilities located within the public right-of-way shall also be subject to the requirements of Chapter 145 of the City Code, where applicable.

(2) Large-scale wireless communication towers shall be permitted only in the zoning districts authorized by Schedule A and shall require approval of both a Conditional Use Permit pursuant to § 190-28 and Site Plan Review pursuant to § 190-29.

B. Permitted Districts.

(1) Small wireless facilities shall be permitted only as Conditional Uses in the Agricultural (A), Light Industrial (L-I), and Manufacturing-Industrial (M-I) Districts and shall be prohibited in all other zoning districts.

(2) Large-scale wireless communication towers shall be permitted only as Conditional Uses in the following zoning districts:

(a) Agricultural (A) District, on parcels of ten (10) acres or greater;

(b) Light Industrial (L-I) District; and

(c) Manufacturing-Industrial (M-I) District.

(3) Large-scale wireless communication towers shall be prohibited in all other zoning districts.

C. Dimensional Standards.

(1) Maximum height: 199 feet, measured in accordance with the definition of total height set forth in § 190-5.

(2) Towers exceeding 199 feet shall not be permitted.

(3) Minimum setback from all property lines shall be one hundred ten percent (110%) of the total height.

(4) Where a tower abuts or is adjacent to a residential zoning district, the minimum setback shall be one hundred fifty percent (150%) of the total height.

D. Co-Location and Shared Use.

(1) The City strongly encourages shared use of existing and approved towers and structures to minimize construction of new facilities.

(2) Prior to approval of any application for construction of a new tower or for substantial modification of an existing tower, the applicant shall demonstrate that co-location on an existing or approved tower or structure within the geographic area necessary to meet the applicant's demonstrated service objectives is not reasonably feasible.

(3) Applicants shall submit written documentation of good-faith efforts to secure shared use and shall demonstrate technical, structural, or economic reasons why such shared use is not practicable. Such documentation shall include an analysis of alternative locations, structures, and technologies and an explanation as to why such alternatives are not feasible.

(4) All newly approved towers shall be designed and constructed to accommodate future co-location where technically feasible.

E. Design Standards.

(1) Monopole design is preferred unless the applicant demonstrates that an alternative design is necessary.

(2) Towers shall have a neutral, non-reflective finish.

(3) No signage pertaining to advertising shall be permitted on any wireless facility or tower. Required safety signage, owner identification signage, and emergency contact signage shall be permitted, provided that such signage shall not exceed five (5) square feet in total area and shall comply with Subsection (7) below.

(4) Ground equipment and accessory structures shall be screened from public view and adjacent properties to the maximum extent reasonably practicable by fencing, landscaping, existing vegetation, topography, or a combination thereof, as determined through Site Plan Review.

(5) Lighting shall be permitted only as required by the Federal Aviation Administration or other applicable authority.

(6) The Joint Zoning Board of Appeals/Planning Commission may require visual simulations or other documentation as part of Site Plan Review.

(7) Wireless facilities shall include clearly visible and properly maintained hazard warning signage, including but not limited to high-voltage and radio frequency exposure notices, in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations. All required signage shall be maintained in good condition and remain clearly legible. The name and emergency contact information of the facility owner or operator shall be clearly posted at the primary facility access point. Such signage shall be limited to safety, owner identification, and emergency contact purposes.

(8) All access and egress to wireless communication facilities shall comply with the current edition of the International Fire Code, including but not limited to Section 503 relating to fire apparatus access roads, as adopted and enforced by the State of New York. Fire apparatus access roads shall be maintained in an unobstructed condition at all times. A road and parking sufficient for at least one service vehicle shall be provided to assure adequate emergency and maintenance access. Maximum use of existing roads and drives shall be made, and ground and vegetation disturbance shall be minimized to the maximum extent reasonably practicable.

(9) Utility connections. All utility connections to wireless facilities shall be installed beneath the ground surface to the maximum extent reasonably practicable.

(10) Wireless facilities and associated access roads shall be designed and constructed to prevent erosion, sedimentation, and adverse stormwater runoff impacts to adjacent properties and public rights-of-way. All site disturbance shall comply with applicable local, state, and federal stormwater regulations, including but not limited to the New York State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activity, where applicable.

