

**MINUTES OF THE COMMON COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 15, 2022**

A meeting of the Common Council of the City of Oneida, NY was held on the fifteenth day of February, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. at the Common Council Chambers, 109 N. Main, Oneida, NY 13421.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Helen Acker

<u>Attendees</u>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Arrived Late</b>
Mayor Acker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Councilor Reisman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Councilor Laureti	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Councilor Rossi	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Councilor Kinville	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Councilor Pagano	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>6:32pm</u>
Councilor Simchik	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> _____

Supervisors

Matt Roberts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mary Cavanagh	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Joe Magliocca	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Brandee DuBois	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Also Present

City Attorney Nadine Bell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fire Chief Dennis Fields	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
City Clerk Sandy LaPera	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Parks & Rec Director Luke Griff	<input type="checkbox"/>
City Engineer Jeff Rowe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Police Chief John Little	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Codes Director Bob Burnett	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public Safety Com. Kevin Salerno	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Comptroller Lee Ann Wells	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

MICHELLE BRACY-6062 Forest Ave., Oneida, NY

Mrs. Bracy advised that she was coming before Council to discuss the hill where she lived at 6062 Forest

Ave. in Oneida. She stated that a City snowplow recently swiped her car on the road in which she lives, noting that it was not done on purpose and that there was nothing that could have been done differently, but that it was because the hill on her road had not been salted properly. She stated that her concern is that someone will get hurt if the road is not properly taken care of and that it puts people at risk for ambulance, fire and police and anyone else who needs to get up and down the hill safely. She stated that they pay taxes, do not have City lights to maintain or sidewalks, and that all she was asking is that the plows salt better for the 5 months out of the year that it is needed.

KATHI BRACY-1581 Crescent Ave., Oneida, NY

Mrs. Bracy concurred with her daughter-in-law, Michelle Bracy, that the road is extremely dangerous 10% of the time and that the road is in terrible condition. She asked that the roads be taken care of the way that they should be.

FRED CIANFROCCO-4484 Seeber Rd., Canastota, NY

Mr. Cianfrocco stated that he was at the meeting to talk about the apartment inspections, noting that he had come to Council before, advising that the City cannot just go into apartments without being welcomed in by either the landlord or the people living there. He also discussed the fee, which he felt they should not have to pay for. He felt this should be covered by the taxes that are paid. He did not feel that the City of Oneida should be compared to the City of Oswego, who has a college, a lake or manufacturing. He questioned what was included in the inspection and questioned the labor involved in performing the inspections.

ROBERT BRITTON-P.O. Box 486, Oneida, NY

Mr. Britton advised that he was not a landlord, but was a citizen/taxpayer who was coming before Council regarding the Code inspection fees. He stated that if the Code Inspection fee is lowered to \$100, with the salary of the inspector per hour and the necessary time for paperwork, wear and tear on the vehicle, etc. they would not break even, noting that the taxpayers should not have to make up the difference on what cannot be made on the inspections.

SHARON/HAL STEVENS-Oneida, NY

Mr. Stevens spoke on behalf of himself and wife Sharon with regard to Code inspection fees, noting that he was not against a reasonable fee, but does not agree with the current fee structure. He mentioned the current inflation rate and that the salaries in the area do not support what the landlords have to pay for the inspections and repairs. He advised that he did not feel the 30-day time frame was reasonable, as they are having difficulty getting supplies and contractors to do the work within that time frame. The Mayor later commented on this, stating that the landlords who were having a problem getting materials and contractors to do the repairs should talk to the Codes Director, Bob Burnett and his group, and they would be able to accommodate for that. She noted that there are always extenuating circumstances and that she understood his concern. She advised that she has apartments as well and is in the same boat.

- Receive and Place on File a letter from resident Brahim Zogby, 114 East Sands St., Oneida, NY 13421

**OLD BUSINESS:** None  
**SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:** None

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION:** Code Inspection Fees

The Mayor asked if Council had made any determinations with regard to the fees and if they needed any more time to discuss this.

Councilor Laureti advised there were a few members that he believed were in agreement to compromise by lowering the first inspection fee to \$75.00. He stated that there would be a free re-inspection fee and that everything else would remain the same. The Mayor asked if all agreed, and Councilor Simchik stated that he was not. He felt that going down to \$75.00 would not be enough and suggested \$100.00. The Mayor asked Council if they would be ok with going to \$100.00, and Councilor Laureti stated that he would like to stay with \$75.00 and possibly re-visit this next year. Councilors Reisman, Rossi and Pagano agreed with Councilor Laureti. As the majority agreed, the Mayor advised that this would be put on the Agenda to be voted on at the next Council meeting on March 1.

Moved by Councilor Simchik  
Seconded by Councilor Reisman

**RESOLVED**, that the minutes of the regular meeting of February 1, 2022 are hereby approved as presented.

Ayes: 5  
Nays: 0  
Absent: 1 (Kinville)

**MOTION CARRIED**

Moved by Councilor Simchik  
Seconded by Councilor Reisman

**RESOLVED**, that Warrant No. 4, checks and ACH payments in the amount of \$1,976,166.58 as audited by the Voucher Committee are hereby approved for payment in the usual manner at the discretion of the Comptroller.

