

**MINUTES OF THE COMMON COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**AUGUST 19, 2025**

A meeting of the Common Council of the City of Oneida, NY was held on the nineteenth day of August 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"/>	Former Mayor Helen Acker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fire Chief Scott Jones	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Police Chief Steve Lowell	<input type="checkbox"/>		

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Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

**PUBLIC HEARING:** A Local Law amending Section 190-26.2 E of Chapter 190, Titled "Zoning," of the Oneida City Code.

**OPEN PUBLIC HEARING**

**A LOCAL LAW AMENDING SECTION 190-26.2 E OF CHAPTER 190, TITLED “ZONING,” OF THE  
ONEIDA CITY CODE**

**RESOLUTION 25-147**

Moved by Councilor Hitchings  
Seconded by Councilor Winchell

**RESOLVED**, that the Public Hearing for a Local Law amending Section 190-26.2 E of Chapter 190, Titled “Zoning,” of the Oneida City Code be hereby opened at 6:31pm.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

**APPEARANCES**

None

**DISCUSSION:**

The City Manager briefly discussed the grant-funded form-based code update, which City Attorney Bell advised will be addressed in an upcoming local law.

City Attorney explained the purpose of this local law as follows:

- Reduce the maximum allowable height for wind energy structures to 200 feet, following concerns raised from a recent application that proposed an excessively tall structure.
- Require a geotechnical report to address structural and environmental safety concerns, also in response to issues from a previous application.

It was noted that wind energy has been a recurring issue of public concern. For this reason, the clarification was made to ensure the public and Council understood the local law being discussed. The matter has been referred to the Planning Commission for their review and comment. The Council will wait until the Planning Commission provides its referral back before taking any action.

**ADJOURN PUBLIC HEARING**

**A LOCAL LAW AMENDING SECTION 190-26.2 E OF CHAPTER 190, TITLED “ZONING,” OF THE  
ONEIDA CITY COD**

## **RESOLUTION 25-148**

Moved by Councilor Hitchings  
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

**RESOLVED**, that the public hearing on the proposed Local Law amending Section 190-26 E of Chapter 190, titled "Zoning," of the Oneida City Code, be and hereby is adjourned.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

### **REPORTS:**

Mayor Rossi:

- Thanked the Oneida Memorial Association for sponsoring the fireworks on Saturday, along with All Seasonings and the Oneida Savings Bank Charitable Foundation.
- Highlighted the conclusion of the Parks Passport program, which ran throughout the summer to introduce children to different park activities. The final activity featured archery with support from the Oneida YMCA.
- Commended the program as a success in engaging kids and families.

Supervisor Mary Cavanagh:

- Announced good news regarding the Daycare Assistance Program. Previously, expanded eligibility caused funds to run out, but additional funding has since been approved. This ensures working families who qualify can continue to receive help and remain employed.
- Reported on the recent Senior "Big Bang" event at Shetland Park on Oneida Lake, which was well attended and held on a beautiful day.
- Shared that the next senior event will be the Senior Information Fair at Theodore's on October 1st, with numerous vendors providing information and services for seniors. She will forward event details to the City Clerk to include in the newsletter.

Supervisor Matt Roberts:

- Attended a county planning meeting at Delphi Falls, the recently opened Madison County park. He praised the venue and noted it is a valuable new resource in the southwest corner of the county.
- Reported that a presentation by Kipp Hicks from the IDA emphasized projects in the City of Oneida, particularly the DRI and related initiatives, showing significant progress is being made.
- Noted that sales tax revenue is tracking 7.4% above last year, which could yield about \$3 million more than budgeted if the trend continues. Encouraged continued local spending.

- Shared that Empire Access, a Syracuse-based company, will be bringing fiber connectivity into the area. This should provide competition for internet/broadband. The expectation is that by December, it should be through Oneida and on its way to Munnsville. More information will be provided at a later date.
- It was noted that approximately 94% of revenues come from outside Madison County and are not within their control, often appearing at the last minute (“eleventh hour”).