(11) Structural Certification. All large-scale wireless communication towers shall be designed and certified by a professional engineer licensed in the State of New York. Plans submitted for building permit shall include sealed structural calculations demonstrating compliance with the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code, including applicable wind load, ice load, and structural design requirements.

(12) Geotechnical Investigation. A geotechnical report prepared by a qualified professional shall be submitted demonstrating that subsurface soil conditions are adequate to support the proposed tower and foundation system. The report shall include soil characteristics, bearing capacity, groundwater conditions, and recommended foundation design parameters.

(13) Security Fencing. All large-scale wireless communication towers and associated ground equipment shall be enclosed by security fencing not less than seventy-eight (78) inches in height or otherwise secured by equivalent anti-climb measures to prevent unauthorized access. Access gates shall remain locked except during authorized maintenance or service activity.

F. Abandonment and Removal.

(1) A wireless communication tower that is not operated or providing wireless communication service for a period of twelve (12) consecutive months shall be deemed abandoned.

(2) The owner shall remove the tower and all associated equipment and restore the site to its pre-existing condition, reasonable wear and tear excepted, within ninety (90) days of written notice from the City.

(3) In the event that the owner fails to remove the tower and restore the site within the required time period, the City may cause such removal and restoration to be completed and

may recover the cost thereof from the owner or from any security provided pursuant to this section.

(4) Security.

(a) Prior to the issuance of any permit for a large-scale wireless communication tower, the applicant shall deposit with the City Clerk cash, bond, or other form of security reasonably acceptable to the City Attorney and/or City Engineer in an amount sufficient to ensure the faithful performance of the terms and conditions of the permit and to provide for the removal and restoration of the site upon abandonment or decommissioning of the tower.

(b) The amount of such bond or security shall be one hundred twenty-five percent (125%) of the cost of removal of the large-scale wireless communication tower and restoration of the property, as determined by a professional engineer licensed in the State of New York, with an annual escalator of two percent (2%) for the life of the facility. The decommissioning amount shall be reduced by the estimated salvage value of the facility.

(c) In the event of default upon performance of such conditions, after proper notice and expiration of any cure period, the cash deposit, bond, or security shall be forfeited to the City, which shall be entitled to maintain an action thereon. The security shall remain in full force and effect until site restoration is completed to the satisfaction of the City.

G. Annual Certification.

(1) The owner of any approved large-scale wireless communication tower shall submit annual certification prepared by a professional engineer licensed in the State of New York verifying the structural integrity of the tower and continued compliance with the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code and all other applicable safety standards.

(2) Such certification shall be submitted to the City on or before the anniversary date of the issuance of the original permit or approval, unless otherwise specified by the City.

(3) Failure to submit the required annual certification may result in enforcement action by the City, including but not limited to revocation of any applicable permit or approval, in accordance with applicable law.”

Section 4. Amendment to Schedule A.

Schedule A (Schedule of Uses) of Chapter 190 of the Code of the City of Oneida is hereby amended by deleting the existing entry for “Wireless communication facility” and replacing it with the following use categories:

“Small wireless facility – Conditional Use in the Agricultural (A), Light Industrial (L-I), and Manufacturing-Industrial (M-I) Districts; prohibited in all other zoning districts.

Large-scale wireless communication tower – Conditional Use in the Agricultural (A) District (minimum ten (10) acres), Light Industrial (L-I) District, and Manufacturing-Industrial (M-I) District; prohibited in all other zoning districts.

All such uses shall be subject to the requirements of § 190-26.4.”

Section 5. Severability.

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, or part of this local law shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered.

Section 6. Effective Date.

This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.”

