

**MINUTES OF THE COMMON COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**MARCH 4, 2025**

A meeting of the Common Council of the City of Oneida, NY was held on the fourth day of March 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><b>Attendees</b></u>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Arrived Late</b>
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public Safety Comm. Dave Jones	<input 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"/>		

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Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

**PROCLAMATION:** American Red Cross Month-Lisa Smith, Executive Director; Patrick Powers, Board Member

# *Proclamation*

*City of Oneida - Office of the Mayor*

**WHEREAS**, for over 140 years, the American Red Cross has been a beacon of hope, compassion, and assistance during times of crisis, providing vital aid to individuals and communities in need; and

**WHEREAS**, the Red Cross, through its tireless volunteers and donors, responds to disasters, supports military families, provides life-saving training, collects blood donations, and fosters preparedness in communities across the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, the selfless dedication of Red Cross volunteers and the generosity of donors embody the spirit of service and resilience, inspiring others to contribute to their mission of alleviating human suffering; and

**WHEREAS**, in the face of natural disasters, public health emergencies, and personal crises, the Red Cross has consistently risen to the challenge, offering comfort, care, and hope to those in need; and

**WHEREAS**, during the month of March, communities across the country join together to recognize and celebrate the invaluable contributions of the American Red Cross to our society;

**Now, Therefore, I, Rick Rossi, Mayor on behalf of the City of Oneida, do hereby proclaim  
March 2025 as  
National Red Cross Month in the City of Oneida.**

I encourage all residents to honor the humanitarian work of the American Red Cross, support its mission through volunteering, donating, and learning life-saving skills, and recognize the profound impact of their efforts in strengthening our community.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affix the official seal of the City of Oneida on this 4th day of March 2025.

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Rick Rossi, Mayor

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

### LYNN MCHUGH-420 WILBUR ST. ONEIDA

Please see the attached written comments by Lynn McHugh noted as Attachment A

### KEITH SIMPSON-138 MADISON ST., ONEIDA

Keith Simpson stated that he was present to address a notice he received from the City regarding his property at 138 Madison Street. He was issued a 10-day Order to Vacate. Mr. Simpson, a small business owner, emphasized that he has devoted the past four years to building his business and is just eight payments away from full ownership.

Mr. Simpson believes the notice he received is a direct result of the City's negligence, citing the deteriorating condition of the neighboring building, which he was informed is collapsing. He stated that vacating his property within 10 days is unfeasible due to the large number of products, shelving, and freezers inside. He emphasized that his family, including his children and grandchildren who live with him, rely on this business for their livelihood. Mr. Simpson also shared that the City Manager contacted him about a potential buyer for the property. While he acknowledged that a larger space would be beneficial, he expressed uncertainty about how he could secure the necessary funds, particularly within such a short timeframe.

Mr. Simpson stated that structural engineers, retained by the City, advised him that his building is safe and structurally sound due to its steel girders. Given this assessment, he does not believe he should be required to vacate. He questioned the urgency of the situation, noting that when the Madison House was demolished, he was not forced to leave his building. Additionally, he expressed concern that even if he relocates, he would be burdened with two mortgages—one for a new building and another for the property he is being forced to vacate but unable to use.

Mayor Rossi and City Manager Lovell requested Mr. Simpson's contact information and assured him that they are willing to work with him. They emphasized that if he needs more than the allotted 10 days to vacate, the City is open to granting additional time. City Manager Lovell also asked for confirmation of ownership, which Mr. Simpson stated he has and will provide.

Mr. Simpson stated that he was not present to argue or cause problems. He expressed his belief that open communication and dialogue are far more effective in resolving issues than conflict or confrontation.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

### **REPORTS:**

- **Mayor's Report:**

The Mayor expressed gratitude to the Department of Public Works, as well as the Police and Fire Departments, for their efforts in snow removal. He also extended his appreciation to the residents who assisted their neighbors, acknowledging everyone's contributions.

- **City Manager's Report:**

City Manager Lovell announced that on April 16th, the City will host its first "Pick Up Park Day," serving as an alternate work location for many City employees that day. The event will begin at 8:00 a.m. at Allen Park and, time permitting, will continue at Veteran's Memorial Park. He

emphasized that this initiative would provide valuable community exposure. City Manager Lovell credited Deputy Comptroller Jessica Kaiser for suggesting the idea, stating that he saw it as a great opportunity for employees to not only help clean up the parks but also demonstrate their support for the community. City Manager Lovell encouraged members of the community to join our employees in this effort.

