

MINUTES OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 15, 2025

A meeting of the Common Council of the City of Oneida, NY was held on the fifteenth day of April 2025 at 5:30 p.m. at the Common Council Chambers, 109 N. Main, Oneida, NY 13421.

The meeting was called to order by Deputy Mayor Steve Laureti.

<u>Attendees</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Arrived Late</u>
Mayor Rossi	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Kyle Lovell, CM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Councilor Szczerba	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Councilor Laureti	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Councilor Hitchings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Councilor Winchell	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Councilor Pagano	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Councilor Simchik	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> _____

Supervisors

Matt Roberts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mary Cavanagh	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Brandee Henderson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Michelle Kinville	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Also Present

City Attorney Nadine Bell	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Safety Comm. Dave Jones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
City Clerk Sandy LaPera	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire Chief Scott Jones	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Police Chief Steve Lowell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

CEREMONY: Police Department Swearing In and Promotions
Police Chief Lowell welcomed the honorees and their families to the ceremony. The Chief introduced each honoree with a narrative highlighting their personal background, professional experience, and aspirations within the department before being sworn in by the City Clerk.

Those honored were as follows:

- Police Officer Michael Leibl
- Police Officer Zachary Bitz
- Police Officer Dylan Lawrence
- Police Officer Jacob Clark
- Police Officer Isabella Barner
- Lieutenant Ryan Warner
- Assistant Police Chief William Clark



PUBLIC COMMENT: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

REPORTS:

- **Mayor's Report:** None
- **Supervisor's Report:** Provided via text message

Supervisor Mary Cavanagh provided the following update in her absence. Per Supervisor Matt Roberts, sales tax revenue is up 4%.

Supervisor Cavanagh attended a Zoom pre-session on April 15, 2025, in preparation for the upcoming Madison County Housing Collaborative in-person meeting scheduled for May 14 at Delphi Falls. The purpose of the collaborative is to assess the current state of housing and its impact on Madison County. She will attend the meeting as a representative of the Board of Supervisors and will provide a report afterward.

- **City Manager's Report:**

City Manager Lovell reported that, due to anticipated inclement weather on Wednesday, Park Cleanup Day has been rescheduled for Thursday. He encouraged those wishing to participate to meet at City Hall in the Council Chambers at 8:00 a.m., after which groups will proceed to Allen Park or Vet's Field.

He further reminded residents that as temperatures rise, increased pedestrian and motorcycle activity is expected. Drivers are urged to remain attentive, come to a full stop at all stop signs, and be mindful of their surroundings.

City Manager Lovell expressed his gratitude to Chief Lowell for the "fantastic" ceremony, stating that it fosters a sense of community pride and held significant meaning for the families of the honorees.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Councilor Hitchings
Seconded by Councilor Pagano

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the regular meeting of April 1, 2025, are hereby approved as presented.

Ayes: 4
Nays: 0
Absent: (3) Rossi/Szczerba/Winchell

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF WARRANT

Moved by Councilor Hitchings
Seconded by Councilor Pagano

RESOLVED, that Warrant No. 8 checks and ACH payments in the amount of \$2,675,758.33 as audited by the Voucher Committee are hereby approved for payment in the usual manner at the discretion of the Comptroller or a third party duly retained by the City of Oneida to perform such services.

Ayes: 4
Nays: 0
Absent: (3) Rossi/Szczerba/Winchell

MOTION CARRIED

MONTHLY REPORTS

RESOLUTION 25-81

Moved by Councilor Hitchings
Seconded by Councilor Pagano

RESOLVED, that Monthly Reports from the City Clerk, City Engineer, Codes Department, Fire Department, Parks and Recreation Department, and Police Department are hereby received and placed on file.

Ayes: 4
Nays: 0
Absent: (3) Rossi/Szczerba/Winchell

MOTION CARRIED

AUTHORIZE MEDICARE PART B REIMBURSEMENT PAYMENTS TO RETIREES

RESOLUTION 25-82

Moved by Councilor Hitchings
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

RESOLVED, that the City Comptroller or a third party duly retained by the City of Oneida to perform such services, be, and hereby is authorized and directed, throughout the period from January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025, to reimburse the cost of Medicare Part B coverage to all eligible retired City Employees and eligible dependents, regardless of union or nonunion affiliation, in accordance with the provisions regarding such reimbursement as set forth in the current contracts of CSEA, Inc., Local 1000 AFSCME and Oneida Paid Firefighters Association Local 2692; **and be it further**

RESOLVED, that the City Comptroller or a third party duly retained by the City of Oneida to perform such services be, and hereby is authorized and directed, throughout the period from January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025, to reimburse the cost of Medicare Part B coverage to all eligible retired City employees and eligible dependents, who retired prior to July 1, 2015, regardless of whether said retiree and any eligible dependent is enrolled in the City's Medicare Advantage & Prescription Program.