City Manager:

- Reported that demolition of the Oneida project began on August 11th.
- Visits the site regularly and noted construction managers and Ed Riley’s team are enthusiastic. Work is progressing methodically, starting with targeted interior demolition and careful asbestos removal. Debris chutes are being installed, and dumpsters are already seeing repeated use.
- Anticipated a groundbreaking ceremony in late September or early October, with efforts to coordinate schedules with the Secretary of State.
- Announced submission of a \$1.2 million state grant request for a full refurbishment of exteriors, including a new marquee sign. Called it a major milestone for the City.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved by Councilor Hitchings  
Seconded by Councilor Pagano

**RESOLVED**, that the minutes of the regular meeting of August 5, 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. 16, checks and ACH payments in the amount of \$2,101,035.99 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 25-149**

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: 7

Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL-ORDER OF OWLS NEST 1606**

#### **RESOLUTION 25-150**

Moved by Councilor Hitchings

Seconded by Councilor Pagano

**WHEREAS**, the City of Oneida Common Council has received the standardized notice form from the New York State Liquor Authority regarding the intent to renew a liquor license for the premises known as the Order of Owls Nest 1606, located at 130 Vanderbilt Avenue, Oneida, NY 13421; and

**WHEREAS**, this notification is submitted in accordance with the requirements of the New York State Alcoholic Beverage Control Law;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Common Council of the City of Oneida hereby acknowledges receipt of the standardized notice form and directs that said notice be placed on file in the Office of the City Clerk.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

**RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE ONEIDA AFTERBURNER COMMITTEE TO OVERSEE THE F-16  
STATIC DISPLAY AND VETERANS FIELD MEMORIAL PROJECT**

**RESOLUTION 25-151**

Moved by Councilor Hitchings  
Seconded by Councilor Pagano

**WHEREAS**, the City of Oneida is in the process of revitalizing Veterans Field as part of its Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI); and

**WHEREAS**, the City is pursuing the acquisition and installation of a decommissioned F-16 fighter jet as a permanent static display to honor local veterans and enhance the significance of Veterans Field as a public memorial space; and

**WHEREAS**, the scope and significance of the project necessitate a dedicated advisory body to coordinate logistics, procurement, public engagement, and interagency collaboration; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 3.11 of the City Charter authorizes the City Manager, with approval of the Common Council, to appoint special committees for such purposes;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Common Council of the City of Oneida, that the Oneida Afterburner Committee is hereby established, with the following structure and charge:

1. Purpose and Duties
  - Soliciting and reviewing bids related to logistics, transport, mounting, and security for the static display;
  - Coordinating procurement and project implementation in conjunction with City staff and outside vendors;
  - Engaging the community through outreach, education, and ceremonial planning;
  - Providing regular updates to the City Manager and Common Council on project milestones, challenges, and funding;
  - Advising on long-term preservation, signage, and site enhancements;
  - Supporting fundraising and sponsorship efforts, where permissible, in coordination with an appropriate non-profit partner;
  - Carrying out any other activities deemed necessary to ensure the successful dedication of the F-16 static display.

2. Membership

The Committee shall consist of the following members:

**Chairwoman:**

- Helen Acker

**Members:**

- Peter Hedglon
- Mike Kaiser
- Jim Coulthart
- Joe Magliocca
- Andrea Hitchings
- Nick Fedchenko

**Ex Officio Members (Non-Voting):**

- Mayor Rick Rossi
- City Manager Kyle Lovell

**3. Duration and Sunset Clause**

This Committee shall remain active until the formal dedication ceremony of the F-16 static display at Veterans Field, at which point it shall automatically dissolve unless otherwise extended by the Common Council.