Mayor Rossi	YES
Councilor McHugh	YES
Councilor Cimpi	YES
Councilor Smith	NO
Councilor Jones	YES
Councilor Pagano	YES
Councilor Simchik	YES

MOTION RESULT: ☒ Passed ☐ Failed

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING, SUBJECT TO MANDATORY REFERENDUM, THE
RECONSTRUCTION OF THE SEWER COLLECTION SYSTEM IN AND FOR THE CITY OF ONEIDA,
MADISON COUNTY, NEW YORK, AT A MAXIMUM ESTIMATED COST OF \$3,000,000 AND
AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$3,000,000 SERIAL BONDS OF SAID CITY TO PAY THE COST
THEREOF**

RESOLUTION 26-98

Moved by Councilor Jones
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

WHEREAS, the capital project hereinafter described has been determined to be a Type I Action pursuant to the regulations of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation promulgated pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”), the implementation of which as proposed, it has been determined will not

result in any significant adverse environmental effects and SEQRA compliance materials are available in the office of the City Clerk where they may be inspected during regular business hours; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, by the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of the total voting strength of the Common Council of the City of Oneida, Madison County, New York, as follows:

Section 1. The reconstruction of the sewer collection system in and for the City of Oneida, Madison County, New York, including original furnishings, equipment, machinery, apparatus, appurtenances, and incidental improvements and expenses in connection therewith, is hereby authorized, **SUBJECT TO MANDATORY REFERENDUM**, at a maximum estimated cost of \$3,000,000.

Section 2. The plan for the financing of the aforesaid maximum estimated cost is by the issuance of \$3,000,000 serial bonds of said City, hereby authorized, **SUBJECT TO MANDATORY REFERENDUM**, to be issued therefore pursuant to the Local Finance Law.

Section 3. It is hereby determined that the period of probable usefulness of the aforesaid specific object or purpose is forty years, pursuant to subdivision 4 of paragraph a of Section 11.00 of the Local Finance Law.

Section 4. The faith and credit of said City of Oneida, Madison County, New York, are hereby irrevocably pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds as the same respectively become due and payable. An annual appropriation shall be made in each year sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such bonds becoming due and payable in such year. There shall annually be levied on all the taxable real property of said City, a tax sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such bonds as the same become due and payable.

Section 5. Subject to the provisions of the Local Finance Law, the power to authorize the issuance of and to sell bond anticipation notes in anticipation of the issuance and sale of the serial bonds herein authorized, including renewals of such notes, is hereby delegated to the City Comptroller, the chief fiscal officer. Such notes shall be of such terms, form and contents, and shall be sold in such manner, as may be prescribed by said City Comptroller, consistent with the provisions of the Local Finance Law.

Section 6. The powers and duties of advertising such bonds for sale, conducting the sale and awarding the bonds, are hereby delegated to the City Comptroller, who shall advertise such bonds for sale, conduct the sale, and award the bonds in such manner as the City Comptroller shall deem best for the interests of said City, including, but not limited to, the power to sell said bonds to the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation; provided, however, that in the exercise of these delegated powers, the City Comptroller shall comply fully with the provisions of the Local Finance Law and any order or rule of the State Comptroller applicable to the sale of municipal bonds. The receipt of the City Comptroller shall be a full acquittance to the purchaser of such bonds, who shall not be obliged to see to the application of the purchase money.

Section 7. Such bonds shall be in fully registered form and shall be signed in the name of the City of Oneida, Madison County, New York, by the manual or facsimile signature of the City Comptroller and a facsimile of its corporate seal shall be imprinted or impressed thereon and may be attested by the manual or facsimile signature of the City Clerk.

Section 8. All other matters except as provided herein relating to the serial bonds herein authorized including the date, denominations, maturities and interest payment dates, within the limitations prescribed herein and the manner of execution of the same, including the consolidation with other issues, and also the ability to issue bonds with substantially level or declining annual debt service, shall be determined by the City Comptroller, the chief fiscal officer of such City. Such bonds shall contain substantially the recital of validity clause provided for in Section 52.00 of the Local Finance Law and shall otherwise be in such form and contain such recitals, in addition to those required by Section 51.00 of the Local Finance Law, as the City Comptroller shall determine consistent with the provisions of the Local Finance Law.

Section 9. The City Comptroller is hereby further authorized, at her sole discretion, to execute a project finance and loan agreement, and any other agreements with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and/or the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation, including amendments thereto, and including any instruments (or amendments thereto) in the effectuation thereof, in order to effect the financing or refinancing of the specific object or purpose described in Section 1 hereof, or a portion thereof, by a bond, and/or note issue of said City in the event of the sale of same to the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation.

Section 10. The power to issue and sell notes for said specific object or purpose to the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation pursuant to Section 169.00 of the Local Finance Law is hereby delegated to the City Comptroller. Such notes shall be of such terms, form and contents as may be prescribed by said City Comptroller consistent with the provisions of the Local Finance Law.