Ayes: 4
Nays: 0
Absent: (3) Rossi/Szczerba/Winchell

MOTION CARRIED

AGREEMENT-BONADIO & CO., LLP

RESOLUTION 25-83

Moved by Councilor Hitchings
Seconded by Councilor Pagano

RESOLVED, to authorize the City Manager to sign an agreement with Bonadio & Co., LLP, 432 North Franklin Street, No. 60, Syracuse, NY 13204 for outsource accounting services provided for the period beginning May 1, 2025, and ending April 30, 2026 (Comptroller).

Ayes: 4
Nays: 0
Absent: (3) Rossi/Szczerba/Winchell

MOTION CARRIED

CONTRACT-C & S ENGINEERS, INC.

DOWNTOWN INFRASTRUCTURE AND STREETScape IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

RESOLUTION 25-84

Moved by Councilor Hitchings
Seconded by Councilor Pagano

RESOLVED, that the City Manager is hereby authorized to execute a service contract with C & S Engineers, Inc., of 499 Col Eileen Collins Blvd., Syracuse, NY 13212, as approved by the City Attorney, for consulting services relative to the 30% Design for Downtown Infrastructure and Streetscape Improvement Project, which shall include upgrades to facilities at Veterans Memorial Park, streetscape improvements, and the construction of AYSO soccer fields, which contract shall terminate on December 31, 2026.

Ayes: 4
Nays: 0
Absent: (3) Rossi/Szczerba/Winchell

MOTION CARRIED

DISCUSSION: Councilor Laureti asked if the matter was related to the downtown grant, to which City Manager Lovell confirmed it pertained to the DRI. When asked about the project's cost, City Manager Lovell stated that while he did not have the total figure at present, the project is reimbursable, and he would follow up with the Council once the information is available.

BUDGET TRANSFERS/AMENDMENTS

RESOLUTION 25-85

Moved by Councilor Hitchings
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

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>
2025 Budget Adjustments		
\$ 40,000.00	003.8110.0200.0000 Sewer Equipment	003.0003.0912.0000 Sewer Fund Balance
<i>To allocate funds to cover the purchase of equipment necessary for plant operation</i>		
\$ 5,000.00	001.5132.0102.0000 Central Garage Overtime	001.0001.0912.0000 General Fund Balance
<i>To allocate funds to cover the overtime expenses in the Central Garage Dept.</i>		
\$ 1,112.95	001.5110.0200.0000 DPW Equipment	001.8664.0101.0000 Code Enforcement Salaries
<i>To re-allocate funds for the purchase of an impact wrench kit</i>		
\$ 700.00	001.7140.0219.0000 Parks & Rec Ferris Mower Purchase	001.7140.0409.0000 Parks & Rec Equipment Repair & Maint
<i>To re-allocate funds for the purchase of a new Ferris mower</i>		

Ayes: 4
Nays: 0
Absent: (3) Rossi/Szczerba/Winchell

MOTION CARRIED

DISCUSSION: Councilor Laureti questioned the \$40,000 transfer from the Sewer Fund Balance to the Sewer Equipment line and inquired about its purpose. City Engineer Jeff Rowe clarified on April 16, 2025, that this transfer is for recommended maintenance of three (3) existing blowers at the WWTP. The work involves parts and labor for a complete tear down and rebuilding of each blower, which is recommended by the manufacturer to be completed every 5 years. This was last done in 2018.

AGREEMENT: DEBRUCQUE GREENHOUSES, LLC

RESOLUTION 25-86

Moved by Councilor Hitchings
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

RESOLVED, to authorize the City Manager to sign an agreement with Debrucque Greenhouses LLC, 431 New Boston Street, Canastota, NY 13032 for downtown flowers and flowerpots.

Ayes: 3
Nays: 1 (Laureti)
Absent: (3) Rossi/Szczerba/Winchell

MOTION CARRIED

DISCUSSION: City Manager Lovell advised that the estimated cost is \$14,600, which covers 50 thirty-inch planters, including maintenance, watering, and replacement of any plants that die throughout the season. The program begins this month and continues through the end of October. He noted that OC3 covers half of the cost, resulting in a \$6,000 reimbursement to the City.

Councilor Laureti expressed opposition to the proposed expenditure, noting concerns about the City's financial situation. He stated he would rather see a one-time investment in the Hometown Heroes program as an alternative approach to enhancing the City's appearance.

NEW BUSINESS: City Manager Lovell stated that he has received several inquiries from the public in recent days regarding the local law on bicycle use, specifically the provision allowing children 10 and under to ride on sidewalks while requiring those over 10 to ride in the street. He expressed that this matter warrants review. The Council agreed, and City Manager Lovell will consult with the City Attorney about potentially updating the local law for consideration at a future meeting. He noted that this was also discussed at the Traffic Safety Board meeting that took place earlier in the day.

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Hitchings
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

Ayes: 4
Nays: 0
Absent: (3) Rossi/Szczerba/Winchell

MOTION CARRIED

The regular meeting is hereby adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

CITY OF ONEIDA

Sandra LaPera, City Clerk