**Supervisor's Report:**

Supervisor Matt Roberts also recognized the efforts of the County workers, commending their tireless efforts in snow removal and managing road closures.

Supervisor Roberts also noted that many supervisors attended the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) conference held in Albany in February. He highlighted that the conference provided an opportunity for attendees to discuss issues impacting counties statewide and engage with elected officials. Additionally, Supervisor Roberts stated that he serves on the Climate Action, Environment, and Energy Committee.

Supervisor Roberts discussed the effects of the CLCPA (Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act), which was passed in New York State in 2019, and is New York State's comprehensive strategy to combat climate change. The Act mandates a 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and an 85% reduction by 2050, relative to 1990 levels, aiming for net-zero emissions by mid-century.

Supervisor Roberts warned that power authorities are beginning to set aside funds, which will result in higher electric bills for consumers, potentially tripling costs across New York State. He noted that his business, Sherrill Manufacturing, along with several others, sent letters to Albany expressing concern, prompting the Governor to put a temporary pause on the measure. He strongly encouraged everyone to reach out to their elected officials, including those at the federal level, to voice their opposition, emphasizing that if implemented, these increases could bankrupt residents and force businesses to relocate out of New York State.

In conclusion, Supervisor Roberts emphasized that this legislation is highly detrimental and will have significant negative impacts. He urged everyone to unite, as there is strength in numbers, to advocate for keeping electric rates competitive with the rest of the United States.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved by Councilor Hitchings  
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

**RESOLVED**, that the minutes of the regular meeting of February 4, 2025, are hereby approved as presented.

Ayes: 7  
Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **APPROVAL OF WARRANT**

Moved by Councilor Hitchings  
Seconded by Councilor Pagano

**RESOLVED**, that Warrant No. 4, checks and ACH payments in the amount of \$1,701,318.65 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: 7  
Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **APPROVAL OF WARRANT**

Moved by Councilor Hitchings  
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

**RESOLVED**, that Warrant No. 5, checks and ACH payments in the amount of \$3,402,519.11 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: 7  
Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **MONTHLY REPORTS**

#### **RESOLUTION 25-45**

Moved by Councilor Hitchings  
Seconded by Councilor Winchell

**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: 7  
Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ADOPT A LOCAL LAW AMENDING THE INCOME RANGES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS AND AMENDING THE ALTERNATIVE VETERANS' EXEMPTION AND COLD WAR VETERANS' EXEMPTION AS SET FORTH IN CHAPTER 165 OF THE ONEIDA CITY CODE**

**RESOLUTION 25-46**

Moved by Councilor Hitchings  
Seconded by Councilor Winchell

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the provisions of the Municipal Home Rule Law, a proposed Local Law, titled "A Local Law Amending the Annual Income Ranges for Senior Citizens as set forth in Chapter 165 of the Oneida City Code and Amending Veterans Exemption" was presented and introduced at a Regular Meeting of the Common Council of the City of Oneida held on January 21, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, a public hearing was held on such proposed Local Law on February 4, 2025, by the Common Council of the City of Oneida and proofs of publication of notices of such public hearings, 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 an unlisted action and will have no significant effect on the environment, thus concluding the environmental review process; and

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

**NOW, THEREFORE**, it is

**RESOLVED**, that the Common Council of the City of Oneida, Madison County, New York, does hereby enact a Local Law of 2025 as follows:

"City of Oneida

A LOCAL LAW AMENDING THE INCOME RANGES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS AS SET FORTH IN CHAPTER 165 OF THE ONEIDA CITY CODE AND AMENDING THE ALTERNATIVE VETERAN'S AND COLD WAR VETERANS' EXEMPTION

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

**SECTION 1.**

So that the annual income ranges for persons 65 years of age or over as listed in Section 165-2 of the Oneida City Code, titled "Conditions for exemption," Subsection A(1) shall be revised, in its entirety, as follows:

“No exemption shall be granted:

A. If the income of the owner or combined income of the owners of the property for the income tax immediately preceding the date of making application for exemption exceeds the sum of \$36,500.00.

