

**MINUTES OF THE COMMON COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**JUNE 17, 2025**

A meeting of the Common Council of the City of Oneida, NY was held on the seventeenth day of June 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>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Arrived Late</u>
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 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 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 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"/>		

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Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**     None  
**OLD BUSINESS:**        None

## REPORTS:

- Mayor's Report

Mayor Rossi expressed gratitude to everyone who participated in Saturday's Cops and Bobbers Fishing event at Mount Hope Reservoir. He gave special thanks to the Police and Fire Chiefs for their efforts in coordinating the successful event, noting that although he was unable to attend this year, he hoped to next year.

- Supervisor's Report

Supervisor Mary Cavanagh advised that last week the county had the Dedication Ceremony of Cascades Hall at Delphi Falls and encouraged all to visit. She noted that the facility is available to rent for a small celebration, meeting or event.

She also reported that the Housing Coalition for Madison County met last week to establish committees. Supervisor Cavanagh will serve on the Training and Education Committee, while Supervisor Roberts will serve on the Finance Committee. She advised that going forward, the committees will meet monthly, and the entire group will meet quarterly.

Supervisor Cavanagh announced upcoming events, including the annual Madison County Fair, scheduled for July 23–27 in Brookfield. Volunteers are needed, with a variety of shifts available; additional information is attached. She also highlighted Open Farm Day, taking place on July 26 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., which celebrates local farms and foods. Most area farmers will open their farms to the public, and the event continues to grow in popularity each year.

Lastly, Supervisor Cavanagh reported that Madison County will receive over \$550,000 in State matching funds due to taxpayer savings realized through shared services in 2022 and 2023. The qualifying shared services included Mental Health and Countywide EMS. She noted that this program is set to sunset in July and will no longer be available moving forward.

Supervisor Matt Roberts reported that sales tax revenue is up 6%. He emphasized that every sales tax dollar received by the City of Oneida remains within the City. He explained that the County acts as a "caretaker" of sales tax funds, retaining approximately 47%, while the remainder is distributed to various townships. This increase in revenue helps offset rising costs and contributes to maintaining a low tax rate. He noted that last year's tax rate increased by 2.49%.

Supervisor Roberts also addressed the increase in DMV traffic due to the Real ID requirement. He noted that while most DMVs now require appointments, Madison County continues to accept walk-ins. He commended County Clerk Mike Keville and his staff for managing the increased volume and long lines, adding that the DMV is generating more revenue for the County than it costs to operate.

Although not yet confirmed, Supervisor Roberts indicated that a DMV location in Onondaga County may be closing. If that occurs, he noted that the Madison County DMV will likely see an increase in traffic. Preparations are already underway to accommodate the potential influx of business. It was noted that whether business is conducted online or in person, the benefit is the same. Councilor Hitchings advised that the percentage is around 10%.

Mayor Rossi inquired about shared services. Supervisor Cavanagh clarified that the specific State program providing matching funds is sunsetting. However, Supervisor Roberts added that efforts

to identify synergies and improve efficiency will continue.

- City Manager's Report

City Manager Lovell thanked the Police and Fire Chiefs and all participants of the Cops and Bobbers event, noting the effort was deeply appreciated. He requested that his sincere thanks be conveyed to everyone involved.

- The following updates pertaining to the DRI were also provided:
  - Ed Riley gave an informative presentation at the last meeting regarding Hotel Oneida. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for June 18 to address potential demolition-related issues.
  - Survey work has begun for the AYSO soccer fields, pickleball courts, and the new splash pad. The project also includes streetscape improvements, with renovations anticipated to begin by the end of the year.
- City Manager Lovell reported that auditors from the State Comptroller's Office have been onsite for several weeks. No formal recommendations have been issued yet, but the City continues to provide any necessary support.
- City Manager Lovell provided an update on Oneida Plaza Drive, noting that several residents have raised concerns about the numerous potholes. Councilor Hitchings and her constituents have been active in advocating for resolution. The City has contacted the property owners multiple times, and a Compliance Order has been issued, requiring repairs by June 20. If the property owners fail to comply, the City will proceed with enforcement action.
- City Manager Lovell reminded residents to exercise caution and reduce speed when driving through areas where paving is underway. He emphasized the importance of taking extra time to ensure the safety of workers and the public.
- City Manager Lovell asked residents to be patient with green waste pickup, noting that paving projects are currently utilizing significant resources. He assured that crews will address green waste collection as soon as possible.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved by Councilor Hitchings  
Seconded by Councilor Pagano

**RESOLVED**, that the minutes of the regular meeting of June 3, 2025, are hereby approved as presented.

Ayes: 5  
Nays: 0  
Absent: 2 (Laureti/Winchell)

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **APPROVAL OF WARRANT**

Moved by Councilor Hitchings  
Seconded by Councilor Pagano

**RESOLVED**, that Warrant No. 12 checks and ACH payments in the amount of \$1,198,962.09 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 (Laureti/Winchell)  
**MOTION CARRIED**

## **MONTHLY REPORTS**

### **RESOLUTION 25-112**

Moved by Councilor Hitchings  
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

**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 (Laureti/Winchell)  
**MOTION CARRIED**

## **LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION-FARRIER AVE., LLC**

### **RESOLUTION 25-113**

Moved by Councilor Hitchings  
Seconded by Councilor Pagano

**RESOLVED**, to receive and place on the file the Standardized Notice Form for providing 30-Day Advance Notice to a Local Municipality or Community Board for a new application for a liquor license for Farrier Ave. LLC, d/b/a The Oasis Comedy Theatre, 125, 129 Farrier Ave.

