

**MINUTES OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 10, 2024**

A special meeting of the Common Council of the City of Oneida, NY was held on the tenth day of September 2024 at 5:30 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"/> _____
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"/> _____

Call to order/Roll Call

WAIVE RULE TO ACCEPT AGENDA ITEMS

RESOLUTION 24-208

Moved by Councilor Hitchings
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

RESOLVED, that per Resolution 08-180 adopted by the Common Council on August 19, 2008, the provisions of the procedure to accept agenda items is hereby waived.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF WARRANT

Moved by Councilor Pagano
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

RESOLVED, that Warrant No. 18, checks and ACH payments in the amount of \$1,500 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

WAIVE RULE TO ACCEPT AGENDA ITEMS

RESOLUTION 24-209

Moved by Councilor Hitchings
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

RESOLVED, that per Resolution 08-180 adopted by the Common Council on August 19, 2008, the provisions of the procedure to accept agenda items is hereby waived.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

AGREEMENT-CHRIS HENRY CONSULTING SERVICES (PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT)

RESOLUTION 24-210

Moved by Councilor Hitchings
Seconded by Councilor Pagano

RESOLVED, that the City of Oneida Common Council does hereby authorize the Acting City Manager to sign an agreement, in a form approved by the City Attorney, with Chris Henry, with a mailing address of 109 Meeker Ave., Utica, NY 13502, for consulting services to be rendered in connection and to assist with those duties performed by and assigned to the City of Oneida Planning and Development Director for a period commencing September 11, 2024 and ending December 31, 2024, at a rate of \$100 per hour.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 2 (Szczerba/Winchell)

MOTION CARRIED

DISCUSSION: The Council briefly discussed the topics of pay and qualifications. Councilor Laureti proposed lowering the pay to \$75 per hour, but Mayor Rossi explained that the original rate had been \$140 per hour and was negotiated down to \$100 per hour. Councilor Laureti also suggested reducing the qualifications, expressing concern that the requirement of a master's degree might discourage potential applicants. Mayor Rossi acknowledged that this could be reviewed but noted uncertainty about the specific requirements for planning-related work.

Councilor Laureti raised the question of why County resources couldn't be utilized, to which Mayor Rossi responded that hiring a consultant was actually saving more money than working with the County would. Councilor Hitchings emphasized the urgency of addressing the matter, noting that delays were occurring, and Councilor Simchik concurred. While Councilor Szczerba acknowledged the necessity of the service, he expressed disagreement with the proposed hourly rate.

Motion to go into Executive Session by Councilor Hitchings

Seconded by Councilor Pagano

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

EXECUTIVE SESSION

RESOLUTION 24-211

RESOLVED, that the meeting is hereby adjourned to Executive Session at 5:30 p.m. for the purpose of interviewing a candidate for the City Manager position during which the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person, or matters leading to the appointment or employment of a particular person will be discussed, per Open Meeting Law section 105. 1.f.

Motion to invite City Manager Candidate, Abbey Woodcock, and members of the City Manager Search Committee to stay for Executive Session by Councilor Hitchings and Seconded by Councilor Simchik.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Motion to adjourn Executive Session by Councilor Winchell

Seconded by Councilor Simchik

RESOLVED, that Executive Session is hereby adjourned to the regular meeting at 6:14 p.m.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 (Mayor Rossi left early to attend PZBA Meeting)

MOTION CARRIED

Motion to adjourn Special Meeting by Councilor Simchik

Seconded by Councilor Pagano

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 (Mayor Rossi left early to attend PZBA Meeting)

MOTION CARRIED

The special meeting is hereby adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

CITY OF ONEIDA

Monique Ludwig, Deputy City Clerk