1. Income in a lesser amount, subject to the provisions of this article, shall entitle owner or owners to an exemption according to the following schedule:

<b>Annual Income</b>	<b>Percentage Assessed Valuation Exempt from Taxation</b>
Less than or equal to \$29,000.00	50%
More than \$29,000.00 but less than \$30,000.00	45%
\$30,000.00 or more but less than \$31,000.00	40%
\$31,000.00 or more but less than \$32,000.00	35%
\$32,000.00 or more but less than \$32,900.00	30%
\$32,900.00 or more but less than \$33,800.00	25%
\$33,800.00 or more but less than \$34,700.00	20%
\$34,700.00 or more but less than \$35,600.00	15%
\$35,600.00 or more but less than \$36,500.00	10%

## SECTION 2.

So that the title of Article VI of Chapter 165 is hereby amended to read Article VI “Veterans Exemptions,” and Section 165-14 is hereby amended in its entirety, to read as follows:

### “A. Alternative Veteran’s Exemption

1. An Alternative Veteran’s exemption is hereby provided for and ordained on real property taxes in the City of Oneida pursuant to §458-a of the Real Property Tax Law. The maximum exemption from real property taxes for veterans allowable is established as follows:

a. Qualifying residential real property shall be exempt from taxation to the extent of fifteen percent of the assessed value of such property; provided, however; that such exemption shall not exceed twelve thousand dollars or the product of twelve thousand dollars multiplied by the latest state equalization rate for the assessing unit, or in the case of a special assessing unit, the latest class ratio, whichever is less.

b. In addition to the exemption provided in paragraph (a) of this subdivision, where the veteran served in a combat theatre or combat zone of operations, as documented by the award of a United States campaign ribbon or service medal, or the Armed Forces expeditionary medal, Naval expeditionary medal, Marine Corps expeditionary medal, or global war on terror expeditionary medal, qualifying residential real property also shall be exempt from taxation to the extent of ten percent of the assessed value of such property; provided, however, that such exemption shall not exceed eight thousand dollars

multiplied by the latest state equalization rate for the assessing unit, or in the case of a special assessing unit, the class ratio, whichever is less.

- c. In addition to the exemption provided in paragraph (a) and (b) of this subdivision, where the veteran received a compensation rating from the United States veteran's administration or from the United States department of defense because of a service-connected disability, qualifying real property shall be exempt from taxation to the extent of the product of the assessed value of such property multiplied by fifty percent of the veteran's disability rating; provided, however, that such exemption shall not exceed forty thousand dollars multiplied by the latest state equalization rate for the assessing unit, the latest class ratio, whichever is less.
  - i. For purposes of this exemption for disabled veterans, where a person who served in the active military, naval or air service during a period of war died in service of a service-connected disability, such person shall be deemed to have been assigned a compensation rating of one hundred percent.

#### B. Cold War Veteran's Exemption

1. A Cold War Veteran's exemption is hereby provided for and ordained on real property taxes in the City of Oneida pursuant to §458-b of the Real Property Tax Law. The maximum exemption from real property taxes for Cold War veterans allowable is established as follows.
  - a. Qualifying residential real property shall be exempt from taxation to the extent of ten percent of the assessed value of such property; provided; however, that such exemption shall not exceed eight thousand dollars or the product of eight thousand dollars multiplied by the latest state equalization rate for the assessing unit, or in the case of a special assessing unit, the latest class ratio, whichever is less.
  - b. In addition to the exemption provided in paragraph (a) of this subdivision, where the Cold War veteran received a compensation rating from the United States veterans affairs or from the United States department of defense because of a service connected disability, qualifying residential real property shall be exempt from taxation to the extent of the product of the assessed value of such property, multiplied by fifty percent of the Cold War veteran disability rating; provided, however, that such exemption shall not exceed forty thousand dollars multiplied by the latest state equalization rate for the assessing unit, or, in the case of a special assessing unit, the latest class ratio, whichever is less.
2. The Cold War veteran exemption provided for in paragraph (a) of this subdivision shall be granted for a period of ten years.
3. If a Cold War veteran receives the exemption under Section 2(A), the Cold War veteran shall not be eligible to receive the exemption under Section 2(B)."

