

MINUTES OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 20, 2025

A meeting of the Common Council of the City of Oneida, NY was held on the twentieth day of May 2025 at 6:30 p.m. at the Common Council Chambers, 109 N. Main, Oneida, NY 13421.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Rick Rossi.

<u>Attendees</u>	Present	Absent	Arrived Late
Mayor Rossi	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Councilor Winchell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Councilor Pagano	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Councilor Simchik	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6:38pm

Supervisors

Matt Roberts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mary Cavanagh	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Police Chief Steve Lowell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

SWEARING IN CEREMONY: Fire Lieutenant Andrew Bennett

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Dee Schaefer-240 Allen Park Place

Resident Dee Schaefer, of 240 Allen Park Place, voiced continued frustration over the condition of the neighboring property at 238 Allen Park Place. She reported that issues have persisted since July 2023, including overgrown grass, debris accumulation, and a roof in disrepair that now shelters birds and bats. Although the owner has been given timelines and is technically Code compliant, Ms. Schaefer asserted that action is only taken after her repeated calls or emails. She described the property as an eyesore and stated that, although she would like to move, its condition would likely hinder any potential sale of her home.

She also noted that the owner's apparent lack of ties to the city is reflected in the property's neglect. She questioned how much longer the city would allow the situation to continue and how long she must keep pressing for resolution.

OLD BUSINESS: None

REPORTS:

- **Mayor's Report:**
Mayor Rossi shared that this year's Memorial Day Parade will be held on Friday, May 23. The evening will begin with a ceremony at Triangle Park at 6:30 p.m., followed by the parade at 7:00 p.m., and fireworks at dusk at Vet's Field. He encouraged all to attend and noted that parking is available—but limited—at the Northside Shopping Center.
- **Supervisor's Report:**
Supervisor Cavanagh shared that the county was holding a couple of golfing events coming up that she previously provided to the City Clerk.
 - Office of the Aging's 13th Annual Golf Fundraiser-June 13, 2025-Rogues Roost Golf Club
 - Fairways for Futures-Children's Advocacy Center-June 20, 2025-Oneida Community Golf Course

The Madison County Housing Collaborative held a Strategic Planning Retreat at Delphi Falls to assess the current state of housing—both in terms of quantity and quality—and to address the challenges facing the county. As a result of the retreat, a new Housing Coalition will be formed and will meet on June 11th. Both the Mayor and City Manager have been invited and are encouraged to attend.

It was also reported that Sales Tax revenue is up 4% year-to-date, indicating continued growth. County investments are performing well overall. Additionally, appreciation was extended to the Madison County DMV for their dedication and hard work during the Real ID transition, which included accommodating individuals from other municipalities that operated by appointment only.

- **City Manager's Report**
City Manager Lovell mentioned that the American Legion will be holding an "after party" with food and music after the parade and before the fireworks. He took a moment to introduce his

son, Logan, who was in attendance to learn about city operations.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Councilor Winchell
Seconded by Councilor Pagano

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the regular meeting of May 6, 2025, are hereby approved as presented.

Ayes: 4
Nays: 0
Late: 1 (Simchik-arrived at 6:38pm)
Absent: (2) Szczerba/Hitchings

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF WARRANT

Moved by Councilor Winchell
Seconded by Councilor Laureti

RESOLVED, that Warrant No. 10, checks and ACH payments in the amount of \$1,503,068.32 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: 5
Nays: 0
Absent: (2) Szczerba/Hitchings

MOTION CARRIED

MONTHLY REPORTS

RESOLUTION 25-98

Moved by Councilor Winchell
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: 5
Nays: 0
Absent: (2) Szczerba/Hitchings

MOTION CARRIED

ADVERTISE FOR BIDS-LIQUID CAUSTIC SODA

RESOLUTION 25-99

Moved by Councilor Winchell
Seconded by Councilor Laureti

RESOLVED, to authorize the Purchasing Agent to advertise for bids for Liquid Caustic Soda for the Water Department from the second half of 2025 to the first half of 2026.

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0
Absent: (2) Szczerba/Hitchings

MOTION CARRIED

CONTRACT EXTENSION-SLACK CHEMICAL

RESOLUTION 25-100

Moved by Councilor Pagano
Seconded by Councilor Winchell

RESOLVED, to approve the 2025 Contract Extension with Slack Chemical for one year for Liquid Chlorine and Sodium Hypochlorite.