**4. Administrative Support**

The Committee may request administrative support from City staff, including meeting space, scheduling assistance, and document preparation, as approved by the City Manager.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City Manager is authorized to convene the first meeting of the Committee, and that the City Clerk shall maintain a copy of this resolution on file for public inspection.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED****DISCUSSION:**

- Council members discussed the formation of the committee, noting that it will report back to the Council with recommendations but will not have the authority to spend funds. Any expenditure, regardless of amount, must be approved by the Council.
- It was clarified that City employees will not be separately paid for site preparation; any such assistance would be part of their regular duties. Otherwise, site work should be completed through donations or contractors.
- Councilor Winchell emphasized that no taxpayer funds should be used for the project, with the intent being that costs will be covered by fundraising and donations from corporate sponsors, residents, and other supporters. He further stated that he fully supports the project, but not the use of taxpayer dollars to fund it.
- Estimated costs include approximately \$25,000 for transportation of the F-16 aircraft from Ohio. Additional costs will arise for engineering and construction of a platform. It was confirmed that the plane itself is being provided free of charge by the U.S. military.

Details on the F-16 (provided by former Mayor Acker):

- Single-engine fighter jet, known for speed, agility, and advanced capabilities.

- Introduced in 1974 by General Dynamics, later acquired by Lockheed Martin.
- Roles include air-to-air combat, air-to-ground missions, and electronic warfare.
- Capable of flying at twice the speed of sound (Mach 2).
- Dimensions: 49 feet, 5 inches in length; 32 feet, 8 inches wingspan.
- Weight: 19,700 pounds empty; 37,500 pounds fully loaded.
- The display aircraft will be empty and fitted with an internal armature running from tail to nose, bolted together for secure mounting.

Additional Notes:

- The 174th Division in Syracuse has offered support, which may reduce expenses.
- A full cost analysis will be brought back to the Council once numbers are finalized.
- Former Mayor Acker emphasized that the goal is to have all costs covered by donations, sponsorships, and fundraising, not taxpayer dollars.
- Former Mayor Acker will chair the committee.

**AGREEMENT-BOCES PRINTING SERVICES**

**RESOLUTION 25-152**

Moved by Councilor Hitchings  
Seconded by Councilor Pagano

**RESOLVED**, to authorize the City Manager to sign an agreement with Madison-Oneida Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES), 4937 Spring Rd., P.O. Box 168, Verona, NY 13478-0168 for printing services.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

**BUDGET TRANSFERS/AMENDMENTS**

**RESOLUTION 25-153**

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>		
\$ 875.00	001.3650.0400.0002 Demolition Protective Measures	001.0001.0912.0000 General Fund Balance
<b><i>To allocate funds for the expense of the temporary fence at 136 Madison St</i></b>		
\$ 15,000.00	001.1620.0402.0000 Telephones	001.0001.0912.0000 General Fund Balance
<b><i>To allocate funds for the phone replacement contract approved by Res #25-125 Dated 7/1/25</i></b>		

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### **A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE CITY OF ONEIDA DATA BREACH NOTIFICATION POLICY**

#### **RESOLUTION 25-154**

Moved by Councilor Hitchings

Seconded by Councilor Simchik

**WHEREAS**, New York State Technology Law § 208 requires all local governments to adopt a policy or local law relating to notification of affected individuals in the event of a breach of the security of the system; and

**WHEREAS**, the protection of personal and private information collected, maintained, or used by the City of Oneida is essential to maintaining public trust and compliance with applicable law; and

**WHEREAS**, the Office of the State Comptroller has issued guidance on breach notification procedures, and the City has developed a Data Breach Notification Policy that incorporates this guidance while tailoring it to the organizational structure, operations, and contracted information technology services of the City of Oneida; and

**WHEREAS**, this policy establishes definitions, internal reporting requirements, notification procedures, documentation standards, and prevention measures necessary to safeguard the personal information of residents, employees, and other individuals whose data is maintained by the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the Common Council finds it in the best interest of the City of Oneida to adopt and implement the City of Oneida Data Breach Notification Policy;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Common Council of the City of Oneida, New York, as follows:

