

**MINUTES OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 1, 2022**

A meeting of the Common Council of the City of Oneida, NY was held on the first day of March, 2022 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 Helen Acker

<u>Attendees</u>	Present	Absent	Arrived Late
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 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"/> _____

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"/>	Police Chief John Little	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
City Engineer Jeff Rowe	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Safety Com. Kevin Salerno	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Codes Director Bob Burnett	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Supervisor Mary Cavanagh	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Comptroller Lee Ann Wells	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Supervisor Matt Roberts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Prior to starting the meeting, the Mayor asked everyone to take a moment to say a prayer for the very difficult month that we had in February, both here in Oneida and globally. She asked everyone to keep the citizens of Ukraine in their prayers for their health and safety and to pray for President Putin to recognize what mistakes he has done and to stop them immediately. Locally, she asked that everyone pray for the Donaldson family on the loss of their child and grandson, our first responders, including our Police Department; our Fire Department; our County Sheriff's Department and our State Troopers, noting that their compassion during this situation was outstanding.

PROCLAMATION: American Red Cross Month

- Lisa Smith, Executive Director of the Central and Northern NY Chapter
- Pat Powers, Chair of the Madison County Advisory Committee
- Dan Hartman, Regional Communications Manager-Eastern NY Region

Proclamation

City of Oneida - Office of the Mayor

WHEREAS, the tradition of proclaiming March as American Red Cross month began in 1943 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and has continued throughout the years to recognize how the Red Cross helps people throughout the country and around the world, **and**

WHEREAS, each year for the month of March, the City of Oneida honors those in our community who dedicate their time through volunteer work, giving blood or making a financial donation to the Red Cross, **and**

WHEREAS, here in the City of Oneida, local families have relied on volunteers from the Central and Northern New York **Chapter for comfort and hope while coping with home fires and other local disasters. Volunteers have supported local families in other ways too by** providing lifesaving blood, teaching skills that save lives, and supporting military, veterans, and their families, **and**

WHEREAS, this lifesaving work is vital to strengthening our community's resilience. Nearly 200 years since the birth of American Red Cross founder Clara Barton, we dedicate this month of March to all those who continue to advance her noble legacy, **and now therefore**

I, **Helen B. Acker, Mayor** of the City of Oneida do hereby proclaim March 2022 as;

American Red Cross Month

in the City of Oneida, and I ask others to join in their commitment to care for people in need.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affix the official seal of the City of Oneida on this 1st day of March, 2022.

Mayor Helen B. Acker

The Mayor also acknowledged that our local Red Cross was very active and that they have a lot of blood drives, noting that one of the best ones we have is between the Police and Fire Departments, which is always very successful and thanked them for this.

PUBLIC COMMENT

FRED CIANFROCCO-(4484 Seeber Rd., Canastota)

Mr. Cianfrocco advised that he had sent a letter to members of the Council and wanted to confirm that they received it and that he gets a response and answers to this. He stated that he has concerns with inspections and what is supposed to be inspected, citing examples such as receptacles and paint. He stated that he would like more definition with regard to the rules and regulations that are supposed to be followed, as he feels it is not right that landlords have to have their apartments perfect but neighboring property owners do not.

The Mayor advised that she did not have the opportunity to look at his email, but assured Mr. Cianfrocco that he would get answers.

BOB BRITTON-(Munnsville)

Mr. Britton stated that he wanted to thank the Police Department, the Fire Chief, Detective Burgess, and Police Officers Tom Lenning and Tyler Witchley, who he felt deserved a standing ovation. He stated that he has never met more courteous, professional, understanding, polite human beings that were at his residence that day, and on behalf of himself and Virginia Britton, he wanted to express his heartfelt thanks. He stated that he has never been more proud to be part of a City as he was that day. He also thanked Councilor Michelle Kinville and her family (Ironsides Funeral Home), for all they did as well.

The Mayor agreed and thanked Mr. Britton for his words.

ANGELA VANLUVEN-(302 Boston St., Oneida)

Ms. Vanluven advised that she was present to speak about having a dog park. She requested that because the City owns the land where the old Alfred's used to be and that it is a lot bigger property, she feels it would be a better location-noting that she had been told that it was being put behind the Rec Center. She inquired as to whether or not this location was set in stone and if any of the grant money could be used for this. She stated that she would like to see obstacle courses as well. The Mayor stated that she would address this at a different time, but confirmed that the City does have a dog park and that the City was given grants by local charities prior to the DRI award. The Mayor confirmed the location and thanked Ms. Vanluven for her comments.

