

MINUTES OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 1, 2025

A meeting of the Common Council of the City of Oneida, NY was held on the first day of April 2025 at 6:30 pm at the City of Oneida Common Council Chambers, 109 N. Main Street, 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Councilor Laureti	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Councilor Hitchings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/> _____

Also Present

City Attorney Nadine Bell	<input checked="" 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"/>	Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

PROCLAMATION: Autism Awareness Month-Received by Jennifer and Benjamin Bailey/family

PROCLAMATION
CITY OF ONEIDA, NEW YORK
National Autism Awareness Day

WHEREAS, autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a complex developmental condition that affects an estimated 1 in 36 children in the United States, as well as countless adults, impacting communication, behavior, and social interactions; and

WHEREAS, individuals with autism are valuable members of our community, contributing their unique talents, perspectives, and strengths to our schools, workplaces, and society; and

WHEREAS, National Autism Awareness Day, recognized annually on April 2nd, provides an opportunity to increase understanding and acceptance of autism, promote early diagnosis and intervention, and support individuals and families affected by autism; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oneida is committed to fostering an inclusive community where individuals with autism are respected, supported, and empowered to reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS, local organizations, educators, healthcare professionals, and advocates in Oneida work tirelessly to provide essential resources, services, and support for those living with autism and their families; and

WHEREAS, by raising awareness and promoting acceptance, we can break down barriers, celebrate neurodiversity, and create a more inclusive and supportive society for all.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, **Rick Rossi** Mayor of the City of Oneida, do hereby proclaim April 2, 2025, as **National Autism Awareness Day** in the City of Oneida and encourage all residents, businesses, and organizations to participate in activities and initiatives that promote understanding, acceptance, and support for individuals with autism and their families.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand
and caused the Seal of the City of Oneida to be affixed
this **1st** of **April** 2025.

Rick Rossi, Mayor, City of Oneida

After the presentation of the proclamation by Mayor Rossi, Mr. Bailey announced that his family is bringing back an Autism Awareness Walk as their own individual fundraiser. The walk will be held on April 26th, and everyone is invited to join. All proceeds will benefit “Families First,” a nonprofit organization that supports families with special needs.

The city is co-sponsoring the event, which will begin at Higinbotham Park, head to the Oneida Library, and return. It will run from 10 a.m. to noon. Jenn Bailey expressed appreciation for the library, noting that they’ve been wonderful to work with—they’ll be offering sensory spaces and sharing information to raise autism awareness.

PRESENTATION: BRiDGES (Impact of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs on our community)
Heather Bernet, Valarie Webb, and Samantha Dartt

Heather Bernet began by thanking the Mayor, City Manager, and Council for permitting them to speak. She stated that their purpose in attending was to introduce their organization and highlight the services they offer. She affirmed their commitment to supporting the City of Oneida by equipping residents with the knowledge and resources needed to make informed decisions regarding their health and overall well-being.

She shared that she is the Statewide Administrative Coordinator for Advancing Tobacco-Free Communities, a grant funded by the NYS Department of Health’s Bureau of Tobacco Control. She noted that Bridges has held the grant since 2001 and expressed pride in having worked on the program for 25 years.

Ms. Bernet explained that the focus of the presentation was to highlight their work in commercial tobacco control and prevention. She clarified that their efforts specifically address commercial, addictive tobacco products—not the traditional tobacco considered sacred and used in ceremonies, prayers, and healing practices—emphasizing the importance of that distinction. She noted that smoking remains the leading cause of preventable death and disease in the country, with the average age of a new smoker being just 13. Many communities, including Oneida, have adopted smoke-free policies in parks and playgrounds. She added that their collaboration with communities has contributed to creating healthier environments in which to live, work, learn, and play.

She introduced her colleagues, Valarie Webb and Samantha (Sam) Dartt, who each spoke about their roles in the program. Val works directly with youth, empowering them to use their voices to educate peers and community members about the deceptive marketing tactics used by the tobacco industry. She shared that they strive to develop creative approaches to raise awareness within the community.

Sam stated that she serves as the Tobacco Control Specialist with the Bridges Tobacco Control Program. In this role, she is responsible for building partnerships and acting as a liaison between schools, employers, organizations, state and local health departments, and community members. She explained that their work focuses on three key initiatives: reducing tobacco marketing in the retail environment, promoting smoke-free housing, and supporting tobacco-free outdoor spaces for both employers and public areas.

Ms. Bernet concluded the presentation by distributing resource materials and noting that their organization offers a wealth of information for municipalities interested in implementing effective tobacco-related policies. She clarified that while Bridges does not and cannot engage in lobbying, they are

able to connect communities with resources to support informed decision-making. She added that the NYS Department of Health offers a wealth of information for municipalities who desire to implement effective tobacco related policies.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

REPORTS:

- **Mayor's Report:**

None

- **City Manager's Report:**

City Manager Lovell invited the public to participate in the "Pitch In for the Parks" volunteer park clean-up effort that will take place on Wednesday, April 16th. Anyone interested in participating should meet at City Hall at 8am. City employees will work together to clean up Allen Park and Vets.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Councilor Simchik

Seconded by Councilor Pagano

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the regular meeting of March 18, 2025, are hereby approved as presented.

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

Absent: (3) Laureti-Hitchings-Winchell

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF WARRANT

Moved by Councilor Pagano

Seconded by Councilor Simchik

RESOLVED, that Warrant No. 7, checks and ACH payments in the amount of \$2,774,376.04 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) Laureti-Hitchings-Winchell

MOTION CARRIED

SALARY SCHEDULE CHANGE

RESOLUTION 25-74

Moved by Councilor Simchik
Seconded by Councilor Pagano

RESOLVED, to approve changing the 2025 Adopted Salary Schedule to remove 1 DPW Public Works Supervisor and add 1 Senior Motor Equipment Operator.

