

**MINUTES OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 7, 2021**

A meeting of the Common Council of the City of Oneida, NY was held on the seventh day of December, 2021 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 Earl	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Councilor Laureti	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Councilor Coulthart	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Councilor Kinville	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Councilor DuBois	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>	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: Supervisor Matt Roberts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Councilor Elect Rick Rossi	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

PROCLAMATION: Honoring Oneida High School's 2021 Girls Varsity Tennis Team



Office of the Mayor

A Proclamation Honoring the Oneida High School's 2021 Girls Varsity Tennis Team

WHEREAS, the Oneida High School's 2021 Girls Varsity Tennis Team consists of 15 members, including 6 Seniors who began playing in 7th grade, 2 Juniors, 4 Sophomores, 2 Freshman and 1 Spanish Exchange Student, **and**

WHEREAS, under the direction of Coach Todd Hicks, whose record is 331-45 and who started as a JV Coach in 1998 and took over Varsity in 2002, hold an undefeated championship record of 18-0 that led them to the New York State Semifinals, **and**

WHEREAS, JV Coach Chris Meeker, who started coaching in 1998, was also very influential in the success of the team, **and**

WHEREAS, the team began preparing in the Spring for the New York State Semifinals by playing competitively, taking lessons, and practicing with the Boy's Tennis Team, which significantly contributed to their Fall success, **and**

WHEREAS, the Oneida Girls' Tennis Team was honored to play in their first-ever New York State Girls Tennis Team Championship that began on November 5, 2021 at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in Flushing, one of the world's largest public tennis facilities, **and**

WHEREAS, the City of Oneida and its residents are proud of the dedication and success of the Oneida High School's 2021 Girls Varsity Tennis Team and wish them the very best in their future endeavors, especially the seniors, who will be leaving Oneida High School as Champions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Helen B. Acker, Mayor of the City of Oneida, do hereby proclaim Tuesday, December 7, 2021, as

Oneida High School's 2021 Girls Varsity Tennis Team Day

I have hereunto set my hand on
This 7th day of December, 2021.

Helen B. Acker, Mayor

Prior to starting the meeting, the Mayor advised that there were 2 great, exciting things that happened for the City that she wanted to share:

1. Mayor Acker thanked Chief John Little from the Oneida Police Department and Assistant Chief Steve Lowell, who is a “terrific” grant writer, for his efforts in securing a \$150,000 grant from the Department of Justice. This initiative was awarded to rural law enforcement communities to help fight violent crime. The focus of the project is two prong- 1.) enforcement and engagement and 2.) improve environmental design to reduce crime in the City. Assistant Chief Lowell received a round of applause for his hard work and dedication.
2. The Mayor advised that through the efforts of the City’s Planning Department, Cassie Rose and Barb Henderson-who were the main people who put the Grant together, the City was awarded \$10M from New York State for the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI). She stated that she had just recently been notified and was unable to share the news until today (December 7). It was noted that this was the second attempt to get this award, with the first being 2 years ago. She also acknowledged the DRI Committee members who helped make this possible:

- Paul Marco
- Fred Meyers
- Stephen Butler
- Brett Bogardus
- Abbey Woodcock
- Jennifer DiGiorgio
- Robert Sullivan
- Jeanie Gleisner
- Jessica Locke
- Matt Roberts
- Scott Ingmire
- Luke Griff
- Michelle Kinville

A round of applause was given, with the Mayor commenting that it was nice to receive a grant that we didn’t need to match. The Mayor advised that although the City was awarded the grant, it is still a process, and the money would not be available right away. The State will send representatives to the City to meet with the Committee and fine tune things. They then will ultimately determine if all projects will be approved or if changes need to be made. She noted that there were 13 things that the City was looking to do that were included in the DRI application:

1. Revitalize Hotel Oneida
2. Historic Kallet Theatre Repairs & Renovations, Façade Repairs and apply to become a Level 1 NYS Qualified Production Facility (QPF)
3. Farm to Table Restaurant and Micro Brewery-5 story Devereaux Building Rehabilitation and upper floor Artist housing
4. Oneida Performance Pavilion
5. Dispatch Commons

6. Downtown Arts and Culture District Initiative to include: Arts & Culture Center, Spark Main Street Program, Historic Downtown Oneida Branding & Marketing Program, and establishing a list of local filming sites
7. Infrastructure Improvements for Historic Downtown area
8. 126-132 North Main Street and 134-138 South Main Street Historic Building Upgrades
9. Downtown Business Program
10. Downtown Murals Program
11. Enhanced Annual Arts & Entertainment Festivals-Mobile Stage, Screens, Sound System and Trailer for use in Clinch Park, Carinci Park and other Downtown Venues
12. AYSO Soccer Complex
13. Downtown City Park Upgrades

Councilor Earl also wanted to acknowledge and thank the people that are building businesses in the City already. There was discussion about the existing businesses, citing an example of Hotel Oneida and how the owner, Bob Sullivan, is part of the Committee. He is also looking at other options as well to help fund renovations.