Section 11. The validity of such bonds and bond anticipation notes may be contested only if:

- 1) Such obligations are authorized for an object or purpose for which said City is not authorized to expend money, or
- 2) The provisions of law which should be complied with at the date of publication of this resolution are not substantially complied with,

and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of such publication, or

- 3) Such obligations are authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution.

Section 12. This resolution shall constitute a statement of official intent for purposes of Treasury Regulations Section 1.150-2. Other than as specified in this resolution, no

monies are, or are reasonably expected to be, reserved, allocated on a long-term basis, or otherwise set aside with respect to the permanent funding of the object or purpose described herein.

Section 13. Upon this resolution taking effect, the same shall be published in full in *The Rome Daily Sentinel*, which is hereby designated as the official newspaper of said City for such purpose, together with a notice of the City Clerk in substantially the form provided in Section 81.00 of the Local Finance Law.

Section 14. this resolution is adopted subject to the approval of the qualified electors of the city at a special election held in accordance with the provisions of the state election law. Such special election shall be called, noticed and the details thereof provided by further resolution of this common council.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call, which resulted as follows:

Mayor Rick Rossi	YES
Councilor Lynne McHugh	YES
Councilor Dave Cimpi	YES
Councilor Nathan Smith	YES
Councilor Janet Jones	YES
Councilor Bill Pagano	YES
Councilor Tom Simchik	YES

The resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

DISCUSSION: Jake Yousey, P.E. from Barton & Loguidice and City Engineer, Jeffrey Rowe, P.E., were present to answer questions from the Council pertaining to this project. Mr. Yousey provided a handout summarizing the Sewer Collection (I & I) Study and Improvements and maps pertaining to the project.

Mr. Yousey explained that the proposed sanitary sewer rehabilitation project is designed to minimize excavation by utilizing trenchless lining methods wherever possible. Rather than utilizing open cut excavation and replacing entire sections of pipe, a robotic device will install a liner inside several existing sewer mains, extending their service life while reducing disruption. Only the most deteriorated sections of the system will require full pipe replacement.

Mr. Yousey stated there is not yet a firm construction schedule, as the City must first submit its grant application. Grant awards are typically announced toward the end of the year or early the following year, making it unlikely that funding will be confirmed before the public referendum. He also explained that the rehabilitated sewer sections are expected to have a minimum service life of approximately 30 years.

In response to questions from the Council, Mr. Yousey noted that approximately 12,000 feet of the City's roughly 40-mile sanitary sewer system had been inspected using closed-circuit television (CCTV). Those inspections targeted areas showing evidence of groundwater infiltration and other

indicators of deterioration, allowing the City to prioritize the sections most in need of lining or replacement to maximize the reduction of clean groundwater entering the sanitary sewer system.

Councilor Jones questioned whether the anticipated 30-year service life expectancy of improvements was consistent with the proposed bond term, expressing concern about financing improvements over a longer period than their expected lifespan. City Manager Lovell explained that the bond language had been prepared by bond counsel and reflected the required legal format for the financing.

Councilor McHugh asked whether the project costs would be borne by the general tax levy or by the sewer districts. It was clarified that repayment would be the responsibility of the sewer system, alleviating concerns that residents outside the sewer system would be paying for the improvements.

City Engineer Rowe further explained that during significant wet weather events, wastewater flows can increase to as much as three times the normal daily volume due to inflow and infiltration through cracks in aging pipes and manholes. While more intense storms may contribute to increased flows, deteriorating infrastructure remains a primary cause.

During discussion, Councilor Jones emphasized the importance of educating the public before the November referendum. It was suggested that the City provide regular outreach and include information in the monthly newsletter, so residents understand the purpose of the project, the need for the proposed financing, and the benefits of the improvements before voting on the referendum.