Ayes: 5  
Nays: 0  
Absent: 1 (Kinville)

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MONTHLY REPORTS**

**RESOLUTION 22-34**

Moved by Councilor Rossi  
Seconded by Councilor Pagano

**RESOLVED**, that Monthly Reports from the City Clerk, City Engineer, Codes Department, Comptroller, Fire Department, Parks and Recreation Department, Planning Department and Police Department are hereby received and placed on file.

Ayes: 5  
Nays: 0  
Absent: 1 (Kinville)  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**ADVERTISE FOR BIDS**

**RESOLUTION 22-35**

Moved by Councilor Reisman  
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

**RESOLVED**, that the Purchasing Agent be authorized to advertise for bids for Salt Shed Cover Replacement.

Ayes: 5  
Nays: 0  
Absent: 1 (Kinville)  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**AGREEMENT-NY URGENT CARE PRACTICE P.C.**

**RESOLUTION 22-36**

Moved by Councilor Reisman  
Seconded by Councilor Rossi

**RESOLVED**, to authorize the Mayor to sign a service agreement with NY Urgent Care Practice P.C., 7375 Oswego Road, Liverpool NY 13090 (WellNow Occupational Medicine) to provide occupational health services for the required DOT testing of CDL drivers.

Ayes: 5  
Nays: 0  
Absent: 1 (Kinville)  
**MOTION CARRIED**

DISCUSSION: The Mayor advised that Urgent Care was the only place in the area that provides this testing for CDL and that the hospital does not offer this service.

**BUDGET TRANSFERS/AMENDMENTS**

**RESOLUTION 22-37**

Moved by Councilor Simchik  
Seconded by Councilor Reisman

***2022 Budget Adjustments***

**RESOLVED**, to approve the following 2022 & 2021 Budget Amendment/Transfers

	<u>To</u>	<u>From</u>
\$ 1,000.00	001.8020.0400.0000 Planning Expenses	001.8020.0101.0000 Planning Salaries
<i>To reallocate funds for training expenses</i>		
\$ 1,500.00	001.3120.0102.0000 Police Overtime	001.0017.1525.0000 Police-BRIDGES OPD Compliance Checks

*To reallocate revenue received to cover the overtime used for the compliance checks*

***2021 Budget Adjustments***

Ayes: 5  
Nays: 0  
Absent: 1 (Kinville)  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**AGREEMENT-MATRIX COMMUNICATIONS**

**RESOLUTION 22-38**

Moved by Councilor Pagano  
Seconded by Councilor Rossi

**RESOLVED**, to authorize the Mayor to sign a Maintenance Service Agreement with Matrix Communications, 126 Dwight Park Circle, Syracuse, NY 13209 for the Wastewater Treatment Plant (phone service).

Ayes: 5  
Nays: 0  
Absent: 1 (Kinville)

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **APPROVE BID-CITY TREE STUMP REMOVAL SERVICES**

#### **RESOLUTION 22-39**

Moved by Councilor Simchik  
Seconded by Councilor Reisman

**RESOLVED**, to approve the lowest bid meeting specifications for City Tree Stump Removal Services to Big Earl's Stump Removal Inc., 216 E. Walnut Street, Oneida, NY 13421 for Contract year 2022, with Option year 2023 as the apparent low bidder for a maximum not to exceed \$15,501 and to authorize the Mayor to sign any and all agreements pertaining to this.

Ayes: 5  
Nays: 0  
Absent: 1 (Kinville)

**MOTION CARRIED**

**DISCUSSION:** Councilor Reisman inquired if this was done last year in house. City Engineer Rowe advised that the City did some of them with cooperation with the City of Sherrill, who had a stump grinder. They provided the equipment, and the City of Oneida employees did the cleanup. He stated that this was a "Pilot" Program that worked very well. The Mayor advised that they were able to take 13 stumps out in 4 hours, costing only 1.5 gallons of gas. She stated that there are approximately 75 more that need to be removed. The Mayor noted that although this worked well for small stump removal, we still need someone to do the larger stumps, and Big Earl's has the necessary equipment for this.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Councilor Reisman stated that he would like at some point in the future to re-visit the City Manager/Administrator position that had been discussed in the past. The Mayor advised that a Committee should be formed and that the Council could review the old minutes/notes and discuss it at a future meeting.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**RESOLUTION 22-40**

Motioned by Councilor Reisman  
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

**RESOLVED**, that the meeting is hereby adjourned to Executive Session at 6:56 p.m. to seek advice of Counsel.

Ayes: 5  
Nays: 0  
Absent: 1 (Kinville)  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Helen Acker, City Attorney Nadine Bell, Comptroller Lee Ann Wells, City Chamberlain Anna Hood, Councilors Gary Reisman, Steve Laureti, Rick Rossi, Bill Pagano and Tom Simchik

1. Discussion to seek advice of Counsel

Motioned by Councilor Reisman  
Seconded by Councilor Rossi

**RESOLVED**, that Executive Session is hereby adjourned to the regular meeting at 8:36 p.m.

Ayes: 5  
Nays: 0  
Absent: 1 (Kinville)  
**MOTION CARRIED**

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Reisman

The regular meeting is hereby adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

**CITY OF ONEIDA**

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Sandra LaPera, City Clerk