Mayor Rossi	YES
Councilor Szczerba	YES
Councilor Laureti	YES



Councilor Hitchings	YES
Councilor Winchell	YES
Councilor Pagano	YES
Councilor Simchik	YES

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **BUDGET TRANSFERS/AMENDMENTS**

#### **RESOLUTION 25-47**

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>
<b>2025 Budget Adjustments</b>			
\$	40,000.00	001.5142.0315.0000	001.0001.0912.000
		Salt & Sand	General Fund Balance
<b><i>To allocate funds to cover the expense of road salt</i></b>			
<b>2024 Budget Adjustments</b>			
\$	226.30	001.1315.0101.0000	\$ 3,820.87 001.9030.0801.0000
		Comptroller Salaries	Social Security
\$	317.15	001.1355.0101.0000	
		Chamberlain Salaries	
\$	448.35	001.1620.0101.0000	
		Buildings Salaries	
\$	224.60	001.1620.0102.0000	
		Buildings Overtime	
\$	701.44	001.7140.0101.0000	
		Parks & Rec Salaries	
\$	0.95	001.7140.0102.0000	
		Parks & Rec Overtime	

\$	396.51	001.7140.0103.0000 Parks & Rec Maint Salaries		
\$	1,505.57	001.8664.0101.0000 Codes Enforcement Salaries		
\$	19,682.64	002.8300.0101.0000 Water Salaries	\$ 21,800.78	002.8300.0436.0000 Contingency
\$	1,716.44	002.9030.0801.0000 Water Social Security		
\$	401.70	002.9035.0802.0000 Water Medicare		

***To re-allocate funds to accrue payroll worked in 2024 but paid in 2025 calendar year***

\$	42.41	001.1910.0400.0000 Insurance	\$ 42.41	001.9030.0801.0000 Social Security
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***To re-allocate funds to cover higher than expected insurance expenses***

\$	3,702.50	001.3650.0400.0000 Demolition	\$ 3,702.50	001.9030.0801.0000 Social Security
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***To re-allocate funds to cover expenses associated with 136 Madison St***

\$	800.00	001.1420.0411.0000 Legal Litigation		001.4068.0101.0000 Salaries Mosquito
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***To re-allocate funds to cover 2024 legal expenses related to Arbitration case***

\$	35,000.00	001.1315.0400.0000 Comptroller Contracts		001.8020.0101.0000 Planning Salaries
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***To re-allocate funds to cover the 2024 audit and GASB 87 lease consulting***

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

# **AGREEMENT-MADISON COUNTY ELECTIONS**

**RESOLUTION 25-48**

Moved by Councilor Hitchings  
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

**RESOLVED**, authorize the City Manager to sign an agreement with Madison County, 138 North Court Street, Wampsville, NY for the use of the Kallet Civic Center for the conduct of primary, general, village and special elections through December 31, 2026.

Ayes: 7  
Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### **CYBERSECURITY GRANT APPROVAL-DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

##### **RESOLUTION 25-49**

Moved by Councilor Hitchings  
Seconded by Councilor Winchell

**RESOLVED**, to accept a \$50,000 grant (100% reimbursable) through the Department of Homeland Security's Critical Infrastructure Grant Program to enhance the City's cybersecurity measures and protect the critical infrastructure.

Ayes: 7  
Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

DISCUSSION: Councilor Winchell asked whether the grant was partially reimbursable or fully reimbursable. City Manager Lovell clarified that it is a standard, fully reimbursable grant.

#### **AGREEMENT-CARFAX FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT**

##### **RESOLUTION 25-50**

Moved by Councilor Hitchings  
Seconded by Councilor Winchell

**RESOLVED**, authorize the Chief of Police to execute an enrollment form with CARFAX on behalf of the City of Oneida Police Department for the purpose of using Carfax investigation tools, report distribution and eCrash services.

Ayes: 7  
Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ACCIDENT REPORT FEES-POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**RESOLUTION 25-51**

Moved by Councilor Hitchings  
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

**RESOLVED**, to approve the Accident Report Fee of \$5.00 for citizen requests and \$15.00 for corporate requests for the Police Department.

Ayes: 7  
Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

**AGREEMENT-ONEIDA INDIAN NATION**

**RESOLUTION 25-52**

Moved by Councilor Hitchings  
Seconded by Councilor Winchell

**RESOLVED**, to authorize the City Manager to enter into the Reclaimed Water Agreement with the Oneida Indian Nation for the use of reclaimed water from the City of Oneida Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Ayes: 7  
Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

**AGREEMENT-REVIZE**

**RESOLUTION 25-53**

**TABLED**

Moved by Councilor Hitchings  
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

**RESOLVED**, to authorize the City Manager to sign an agreement with Revize for the development, design and maintenance of the City website.