1. The City of Oneida Data Breach Notification Policy, attached hereto and made part of this resolution, is hereby adopted as the official policy of the City of Oneida effective immediately.
2. All City departments, offices, employees, contractors, and vendors shall comply with the provisions of the Data Breach Notification Policy.
3. The City Manager is hereby authorized to make administrative updates to the policy as may be required to maintain compliance with state and federal law, provided that any substantive amendments shall be presented to the Common Council for approval.
4. A copy of this policy shall be maintained on file in the Office of the City Clerk and distributed to all department heads.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

**A RESOLUTION APPOINTING STEVEN M. VONDERWEIDT AS DIRECTOR OF PLANNING FOR  
THE CITY OF ONEIDA**

**RESOLUTION 25-155**

Moved by Councilor Hitchings

Seconded by Councilor Winchell

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the City Charter of the City of Oneida, the position of Director of Planning is an appointive office; and

**WHEREAS**, the City recognizes the importance of effective planning leadership to support the growth, development, and long-term vision of the community; and

**WHEREAS**, after reviewing qualifications, experience, and professional background, the City Manager has recommended the appointment of Mr. Steven M. Vonderweidt to serve as Director of Planning; and

**WHEREAS**, the Common Council of the City of Oneida concurs that Mr. Vonderweidt possesses the requisite skills, knowledge, and dedication to serve in this capacity;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Common Council of the City of Oneida, that Steven M. Vonderweidt is hereby appointed as Director of Planning for the City of Oneida, effective immediately, to serve in accordance with the provisions of the City Charter and applicable laws; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Clerk is directed to cause a copy of this resolution to be placed on file and made part of the official records of the City of Oneida.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

DISCUSSION: The City Manager acknowledged that many people are frustrated with the process right now, and rightfully so, and stated that he recognizes those concerns. He noted that Mr. Vonderweidt brings over 20 years of experience in the non-profit and higher education sectors, with expertise in grant writing, planning, and administration. He also holds an MBA from Louisville. The City Manager described him as a highly qualified professional and a personable individual and expressed confidence that his skills and background would be a valuable asset to the City.

**A RESOLUTION APPOINTING ANDREW CAMPANY AS WATER SUPERINTENDENT  
FOR THE CITY OF ONEIDA**

**RESOLUTION 25-156**

Moved by Councilor Hitchings  
Seconded by Councilor Pagano

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the City Charter of the City of Oneida, the position of Water Superintendent is an appointive office responsible for the operation, maintenance, and administration of the City's water treatment and distribution systems; and

**WHEREAS**, the City recognizes that strong leadership in the Water Department is essential to ensuring reliable service, regulatory compliance, and infrastructure sustainability for residents, businesses, and intermunicipal customers; and

**WHEREAS**, after reviewing qualifications, professional experience, and proven leadership abilities, the City Manager has recommended the appointment of Mr. Andrew Campany to serve as Water Superintendent; and

**WHEREAS**, the Common Council of the City of Oneida concurs that Mr. Campany possesses the requisite technical expertise, management skills, and dedication to effectively lead the City's Water Department;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Common Council of the City of Oneida, that Andrew Campany is hereby appointed as Water Superintendent for the City of Oneida, effective immediately, to serve in accordance with the provisions of the City Charter and applicable laws; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Clerk is directed to place a copy of this resolution on file in the official records of the City of Oneida.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

DISCUSSION: The City Manager stated that Andrew, an EIT engineer in training from Nelson Associates, has already proven to be a fantastic addition, noting that their loss is the City's gain. He described Andrew as a smart and capable young man who brings valuable experience and leadership to the table. The City

Manager further remarked that Andrew is working toward completing the requirements for his PE license and is expected to become a licensed engineer in the near future. He emphasized that Andrew will be a strong addition to the team and will also support the City's succession planning efforts.