PUBLIC HEARING

PUBLIC HEARING-LOCAL LAW NO. 13 OF 2021-IMPOSING A TWELVE (12) MONTH MORATORIUM ON THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF WIND ENERGY FACILITIES, WIND TURBINES, AND SMALL WIND ENERGY SYSTEMS OPERATION WITHIN THE CITY OF ONEIDA

RESOLUTION 21-217

Moved by Councilor Earl
 Seconded by Councilor Kinville

RESOLVED, that the Public Hearing for proposed Local Law No. 13 imposing a twelve (12) month moratorium on the construction and operation of wind energy facilities, wind turbines, and small wind energy systems within the City of Oneida is hereby opened at 6:45 pm.

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

MOTION CARRIED

APPEARANCES: None

PUBLIC HEARING-LOCAL LAW NO. 13 OF 2021-IMPOSING A TWELVE (12) MONTH MORATORIUM ON THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF WIND ENERGY FACILITIES, WIND TURBINES, AND SMALL WIND ENERGY SYSTEMS OPERATION WITHIN THE CITY OF ONEIDA

RESOLUTION 21-218

Moved by Councilor Kinville
Seconded by Councilor Earl

RESOLVED, that the Public Hearing for proposed Local Law No. 13 imposing a twelve (12) month moratorium on the construction and operation of wind energy facilities, wind turbines, and small wind energy systems within the City of Oneida is hereby closed at 6:45 pm.

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0
Absent: 1 (DuBois)
MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES-REGULAR MEETING

Moved by Councilor Earl
Seconded by Councilor Kinville

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the regular meeting of November 16, 2021 are hereby approved as presented.

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0
Absent: 1 (DuBois)
MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES-SPECIAL MEETINGS

Moved by Councilor Coulthart
Seconded by Councilor Earl

RESOLVED, that the minutes from the Special Meetings of November 8, November 9 and November 15, 2021 are hereby approved as presented.

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0
Absent: 1 (DuBois)
MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF WARRANT

Moved by Councilor Simchik
Seconded by Councilor Earl

RESOLVED, that Warrant No. 23, checks and ACH payments in the amount of \$2,107,940.08 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 (DuBois)
MOTION CARRIED

2022 CITY OF ONEIDA BUDGET

RESOLUTION 21-219

Moved by Councilor Kinville
Seconded by Councilor Earl

RESOLVED, that agreeable to the estimates of the expenses and disbursements for the year 2022 constituting the budget, including Capital Plan, for the City of Oneida, the same is hereby approved by the Common Council on the seventh day of December, 2021 as set forth in the minutes of this meeting; there shall be levied and raised on the taxable property of the entire city, not including pension, pastor and over sixty-five (65) exempt property as follows:

Total Gross Budget	\$ 25,935,488
Less estimated revenues	\$ 23,233,429
Taxable balance	\$ 5,096,110

Of which, \$2,687,005 shall be levied on the entire city establishing a tax rate of \$5.53456 per thousand and \$1,831,695 shall be levied on the corporation tax district at a rate of \$5.41237 per thousand; thereby establishing a combined rate of \$10.94693 per thousand inside tax district; **and be it further**

RESOLVED, that \$546,526 shall be levied and a rate of \$4.15395 per thousand shall be established for the outside fire district, **and be it further**

RESOLVED, that \$30,884 shall be levied and a rate of \$.071789 per thousand shall be established for hydrant tax, **and be it further**

RESOLVED, that the total tax levy for the City of Oneida 2021 budget is \$5,096,110.

Councilor Earl YES
Councilor Laureti YES
Councilor Coulthart YES
Councilor Kinville YES
Councilor DuBois ABSENT
Councilor Simchik YES

MOTION CARRIED

Deputy Mayor Simchik thanked the Council, Comptroller, City Clerk, Mayor and Department Heads for all of the hard work that went into the budget.

AUTHORIZE MEDICARE PART B REIMBURSEMENT PAYMENTS TO RETIREES

RESOLUTION 21-220

Moved by Councilor Earl
Seconded by Councilor Kinville

RESOLVED, that the City Comptroller be, and hereby is authorized and directed, throughout the period from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022, to reimburse the cost of Medicare Part B coverage to all eligible retired City Employees and eligible dependents, regardless of union or non-union affiliation, in accordance with the provisions regarding such reimbursement as set forth in the current contracts of CSEA, Inc., Local 1000 AFSCME and Oneida Paid Firefighters Association Local 2692, **and be it further**

RESOLVED, that the City Comptroller be, and hereby is authorized and directed, throughout the period from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022, to reimburse the cost of Medicare Part B coverage to all eligible retired City employees and eligible dependents, who retired prior to July 1, 2015, regardless of whether said retiree and any eligible dependent is enrolled in the City's Medicare Advantage & Prescription Program.