DISCUSSION: Councilor Laureti asked whether the City is contractually obligated to Civic Plus for its current website and if moving forward with a new website would result in the City paying for two websites. The City Attorney responded that she is in the process of obtaining copies of all contracts to review any clauses that may allow the City to exit its agreement with Civic Plus.

City Manager Lovell stated that he has been attempting to get a response from Civic Plus for the past three weeks but has experienced significant communication difficulties. He cited this as one of the reasons for considering a change in website providers. While acknowledging that Civic Plus may be well-suited for larger cities like Boston and New York City, as well as counties, he noted that their services have not been as effective for smaller cities.

In response to a question from Councilor Winchell regarding the reputation of Revize, it was noted that Revize is a leading provider of municipal websites and has over 3,000 clients.

The City Clerk, who also serves as the Website Administrator, highlighted several issues with the current provider, including frequent product changes, increasing costs, failure to deliver promised services, and poor communication with Civic Plus representatives. Councilor Hitchings added that she was previously involved as the former Website Administrator and expressed concerns that the new platform would not appeal to City residents who have become accustomed to the existing format.

The decision was made to table this resolution until information regarding the current contract obligations could be obtained and reviewed.

Motion to Table by Councilor Hitchings  
Seconded by Councilor Winchell

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### **AGREEMENT-AXON ENTERPRISE, INC.**

#### **RESOLUTION 25-54**

Moved by Councilor Winchell  
Seconded by Councilor Hitchings

**RESOLVED**, to authorize the City Manager to sign an agreement with Axon Enterprise, Inc., 17800 N. 85<sup>th</sup> Street, Scottsdale, AZ 85255 for bodycams for Code Enforcement Officers (Commercial and Residential.)

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

**DISCUSSION:** Councilor Szczerba inquired as to how much this would cost the City, to which City Manager Lovell advised the cost would be approximately \$2,500 per year for a four-year contract which would be in addition to our existing contract.

**ONEIDA PAID FIREFIGHTERS AGREEMENT (OPFA)**

**RESOLUTION 25-55**

Moved by Councilor Hitchings  
Seconded by Councilor Winchell

**RESOLVED**, to approve the terms of the proposed Tentative Agreement between the City of Oneida and the Oneida Paid Firefighters Association (OPFA).

Ayes: 7  
Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

**CITY OF ONEIDA LEAK DETECTION**

**RESOLUTION 25-56**

Moved by Councilor Hitchings  
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

**RESOLVED**, that a budget amendment in the amount of \$15,400 from Water Fund Balance to 002.8300.0427 Infrastructure Improvements be hereby authorized, **and be it further**

**RESOLVED**, that the appropriation of funds in the amount of \$15,400 for Leak Detection be hereby authorized, **and be it further**

**RESOLVED**, that the City Manager is hereby authorized to sign the agreement with GPRS for Leak Detection Services, **and be it further**

Ayes: 7  
Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

**HARRIET TUBMAN UNDERGROUND RAILROAD NEW YORK SCENIC BYWAY NOMINATION AND  
CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT PLAN ADOPTION**

**RESOLUTION 25-57**

Moved by Councilor Hitchings  
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

**WHEREAS**, the historic qualities of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway, as described in the corridor management plan, and the surrounding areas have been appreciated and celebrated for over a century by the residents of New York State, as well as tourists, historians, artists, authors, and other visitors to the region; and it is this unique combination of the journeys of Harriet Tubman and those Freedom Seekers who traveled on the Underground Railroad that create the special sense of place that is vital in telling the New York story of the human desire for freedom and the historic sites they created during their journey to emancipation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Steering Committee of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway, composed of representatives of 22 municipalities along the proposed scenic byway route, committed to work cooperatively to protect and promote the historic, scenic, recreational, and economic well-being of the 544-mile Corridor throughout the state and agreed to pursue the nomination of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway; and

**WHEREAS**, under the leadership of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway Steering Committee, each of the 22 counties contributed to the development of this corridor management plan by forming local byway groups, encouraging public participation, and leading individual meetings of the Collaborative; and