**BOARD APPOINTMENT-TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD**

**RESOLUTION 25-157**

Moved by Councilor Hitchings  
Seconded by Councilor Pagano

**RESOLVED**, that the Mayor's appointment of Jennifer Bailey, 767 Lenox Avenue, Oneida, NY 13421, to the Traffic Safety Board is hereby approved, to serve a term expiring December 3, 2025, filling the unexpired term of Barb Buehner due to her resignation.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**DUE PROCESS HEARINGS**

**OPEN DUE PROCESS HEARINGS-WATER/SEWER BILLS**

**RESOLUTION 25-158**

Motioned by Councilor Winchll  
Seconded by Councilor Hitchings

**RESOLVED**, that the Due Process Hearings for Water/Sewer Bills be hereby opened at 6:56p.m.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

**DUE PROCESS HEARINGS-WATER/SEWER BILLS**  
**COMMON COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**109 N. MAIN ST. ONEIDA, NY 13421**  
**AUGUST 19, 2025**

The witness was sworn in by the City Clerk.

CUSTOMER NAME	PROPERTY ADDRESS	OWNER	ACCOUNT #	AMOUNT
Gail Lighthall		Same		\$1,032.80

**DUE PROCESS HEARING-WATER/SEWER BILLS**

Gail Lighthall

**RESOLUTION 25-159**

Moved by Councilor Hitchings  
Seconded by Councilor Winchell

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with Article XIX of the City of Oneida Water Department Rules and Regulations, titled "Termination of Service," the Common Council will, upon receipt of a written request submitted to the Water Superintendent, conduct a Due Process Hearing prior to terminating a customer's water service, **and**

**WHEREAS**, Gail Lighthall properly requested a Due Process Hearing before the Common Council to contest the Water Department's decision to terminate his/**her**/their water service, **and**

**WHEREAS**, a Due Process Hearing was thereafter timely held on August 19, 2025, by the City of Oneida Common Council, **and**

**WHEREAS**, Gail Lighthall **appeared** before the Common Council at the aforementioned Due Process Hearing, **now therefore be it**

**RESOLVED**, that the following action has been approved by the Common Council:

<b>NAME:</b>	<u>Gail Lighthall</u>	
<b>ADDRESS:</b>	<u></u>	
<b>ACCOUNT #:</b>	<u></u>	
<b>BILL DATES:</b>	<u>12/3/24 to 7/21/25</u>	<b>AMOUNT:    \$1,032.80</b>

**ACTION BY COUNCIL:**

EXTENSION GRANTED UNTIL	October 15, 2025	AMOUNT:	\$1,032.80
FURTHER GRANTED UNTIL		AMOUNT:	
FURTHER GRANTED UNTIL		AMOUNT:	
FURTHER GRANTED UNTIL		AMOUNT:	
FURTHER GRANTED UNTIL		AMOUNT:	
FURTHER GRANTED UNTIL		AMOUNT:	
FURTHER GRANTED UNTIL		AMOUNT:	
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,032.80</b>

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

**DISCUSSION:** Gail Lighthall reported that she has sold her property, with the closing scheduled for October 1. The City Attorney noted that, as closings do not always occur on the date anticipated, it would be prudent to allow for additional time.

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CUSTOMER NAME	PROPERTY ADDRESS	OWNER	ACCOUNT #	AMOUNT
Mary Smith		Same		\$170.00

**DUE PROCESS HEARING-WATER/SEWER BILLS**

Mary Smith

**FAILED TO APPEAR**

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**DUE PROCESS HEARINGS-WATER/SEWER BILLS**

**COMMON COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**109 N. MAIN ST. ONEIDA, NY 13421**

**AUGUST 19, 2025**

The witness was sworn in by the City Clerk.