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

MOTION CARRIED

SCHEDULE COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLUTION 21-221

Moved by Councilor Kinville
Seconded by Councilor Earl

RESOLVED, that the Special Meeting to close-out the year of 2021 be hereby scheduled for Thursday, December 30, 2021 at 8:00am in the Common Council Chambers.

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0
Absent: 1 (DuBois)
MOTION CARRIED

LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION

RESOLUTION 21-222

Moved by Councilor Earl
Seconded by Councilor Kinville

WHEREAS, at a Regular Common Council Meeting on April 20, 2021, by Resolution 21-74, the Common Council approved to Receive and Place on File a Standardized Notice Form for providing 30-Day Advanced Notice to a Local Municipality or Community Board for the filing of a new application for an On-Premises Alcoholic Beverage License by Kara Hatch, DBA the Blend, 105 Main Street Oneida, **and**

WHEREAS, Kara Hatch has changed the name and location of her business to Blend Oneida LLC, 111 Main Street Oneida and is submitting a new application to the New York State Liquor Authority reflecting the changes; **now therefore be it**

RESOLVED, to Receive and Place on File the Standardized Notice Form for providing 30-Day Advanced Notice to a Local Municipality or Community Board for the filing of a new application for an On-Premises Alcoholic Beverage License by Blend Oneida LLC, 111 Main Street Oneida.

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0
Absent: 1 (DuBois)
MOTION CARRIED

The City Clerk advised that The Blend had previously provided notification, but since they have changed their name and location, they were advising the City of the new application being submitted to the State.

CONTRACT EXTENSION-HELMER'S COMPLETE TREE SERVICE

RESOLUTION 21-223

Moved by Councilor Kinville
Seconded by Councilor Earl

WHEREAS, on November 2, 2020, pursuant to Resolution 20-188, the Purchasing Agent was authorized to advertise for bids for the year 2021 for City Tree Trimming and Removal Services, City Stump Removal and City Tree Arborist Service, **and**

WHEREAS, on June 1, 2021, by Resolution 21-98, Oneida Common Council approved the lowest bid meeting specifications for 2021 City Tree Services in the amount of \$52,235.00 from Helmer's Complete Tree Service, PO Box 122, Durhamville, NY 13054, **and**

WHEREAS, the terms of the Contract included an option for year 2022 if mutually agreed upon by both parties in the 4th quarter of 2021, **now therefor be it**

RESOLVED, that the Common Council, upon recommendation by the City Engineer, does desire to enter into the option year for 2022 as contemplated in the Contract, and does hereby authorize the Mayor to sign a 1-year Contract Extension with Helmer's Complete Tree Service, PO Box 122, Durhamville, NY 13054.

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

MOTION CARRIED

In response to a question from Councilor Coulthart regarding the amount included, City Engineer Rowe advised that this extends the contract for Calendar Year 2022 at the bid prices that they originally bid on. He advised that they would do the work in 2022 with available funding. City Engineer Rowe noted that they have done a very good job, are very responsive and conscientious with cleanup. He has had positive feedback from the community as well.

BUDGET TRANSFERS/AMENDMENTS

RESOLUTION 21-224

Moved by Councilor Earl
Seconded by Councilor Kinville

RESOLVED, to approve the following 2021 Budget Transfers/Amendments:

	<u>To</u>	<u>From</u>
\$ 23,356.77	003.8110.0412.0000	003.0003.0912.0000
	Madison County Landfill	Sewer Fund Balance
<i>To allocate funds for September & October biosolids invoice</i>		

Ayes: 4
Nays: 0
Abstain: 1 (Coulthart)
Absent: 1 (DuBois)
MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

RESOLUTION 21-225

Moved by Kinville
Seconded by Earl

RESOLVED, that the meeting is hereby adjourned to Executive Session at 6:54 p.m. to discuss a personnel issue.

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0
Absent: 1 (DuBois)
MOTION CARRIED

PRESENT: Mayor, Councilor Earl, Councilor Laureti, Councilor Coulthart, Councilor Kinville
Councilor Simchik

1. Discussion on a personnel matter

Motioned by Councilor Kinville
Seconded by Councilor Coulthart

RESOLVED, that Executive Session is hereby adjourned to the regular meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0
Absent: 1 (DuBois)
MOTION CARRIED
Motion to adjourn by Councilor Kinville

The regular meeting is hereby adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

CITY OF ONEIDA

Sandra LaPera, City Clerk