CAPITAL PROJECT 23-9-INFILTRATION AND IMPROVEMENTS

RESOLUTION 26-99

Moved by Councilor Jones
Seconded by Councilor Smith

WHEREAS, the Common Council has authorized, subject to mandatory referendum, the financing of Capital Project 23-9 for the reconstruction and improvement of the City's sanitary sewer collection system to address infiltration and inflow (I/I); and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to authorize the City Engineer to undertake the actions required to advance the project, including engineering, design, permitting, bidding, and construction administration, in accordance with applicable laws, funding requirements, and procurement policies;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Oneida hereby authorizes the City Engineer to proceed with Capital Project 23-9 – Infiltration and Inflow (I/I) Improvements, including all actions necessary to advance the project through planning, design, permitting, bidding, contract administration, and construction, subject

to the availability of authorized funding and all applicable federal, state, and local requirements.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

MOTION RESULT: ☒ Passed ☐ Failed

BUDGET TRANSFERS/AMENDMENTS

RESOLUTION 26-100

Moved by Councilor Simchik
Seconded by Councilor McHugh

RESOLVED, to approve the budget transfers and amendments as outlined by the Comptroller or a third party duly retained by the City of Oneida to perform such services.

		<u>To</u>		<u>From</u>
2026 Budget Adjustments				
\$	11,244.07	001.1640.0403.0001		001.0022.2680.0000
		Central Vehicle Police Repairs		Insurance recovery
<i>To Re-allocate funds to utilize insurance proceeds cover expenses associated with accident repairs</i>				

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

MOTION RESULT: ☒ Passed ☐ Failed

ACTING CITY MANAGER DESIGNATION

RESOLUTION 26-101

Moved by Councilor Smith
Seconded by Councilor Pagano

WHEREAS, Kyle P. Lovell, City Manager of the City of Oneida, will be on scheduled vacation from July 11, 2026, through July 18, 2026; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary and appropriate to designate an Acting City Manager during that period to ensure continuity of City operations, administrative oversight, and timely decision-making; and

WHEREAS, Steve Vonderweidt currently serves as the City's Director of Planning and has demonstrated strong managerial ability, sound judgment, professionalism, and a clear commitment to the effective operation of City government; and

WHEREAS, the appointment of an Acting City Manager during scheduled absences also supports the City's broader goals of strengthening internal leadership capacity, encouraging professional development, and enhancing succession planning within City government;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Oneida hereby appoints Steve Vonderweidt, Director of Planning, as Acting City Manager during the City Manager's scheduled vacation from July 11, 2026, through July 18, 2026, in accordance with Section 12.3 of the Oneida City Charter; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that during this period, Mr. Vonderweidt shall be authorized to perform the duties necessary for the continued day-to-day administration of City operations, subject to applicable law, the City Charter, local policies, and any limitations established by the City Manager or Common Council; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Manager is authorized to coordinate with Mr. Vonderweidt in advance of said vacation to ensure an orderly transition of responsibilities and continuity of municipal services.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

MOTION RESULT: ☒ Passed ☐ Failed

DISCUSSION: The City Manager explained that, during a previous vacation, he designated the Fire Chief to serve as Acting City Manager, noting that the Fire Chief performed exceptionally well and that the experience confirmed his confidence in designating him as Acting City Manager on a long-term basis should an unexpected circumstance arise.

The City Manager further explained that, for his upcoming vacation, he selected a different department head to serve in the acting role as a professional development opportunity. He stated that he uses these temporary assignments to establish expectations, observe how department heads manage the responsibilities, and evaluate their performance upon his return. He likened the approach to building depth on a ball team, explaining that he wants multiple individuals capable of stepping into the role when needed.

He emphasized that the decision was not a reflection on the Fire Chief's performance, reiterating that the Fire Chief had done an outstanding job and remains his designated Acting City Manager for long-term situations. Rather, the temporary assignment was intended to broaden leadership experience among department heads and ensure additional personnel are prepared to assume the responsibilities if necessary.

APPROVE BID-BOILER REPLACEMENT (WTP)

RESOLUTION 26-102

Moved by Councilor Simchik
Seconded by Councilor Pagano

RESOLVED, to approve the lowest bid meeting specifications for Boiler Replacement at the Water Treatment Plant to Mack Bros Boiler Works, 409 Marcellus St., Syracuse, NY 13204.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

MOTION RESULT: ☒ Passed ☐ Failed

DISCUSSION: Councilor Jones stated that she was excited to see that there were four bids for this item.