OLD BUSINESS

The Mayor encouraged all to visit the DRI (Downtown Revitalization Initiative) website at oneidadri.com where residents can submit ideas for potential projects under "Open Call for Potential DRI Projects" and then selecting *Open Call Document Here*. She stated that any ideas should be submitted and that we have gotten a lot of good ideas already.

The City's DRI application included many great projects, but additional potential projects will be accepted through March 21, 2022. The purpose of this Open Call for Proposals is to identify additional potential

projects that can provide economic and community development benefits.

The Mayor stated that the next meeting of the Local Planning Committee will be held on Wednesday, March 16 at the Kallet at 6:30, noting that it will also be streamed for anyone who would like to watch it from the website.

Moved by Councilor Reisman
Seconded by Councilor Kinville

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the regular meeting of February 15, 2022 are hereby approved as presented.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Councilor Kinville
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

RESOLVED, that Warrant No. 5, checks and ACH payments in the amount of \$710,872.05 as audited by the Voucher Committee are hereby approved for payment in the usual manner at the discretion of the Comptroller.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

REVISE FEE SCHEDULE-CODES DEPARTMENT

RESOLUTION 22-41

Moved by Councilor Kinville
Seconded by Councilor Reisman

WHEREAS, by Resolution 21-100, the City of Oneida Common Council at its June 1, 2021 Common Council meeting, unanimously approved a fee schedule for property inspections of residential rental units as follows:

All Residential

1. Fee of \$150.00 per unit (\$4.16 per month/per unit for 3 years)
2. First reinspection included in fee; each reinspection thereafter charged the same as initial inspection fee

3. A Certificate of Compliance will not be issued until the fee has been paid
4. All bills will be sent to the property owner; failure to pay will result in the bill being added to next year's property tax bill

No Show Fees

1. First Offense \$150
2. Second Offense \$150
3. Third Offense Order to Vacate, **and**

WHEREAS, after receiving comments and concerns from property owners affected by the increase in fees for inspections, the Council held a Public Hearing on October 5, 2021, to solicit public opinion on the changes implemented to the Code's Inspection Fee Schedule, **and**

WHEREAS, during the aforementioned Public Hearing, property owners unanimously spoke in opposition to the fee schedule adopted by Resolution 21-100 on June 1, 2021, **now therefore be it**

RESOLVED, that the following revised fee schedule for property inspections of residential rental units be hereby approved, effective immediately:

All Residential

1. Fee of \$75.00 per unit (\$2.08 per month/per unit for 3 years)
2. First reinspection included in fee; each reinspection thereafter charged \$150.00 per inspection
3. A Certificate of Compliance will not be issued until the fee has been paid
4. All bills will be sent to the property owner; failure to pay will result in the bill being added to next year's property tax bill

No Show Fees

1. First Offense \$150
2. Second Offense \$150
3. Third Offense Order to Vacate, **and be it further**

RESOLVED, that the Common Council does hereby further approve the reimbursement of fees, so as to reflect the revised fee schedule contemplated herein, to those property owners who paid the rental inspection fees that were adopted by Resolution 21-100.

Ayes: 4

Nays: 2 (Kinville/Simchik)

MOTION CARRIED

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING-CITY OF SHERRILL

RESOLUTION 22-42

Moved by Councilor Simchik
Seconded by Councilor Kinville

RESOLVED, to authorize the Mayor to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Sherrill to set forth the terms and establishment that Sherrill Power and Light will maintain the LED street lighting located within the City of Oneida.

Ayes: 6
Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

The Mayor stated that we have some new LED lighting downtown and throughout other parts of the City, advising that replacing the lightbulbs and making repairs needs to be performed by someone who is certified and that we do not have anyone with that certification. She advised that it is an expensive process to become certified, and it was cheaper to do an inter-municipal agreement with another municipality for this service.