Ayes: 4
Nays: 0
Absent: (3) Laureti-Hitchings-Winchell
MOTION CARRIED

MOBILE FOOD VENDOR FEE

RESOLUTION 25-75

Moved by Councilor Simchik
Seconded by Councilor Pagano

WHEREAS, on December 31, 2024, Leonard Hale, d/b/a Firehouse Hotdogs, secured an annual Mobile Food Vendor License for the period of January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025, for \$150 (License 3562); and

WHEREAS, Leonard Hale sold his business to Fitzgeralds Firehouse Hot Dogs prior to starting the season;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the City Clerk is hereby authorized to transfer City of Oneida License # 3562 to Fitzgeralds Firehouse Hot Dogs for the remainder of 2025.

Ayes: 4
Nays: 0
Absent: (3) Laureti-Hitchings-Winchell
MOTION CARRIED

LEASE AGREEMENT-BUSINESS MACHINES EQUIPMENT (BME)

RESOLUTION 25-76

Moved by Councilor Simchik
Seconded by Councilor Pagano

RESOLVED, to authorize the City Manager to sign a Lease Agreement with Business Machines Equipment (BME), 5 Ann Street, Mohawk, NY 13407 for a copier for the City Clerks office to replace 2 outdated machines that are not currently on a lease and have no service agreements.

Ayes: 4
Nays: 0
Absent: (3) Laureti-Hitchings-Winchell
MOTION CARRIED

CAPITAL PROJECT 25-1: ANNUAL STREET RESURFACING

RESOLUTION 25-77

Moved by Councilor Simchik
Seconded by Councilor Pagano

RESOLVED, authorize the City Engineer to proceed with Capital Project 25-1; authorize the use of Unit Prices established for 2025 by Madison County; authorize the Purchasing Agent to advertise for bids for any portions of the project not covered under the County's Unit Pricing; authorize the City Engineer to expend funds up to the programmed amount dispersed by NYSDOT; and authorize the City Manager to sign any and all documents related to Capital Project 25-1.

Ayes: 4
Nays: 0
Absent: (3) Laureti-Hitchings-Winchell
MOTION CARRIED

AGREEMENT-SERVOMATION REFRESHMENTS INC.

RESOLUTION 25-78

Moved by Councilor Simchik
Seconded by Councilor Szczerba

RESOLVED, to authorize the City Manager to sign an agreement with Servomation Refreshments Inc., 7098 Mount Pleasant Road, Canastota, NY 13032 for vending services at the Recreation Center.

Ayes: 4
Nays: 0
Absent: (3) Laureti-Hitchings-Winchell
MOTION CARRIED

BUDGET TRANSFERS/AMENDMENTS

RESOLUTION 25-79

Moved by Councilor
Seconded by Councilor

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		
\$ 30,000.00	001.1364.0400.0000 Expenses on Property Acquired	001.0001.0912.0000 General Fund Balance
<i>To allocate funds to cover the purchase of 138 Madison St. as approved by Resolution 25-72 on 3/18/25</i>		
\$ 8,260.00	001.1680.0403.0000 IT Contracts	001.0001.0912.0000 General Fund Balance
<i>To allocate funds for the new website approved by Resolution 25-62 on 3/18/25</i>		
\$ 135,000.00	001.3410.0101.0000 Fire Salaries	001.0001.0912.0000 General Fund Balance
<i>To allocate funds for the approved Fire Union Contract by Resolution 25-55 on 3/4/25</i>		
\$ 18,000.00	001.3410.0104.0000 Fire Holiday Pay	001.0001.0912.0000 General Fund Balance
<i>To allocate funds for the approved Fire Union Contract by Resolution 25-55 on 3/4/25</i>		
\$ 4,000.00	001.3410.0317.0000 Fire Clothing Allowance	001.0001.0912.0000 General Fund Balance
<i>To allocate funds for the approved Fire Union Contract by Resolution 25-55 on 3/4/25</i>		
\$ 10,000.00	001.8020.0400.0000 Planning Contracts	001.8020.0101.0000 Planning Salaries
<i>To re-allocate funds to cover planning consulting services</i>		

Ayes: 4
Nays: 0
Absent: (3) Laureti-Hitchings-Winchell
MOTION CARRIED

ADVERTISE FOR BIDS-WATER HYDRANTS

RESOLUTION 25-80

Moved by Councilor Simchik
Seconded by Councilor Pagano

RESOLVED, that the Purchasing Agent be authorized to advertise for bids for hydrants for the Water Department.

Ayes: 4
Nays: 0
Absent: (3) Laureti-Hitchings-Winchell
MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Pagano informed the public about the upcoming Inaugural Autism & Neurodiversity Expo hosted by BOCES on April 2 at North Broad Street School from 4:00–6:00 PM. Families attending can expect access to a variety of information and support resources.

WELCOME

World Autism & Neurodiversity Month is recognized throughout April and is dedicated to celebrating differences while increasing education and opportunities globally for all.

Madison-Oneida
Board of Cooperative Educational Services
Lead • Partner • Innovate • Excel

315-361-5897
ahopkins@moboces.org
moboces.org
230 North Broad Street
Oneida, NY 13421

INAUGURAL
Autism & NEURODIVERSITY
Ability.
Awareness.
Acceptance.
EXPO

April 2, 2025 4:00- 6:00 PM
North Broad Street Elementary School
Oneida, NY

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Pagano
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

Absent: (3) Laureti-Hitchings-Winchell

MOTION CARRIED

The regular meeting is hereby adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

CITY OF ONEIDA

Sandra LaPera, City Clerk