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0
Absent: (2) Szczerba/Hitchings

MOTION CARRIED

PRO-HOUSING COMMUNITY (PHC) DESIGNATION

RESOLUTION 25-101

Moved by Councilor Simchik
Seconded by Councilor Pagano

WHEREAS, the City of Oneida (hereinafter “City”) believes that the lack of housing for New York residents of all ages and income levels negatively impacts the future of New York State’s economic growth and community well-being; and

WHEREAS, the housing crisis has negative effects at regional and local levels, the City of Oneida believes that every community must do its part to contribute to housing growth and benefit from the positive impacts a healthy housing market brings to communities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oneida believes that supporting housing production of all kinds in our community will bring multiple benefits, including increasing housing access and choices for current and future residents, providing integrated accessible housing options that meet the needs of people with sensory and mobility disabilities, bringing economic opportunities and vitality to our community, and supporting the local tax base; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oneida recognizes that local governments have a critical role to play in advancing policies and practices that encourage housing development at all levels; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oneida understands that local land use policies and regulations can impact on the cost and production of housing, and that localities can take proactive steps to support housing growth; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oneida acknowledges that New York State is committed to supporting local efforts to expand housing opportunities and has created the Pro-Housing Communities Program to recognize and support municipalities that are taking action to support housing growth; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Oneida commits to being a Pro-Housing Community and pledges to take the following actions:

1. Review and Update Zoning and Land Use Policies: Evaluate and, where appropriate, update zoning and land use policies to facilitate the development of a variety of housing types, including affordable housing, multi-family housing, and accessory dwelling units.
2. Streamline Permitting Processes: Work to streamline permitting and approval processes to reduce unnecessary delays and costs for housing development projects.
3. Support Infrastructure Development: Identify and support infrastructure improvements that will enable housing development in areas suitable for growth.
4. Engage the Community: Actively engage with community members to educate and build support for housing development and to understand and address local concerns.
5. Collaborate with Partners: Collaborate with neighboring municipalities, regional entities, non-profit organizations, and the private sector to advance housing development goals.
6. Monitor and Report Progress: Regularly monitor housing development activity and report on progress toward meeting housing goals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Oneida will submit this resolution and any required documentation to New York State Homes and Community Renewal to be designated as a Pro-Housing Community.

Ayes: 5
 Nays: 0
 Absent: (2) Szczerba/Hitchings
MOTION CARRIED

BUDGET TRANFERS/AMENDMENTS

RESOLUTION 25-102

Moved by Councilor Winchell
 Seconded by Councilor Pagano

RESOLVED, 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					
\$	10,000.00	001.1364.0400.0000	001.0001.0912.0000		
		Expenses for Property	General Fund Balance		
<i>To allocate funds for purchase of 138 Madison Street as approved by Res 25-95 on 5/6/25</i>					
\$	780.00	001.1220.0400.0000	001.0001.0912.0000		
		City Manager Contracts	General Fund Balance		
<i>To allocate funds for annual International City Management Association (ICMA) membership expenses</i>					
\$	60,000.00	002.8300.0403.0000	002.8300.0101.0000		
		Water Contracts	Water Salaries		
<i>To re-allocate funds to cover the contractual expense of Water Superintendent services</i>					
\$	2,500.00	001.1364.0400.0000	001.0001.0912.0000		
		Expenses on property aquired	General Fund Balance		
<i>To allocate funds to cover the appraisal expenses for 2 city owned properties</i>					

Ayes: 5
 Nays: 0
 Absent: (2) Szczerba/Hitchings
MOTION CARRIED

SPECIAL EVENT-JESSICAS HEROES 5K RUN/WALK

RESOLUTION 25-103

Moved by Councilor Simchik
Seconded by Councilor Winchell

RESOLVED, to approve the Special Event application from Jessica's Heroes for their annual 5K Run/Walk to be held on September 20, 2025, from 9:00am to 12:00pm in the City of Oneida.

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0
Absent: (2) Szczerba/Hitchings
MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS: None

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Pagano
Seconded by Councilor Winchell

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0
Absent: (2) Szczerba/Hitchings
MOTION CARRIED

The regular meeting is hereby adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

CITY OF ONEIDA

Sandra LaPera, City Clerk