**A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION OF A CERTAIN PROPOSITION AT THE
ELECTION TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 3, 2026**

RESOLUTION 26-103

Moved by Councilor Jones
Seconded by Councilor Smith

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Oneida, Madison County, New York, has heretofore at this meeting duly adopted a bond resolution which will take effect only after its approval at the Election to be held on November 3, 2026; and

WHEREAS, it is now desired to provide for the submission of a proposition for the approval of said resolution, and for other matters in connection with said vote.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, by the Common Council of the City of Oneida, Madison County, New York, as follows:

Section 1. The Clerk of said City is hereby authorized and directed to cause to be included in the Notice of the Election the following additional notice with respect to the proposition to be presented to the qualified voters of said City for their approval or disapproval of the resolution referred to in the preambles hereof, in substantially the following form:

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that at such Election to be held on November 3, 2026, the following proposition will be presented to the qualified voters of said City:

PROPOSITION

Shall the bond resolution adopted by the Common Council of the City of Oneida, dated July 7, 2026, authorizing the reconstruction of the sewer collection system in and for the City of Oneida, Madison County, New York, at a maximum estimated cost of \$3,000,000 and authorizing the issuance of \$3,000,000 serial bonds of said City to pay the cost thereof, to mature over a period not exceeding forty years; pledging the faith and credit of said City for the payment of the principal of and interest on said bonds, delegating powers to the chief fiscal officer with respect to the issuance and sale of such bonds; and providing for an estoppel procedure, be approved?

Section 2. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

MOTION RESULT: ☒ Passed ☐ Failed

NEW BUSINESS: None

2027 Budget Discussion Highlights

Budget Development

Council discussed the overall approach to preparing the 2027 budget, emphasizing fiscal responsibility, maintaining essential services, and protecting the City's financial stability. Members also discussed the budget development process, the tax cap override, and the importance of establishing Council priorities early to assist in budget preparation.

Revenue Generation

Several opportunities to increase revenue were discussed, including:

- Rental property registration.
- Regulation of short-term rentals (Airbnb/VRBO).
- Increased use of the Kallet Theater.
- User fees for selected municipal services.
- Self-supporting adult recreation programs.
- Long-term consideration of municipal ambulance service.

Council agreed that any new revenue initiative should balance financial benefits with impacts on residents.

Economic Development

Council emphasized the importance of continuing downtown revitalization efforts, pursuing grants, and strengthening economic development activities. Additional staffing support for Planning and Economic Development was discussed, along with expanding shared services with neighboring municipalities and Madison County.

Kallet Theater

Council agreed the Kallet Theater remains one of the City's greatest assets and should become a greater source of community activity and revenue. Discussion included completing DRI improvements, increasing rentals, improving event management, and budgeting for staffing necessary to operate the facility.

Neighborhood Appearance

Improving the City's appearance was identified as a priority. Discussion included:

- Stronger code enforcement.
- Neighborhood revitalization initiatives.
- Matching grant programs for exterior improvements.
- Rental property maintenance.
- Reducing blight and improving community pride.

Council noted that improving the City's appearance supports economic development and quality of life.

Municipal Services

Council reviewed several existing services to determine whether efficiencies or modifications could reduce costs while maintaining service levels. Topics included:

- Street sweeping.
 - Green waste collection.
 - Bulk waste collection.
 - Shared equipment and shared municipal services.
 - Fee structures to offset operational costs.
-

Capital Improvements

Council discussed capital needs that may be revisited during the 2027 budget process, including:

- Street sweeper replacement.
 - Fire Department rescue truck replacement.
 - Park improvements.
 - Continued pursuit of grant funding for capital projects.
-

Parks & Recreation

Council discussed future recreation programming, including youth recreation opportunities, adult sports programs, and long-term improvements to parks and recreational facilities. Members agreed programs should be financially sustainable whenever practical.

Long-Term Priorities

Council generally agreed that the City's long-term goals include:

- Maintaining financial stability.
- Strengthening core municipal services.
- Improving neighborhood appearance.
- Supporting economic development.
- Expanding regional partnerships.
- Investing in facilities that provide long-term community benefit.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Jones
Seconded by Councilor McHugh

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

MOTION RESULT: ☒Passed ☐Failed

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Sandra LaPera, City Clerk