**WHEREAS**, the Advisory Committee of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway, consisting of relatives of Harriet Tubman, descendants of Freedom Seekers, Harriet Tubman and/or Underground Railroad historians, representatives from state and federal agencies have strengthened the historic integrity, representation, and the principles of the corridor management plan; and

**WHEREAS**, in the process of developing this corridor management plan, the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway Steering Committee has strengthened the bonds of inter-municipal cooperation, and the involved entities envision further benefit through scenic byway designation including sustained collaborative progress, increased funding opportunities for recommendations identified in the plan, enhanced partnerships with agencies responsible for the stewardship of resources along and adjacent to the byway route, and an improved transportation experience that preserves, interprets, and promotes the corridor's intrinsic qualities and resources; and

of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway which includes programs for stewardship and enhancement of the scenic byway and guidance to manage future activities along its corridor; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City of Oneida confirms that they will not approve any requests for new off-premise outdoor advertising signs along the designated Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway route; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City of Oneida will work in partnership with the other municipalities along the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway and local and regional stakeholders in order to support future Byway program development and

collaborate with these interested entities to explore opportunities for cooperation and methods to advance the Scenic Byway.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PHASE II OF THE HIGINBOTHAM BROOK CULVERT REPLACEMENT, IN AND FOR THE CITY OF ONEIDA, MADISON COUNTY, NEW YORK, AT A MAXIMUM ESTIMATED COST OF \$663,000, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT EXCEEDING \$663,000 BONDS OF SAID CITY TO PAY THE COST THEREOF.**

**RESOLUTION 25-58**

Moved by Councilor Hitchings  
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

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 (the "City"), as follows:

Section 1. Phase II of the Higinbotham Brook Culvert replacement, including improvements and costs incidental thereto, in and for the City of Oneida, Madison County, New York, is hereby authorized at a maximum estimated cost of \$663,000.

Section 2. The plan for the financing of such maximum estimated cost is by the issuance of not to exceed \$663,000 bonds of said City hereby authorized to be issued therefor pursuant to the provisions of the Local Finance Law.

Section 3. It is hereby determined that the period of probable usefulness of the aforesaid specific object or purposes 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. To the extent not paid from other sources, 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 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. All other matters except as provided herein relating to the 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 7. 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 8. 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 9. This resolution, which takes effect immediately upon the final passage thereof, shall be published in summary form in 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.

Mayor Rick Rossi	YES
Councilor Jim Szczerba	YES
Councilor Steve Laureti	YES
Councilor Andrea Hitchings	YES
Councilor Rob Winchell	YES
Councilor Bill Pagano	YES
Councilor Tom Simchik	YES

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

The resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted

**CAPITAL PROJECT 25-2 HIGINBOTHAM BROOK CULVERT-PHASE II**

**RESOLUTION 25-59**

Moved by Councilor Hitchings  
Seconded by Councilor Winchell

**RESOLVED**, to authorize the City Engineer to proceed with Capital Project 25-2, Higinbotham Brook Culvert Phase II (Construction Phase).

Ayes: 7  
Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

**SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION-2025 WALK FOR AUTISM/CITY OF ONEIDA CO-SPONSOR**

**RESOLUTION 25-60**

Moved by Councilor Hitchings  
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

**WHEREAS**, Jennifer and Ben Bailey, on behalf of “Families First”, have submitted a Special Event Application requesting approval to host the 2025 Walk for Autism in the City of Oneida; and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of this event is to raise awareness and support for individuals and families affected by autism within the community; and

**WHEREAS**, the Common Council of the City of Oneida recognizes the importance of this event and its positive impact on the community, as well as the mission of Families First in supporting local families; and

**WHEREAS**, the event organizers have agreed to comply with all necessary permitting, safety, and logistical requirements as set forth by the City of Oneida; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Oneida wishes to co-sponsor this event in support of autism awareness and advocacy efforts within the community;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Common Council of the City of Oneida, that:

1. The Special Event Application submitted by Jennifer and Ben Bailey for the 2025 Walk for Autism through Families First is hereby approved.
2. The City of Oneida shall co-sponsor the event, providing necessary municipal support as deemed appropriate by city officials.
3. The event organizers shall coordinate with the City of Oneida's departments, including public safety, public works, and any other relevant agencies, to ensure a safe and successful event.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Winchell

Seconded by Councilor Hitchings

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

The regular meeting is hereby adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

**CITY OF ONEIDA**

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Sandra LaPera, City Clerk