Ayes: 5  
Nays: 0  
Absent: 2 (Laureti/Winchell)  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING-MADISON COUNTY**

**RESOLUTION 25-114**

Moved by Councilor Hitchings  
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

**RESOLVED**, to authorize the City Manager to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Madison County for an imbedded crisis worker to be deployed at the Police Department to facilitate use of such crisis worker within Oneida, as defined in the terms and conditions of the agreement.

Ayes: 5  
Nays: 0  
Absent: 2 (Laureti/Winchell)  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**AGREEMENT-MADISON COUNTY**

**RESOLUTION 25-115**

Moved by Councilor Hitchings  
Seconded by Councilor Pagano

**RESOLVED**,: authorize the City Manager to sign an agreement with Madison County, wherein the county intends to use grant money to purchase two laptop computers for use by the Oneida Police Department to assist in its continued collaboration with the County's Child Advocacy Center.

Ayes: 5  
Nays: 0  
Absent: 2 (Laureti/Winchell)  
**MOTION CARRIED**

## BUDGET TRANSFERS/AMENDMENTS

### RESOLUTION 25-116

Moved by Councilor Hitchings  
Seconded by Councilor Pagano

**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>		
\$ 20,000.00	002.8300.0319.0000 Water-General Maintenance	002.8300.0436.0000 Water Contingency
<i>To allocate funds for various General Maintenance needs in the Water Dept.</i>		
\$ 4,254.34	001.1364.0407.0000 Correction of Error	001.0001.0912.0000 General Fund Balance
<i>To allocate funds to pay resident for Court Ordered Correction of Error</i>		
\$ 9,375.00	001.1680.0403.0000 IT Contracts	001.0001.0912.0000 General Fund Balance
<i>To allocate funds for Cloudpermit installation (\$5000) and annual maint 6/1-12/31/25 (\$4375) Contratc approved on Res 25-110 on 6/3/25</i>		
\$ 53,000.00	001.3410.0408.0000 Fire New Hire Expenses	001.0001.0912.0000 General Fund Balance
<i>To allocate funds to cover the expenses associated with filling existing open positions</i>		
\$ 10,000.00	001.3410.0409.0000 Fire Equipment Repair	001.3410.0200.0000 Fire Equipment
<i>To re-allocate funds to repair existing equipment</i>		
\$ 20,000.00	001.3410.0114.0000 Fire Short Shift Overtime	001.0001.0912.0000 General Fund Balance
<i>To allocate funds to cover the expenses for required short shift staffing</i>		

Ayes: 5  
Nays: 0  
Absent: 2 (Laureti/Winchell)  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**APPROVE BID-LIQUID CAUSTIC SODA**

**RESOLUTION 25-117**

Moved by Councilor Hitchings  
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

**RESOLVED**, to approve the lowest bidder meeting specifications for Liquid Caustic Soda to JCI Jones Chemical Inc., 100 Sunny Sol Blvd, Caledonia, NY 14423.

Ayes: 5  
Nays: 0  
Absent: 2 (Laureti/Winchell)

**MOTION CARRIED**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Councilor Szczerba informed Police Chief Lowell of a constituent complaint about speeding on Main Street. Chief Lowell asked for a more specific location, noting the length of the street and that no current issues had been reported. Councilor Szczerba agreed to obtain further details and follow up.

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Hitchings  
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

Ayes: 5  
Nays: 0  
Absent: 2 (Laureti/Winchell)

**MOTION CARRIED**

The regular meeting is hereby adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

**CITY OF ONEIDA**

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Sandra LaPera, City Clerk



# Delphi Falls County Park

- Two-tiered waterfall part of the East Branch of Limestone Creek
  - Upper Falls - 54 feet
  - Lower Falls - 62 feet
- In 2018, Madison County purchased the 66-acre property through an extremely generous donation by Harold and Barbara Jones.
- The Jones Family purchased the land from the Allen Family, who lived there from 1959 - 2018.
- Prior to the Allen Family, the Antil Family owned the property after they purchased it in the 1930s. Some of their adventures are featured in *The Delphi Falls Trilogy* by Jerome Mark Antil.
- Delphi Falls County Park opened to the public on August 26, 2018.
- Since the purchase of the park, Madison County worked hard to make changes that add to the natural beauty of the area and allow all to access it.