CUSTOMER NAME	PROPERTY ADDRESS	OWNER	ACCOUNT #	AMOUNT
Vernon Howe III		Same		\$843.61

**DUE PROCESS HEARING-WATER/SEWER BILLS**

Vernon Howe III  
**RESOLUTION 25-160**

Moved by Councilor Simchik  
Seconded by Councilor Szczerba

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with Article XIX of the City of Oneida Water Department Rules and Regulations, titled "Termination of Service," the Common Council will, upon receipt of a written request submitted to the Water Superintendent, conduct a Due Process Hearing prior to terminating a customer's water service, **and**

**WHEREAS**, Vernon Howe III properly requested a Due Process Hearing before the Common Council to contest the Water Department's decision to terminate **his**/her/their water service, **and**

**WHEREAS**, a Due Process Hearing was thereafter timely held on August 19, 2025, by the City of Oneida Common Council, **and**

**WHEREAS**, Vernon Howe III **appeared** before the Common Council at the aforementioned Due Process Hearing, **now therefore be it**

**RESOLVED**, that the following action has been approved by the Common Council:

<b>NAME:</b>	<u>Vernon Howe III</u>		
<b>ADDRESS:</b>	<u></u>		
<b>ACCOUNT #:</b>	<u></u>		
<b>BILL DATES:</b>	<u>11/6/24 to 8/8/25</u>	<b>AMOUNT:</b>	<b>\$843.61</b>

**ACTION BY COUNCIL:**

EXTENSION GRANTED UNTIL	<u>October 1, 2025</u>	AMOUNT:	<u>\$843.61</u>
FURTHER GRANTED UNTIL	<u></u>	AMOUNT:	<u></u>
FURTHER GRANTED UNTIL	<u></u>	AMOUNT:	<u></u>
FURTHER GRANTED UNTIL	<u></u>	AMOUNT:	<u></u>
FURTHER GRANTED UNTIL	<u></u>	AMOUNT:	<u></u>
FURTHER GRANTED UNTIL	<u></u>	AMOUNT:	<u></u>
FURTHER GRANTED UNTIL	<u></u>	AMOUNT:	<u></u>
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$843.61</b>

Ayes: 7  
Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Howe advised that he has not been able to determine why his bill is so high and is still working on finding out what is causing the problem.

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CUSTOMER NAME	PROPERTY ADDRESS	OWNER	ACCOUNT #	AMOUNT
Christopher Rong		Jennie Panzica		\$424.80

**DUE PROCESS HEARING-WATER/SEWER BILLS**

Christopher Rong

**FAILED TO APPEAR**

**PUBLIC COMMENT – HOUSING ASSISTANCE CONCERN**

Resident (Sara Sims):

- A resident advised she was unaware of Council procedure and came to address homelessness for families in the city.
- Although the public comment period had already concluded, the mayor allowed the resident to speak.
- Reported she and her children have been homeless for two months and living in the park across from City Hall.
- Stated she has sought help from multiple agencies, including Madison County DHS, Syracuse, Utica, and Rome
- In response to a question from the City Manager asking if she had been to local support services, such as Church on the Rock, she advised she had been to the Salvation Army, Catholic Charities, Community Action, and Relief Resources, but has been turned away or told services are unavailable.
- Expressed frustration that services seem to favor individuals with substance abuse issues, while families receive little to no support.
- Noted she previously had employment and a vehicle but lost both; described traumatic experiences her children have endured during this time.
- Shared that she has been threatened with losing custody of her children due to lack of housing.

City Attorney:

- Acknowledged the residents' frustration and efforts to seek assistance.



- Clarified that the City of Oneida does not have jurisdiction or authority to provide housing or related services; such services are administered at the county level.
- Noted that city services are limited to infrastructure (e.g., water, sewer, street maintenance).

City Clerk:

- Asked the resident if she would provide her name and contact information in case a service could be identified.

Resident:

- Resident reiterated that she has exhausted charitable options without success and emphasized the lack of family-centered housing solutions.
- Provided her name as Sara Sims and that she could be found in the park across from City Hall.

### **CLOSE DUE PROCESS HEARINGS-WATER/SEWER BILLS**

#### **RESOLUTION 25-161**

Motioned by Councilor Hitchings

Seconded by Councilor Winchell

**RESOLVED**, that the Due Process Hearings for Water/Sewer Bills be hereby closed at 7:06p.m.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Hitchings

Seconded by Councilor Pagano

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

The regular meeting is hereby adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

**CITY OF ONEIDA**

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Sandra LaPera, City Clerk