NEW BUSINESS

Police Chief Little Letter

The Mayor asked Chief Little to discuss a letter that he recently received from the Mansion House. Chief Little stated that he received an interesting letter from Christine O'Neil, the Executive Director, about an item that was recently returned to them that was stolen back in 2002 when Chief Little had just started with the Police Department. The item was a marble bust that was taken from a graveyard. Chief Little stated that at the time, it was felt that kids might have taken it and expected it to turn back up, but it never did. He stated that this item was seen in a Hollywood movie, and a donor returned the bust to the Mansion House. He commented that although his office received the letter of thanks; it was citizens in the community who made this happen. The Mayor noted that this bust was "huge" and heavy!

Investigator Burgess-Fall Fest

The Mayor asked Investigator Mike Burgess to discuss the upcoming Fall Fest. Investigator Burgess advised that the Fall Fest held last year was a huge success and that they are in the planning stages for the event again this year, which he noted would hopefully become an annual event in the City. He stated that Elise Allen, who owned Oneida Commons and who coordinated the vendors and food trucks last year, had sold her business, and the City would be taking on a bigger roll this year. The event is scheduled for Saturday, October 1 from noon to 4:00 p.m., with a rain date of Saturday, October 8 for the same hours. He advised that they would be keeping the location the same, behind the Oneida Commons building, adjacent to Mott Street and Lynden Street. He stated that the Committee would be seeking Council

approval with regard to street closures, vendor licenses and permits, fees, etc. as time goes on and that the Committee would be meeting again the end of March.

Supervisor's Report

The Mayor asked if the Supervisors present had anything that they would like to discuss. Supervisor Roberts advised that they would wait until the next Council Meeting to provide a report; however, he did state that the County was no longer providing Covid numbers on the website, because the numbers were so small. He mentioned that he had been advised in a recent meeting that there were only 30 active cases in the County currently, and in a response to a question from the Mayor regarding masks in the schools, he advised that effective tomorrow (March 2), masks were no longer mandated in the schools.

Letter of Commendation-Investigator Kip Bailey

The Mayor stated that it was not often that she gets a letter from the District Attorney's office, and she wanted to share it. The letter shows what a remarkable Police Department the City has, and in particular, one of the Investigators-Kip Bailey, who was present in the audience. She advised that the letter was from Bob Mascari who is the Assistant District Attorney for Madison County, citing his appreciation and admiration for Investigator Bailey for his professionalism, compassion and commitment to his profession.

The letter stated that Mr. Mascari finds Investigator Bailey's investigations to be thorough, complete, timely and excellently done by one who consistently checks up on his cases and is ready, willing and able to meet with the victim and the victim's family. The letter provided an example of a successful investigation and prosecution of a person who was a predator, whereby Investigator Bailey started with a single victim and from there was able to identify multiple victims (5) who helped see the case to a successful conclusion at trial, noting that the defendant received a 40-year to life sentence, with a 55-year post release supervision and will no longer be able to be a predator.

Assistant District Attorney Mascari also stated that during the entire process, Investigator Bailey stayed in touch with the victims to encourage them and make sure they were doing all right. He attended every meeting that was held with the victims and their families, and he felt, without the slightest hesitancy, that the results would not have been possible without the efforts of Investigator Bailey. Mr. Mascari told the Mayor that Investigator Bailey was a credit to her, the Department, and to the citizens of Oneida and that they are extremely lucky to have him working for the City and for all those at Madison County, stating that it was his hope that he be considered for and receive any award or recognition offered by the Department for his work on this case. Investigator Bailey received a round of applause and thanked everyone, stating that he did this for the victims and could not have done it without the DA's office. The Mayor stated that every member of the Department was remarkable and that it was nice to be recognized for work well done. She thanked them for what they do, noting that it takes a special person to be a Police Officer.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

RESOLUTION 22-43

Motioned by Councilor Kinville
Seconded by Councilor Reisman

RESOLVED, that the meeting is hereby adjourned to Executive Session at 7:00 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter and to seek advice of Counsel.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

PRESENT: Mayor City Attorney Comptroller Councilors Police Chief John Little
 Public Safety Commissioner Kevin Salerno

1. Discussion was held regarding a personnel matter and to seek advice of Counsel

Motioned by Councilor Reisman
Seconded by Councilor Kinville

RESOLVED, that Executive Session is hereby adjourned to the regular meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Kinville

The regular meeting is hereby adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

CITY OF ONEIDA

Sandra LaPera, City Clerk