## Phase I Upgrades

- August 2022 - August 2023  
Include:
  - Rim trail to Upper Falls
  - Parking lot
  - Restrooms
  - ADA Overlook of Lower Falls
  - Allen Family Bridge
  - Entrance Sign

## Phase II Upgrades

- August 2023 - June 2025
  - Multi-use facility (Cascades Hall)
  - ADA restrooms

## Rim Trail

- Three overlooks of the East Branch of Limestone Creek, and two waterfalls
- Length: 0.4 miles (one way)
- Elevation Gain: 160 feet
- Staircase steps to the top: 212

## Cascades Hall

- Facility is available to rent for a small celebration, meeting or event with an amazing view of the lower falls.



Address:  
2006 Cardner Rd.  
New Woodstock, NY 13122







# MADISON COUNTY FAIR NEEDS YOU!

*Fair Dates  
July 23-27*

## Join the Fun- Volunteer Today!

We're looking for energetic, friendly and community-minded individuals to help make this year's 2025 Madison County Fair a huge success!

### Volunteer Roles Needed:

- Event Setup & Cleanup
- Information Booth Staff
- Parking Assistance
- Contest & Exhibit Coordinators
- Hospitality & Guest Services & More

### Shifts Available:

- Morning
- Afternoon
- Evenings
- All shifts are flexible

## Sign Up Today

Email-[madisoncountyfair39@yahoo.com](mailto:madisoncountyfair39@yahoo.com)

Phone- 315-899-5867

**SCAN  
ME!**



### Why Volunteer?

- Be part of a cherished community event
- Meet great people
- Earn Community Service Hours
- It's FUN

**Let's make this year's  
fair the best one yet-  
with YOUR help!**



**NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF STATE ANNOUNCES OVER \$550,000 IN STATE MATCHING FUNDS  
AWARDED TO MADISON COUNTY AS A RESULT OF TAXPAYER SAVINGS ACHIEVED THROUGH SHARED  
SERVICES**

**State Approves Matches of Taxpayer Savings Generated Through the Implementation of Two Madison  
County-Led Projects in 2022 and 2023**

**Funding Provided Through County-Wide Shared Services Initiative**

**Secretary Mosley: "Madison County has taken advantage of the incentives provided by the County-  
Wide Shared Services Initiative and found ways to achieve long-term savings for its taxpayers."**

The New York Department of State today announced that Madison County will receive \$554,155 in state matching funds as a result of taxpayer savings achieved through shared services projects developed in 2022 and 2023. The funding was made available through the New York State County-Wide Shared Services Initiative, which provides a one-time state match of county and local government taxpayer savings achieved in the first year of implementation of new shared services projects. Additionally, these projects are expected to result in year-to-year municipal savings.

"Madison County has taken advantage of the incentives provided by the County-Wide Shared Services Initiative and found ways to achieve long-term savings for its taxpayers," said Secretary of State Walter T. Mosley. "Working to form partnerships that improve services and save costs for taxpayers is good governance, and I commend the County for its efforts."

As part of the County-Wide Shared Services Initiative (CWSSI), Madison County created Shared Services Plans in 2022 and 2023 that identified ways to consolidate services and save taxpayer money through government efficiencies in services and community programs.

The shared services implemented as part of these plans that achieved taxpayer savings are as follows:

**County Based Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Project – \$451,346 CWSSI Award**

This 2022 shared services initiative between Madison County and the Town of Sullivan reviewed the feasibility of county-wide emergency medical services. In 2023, the Towns of Hamilton and Lebanon were added. The program is underway with three stations operational.

**Shared Mental Health Services Counselors – \$102,809 CWSSI Award**

This measure provides mental health services for schools through the sharing of mental health counselors between Madison County, the Morrisville-Eaton School District and the Cazenovia School District.

Mark Scimone, Madison County Administrator, said, "These shared services projects not only save local tax dollars, they directly improve the lives of our residents. The county-based EMS program is helping deliver life-saving care in areas that don't have local providers, filling critical gaps in emergency response. By providing mental health counselors in our schools, we're ensuring our children have access to support right where they are. This is smart, collaborative government focused on meeting critical needs in our communities."

### **About The County-Wide Shared Service Initiative Program**

The County-Wide Shared Service Initiative program, which sunsets this year, has generated property tax savings by facilitating collaboration between local governments across the state. New York State has matched over \$40 million in one-year savings to local governments and taxpayers from over 100 shared services projects over the last five years. CWSSI expands on New York State's ongoing commitment to reduce property taxes and modernize local government services by fostering new shared services and enhancing the existing collaborations already in place.

The County-Wide Services Initiative is administered by the Division of Local Government Services at the Department of State. The Division provides training, technical assistance, and grants to local governments. For more information on CWSSI or any programs administered by the Division, please contact [localgov@doh.ny.gov](mailto:localgov@doh.ny.gov) or call 518-473-3355.