MINUTES OF THE COMMON COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 17, 2023

A meeting of the Common Council of the City of Oneida, NY was held on the seventeenth day of January 2023 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

Attendees	Present	Absent	Arrived Late
Mayor Acker	\boxtimes		
Councilor Szczerba	\boxtimes		
Councilor Laureti	\boxtimes		
Councilor Rossi		\boxtimes	
Councilor Kinville	\boxtimes		
Councilor Pagano	\boxtimes		
Councilor Simchik	\boxtimes		
Supervisors			
Matt Roberts			
Mary Cavanagh	\boxtimes		
Joe Magliocca		\boxtimes	
Brandee DuBois		\boxtimes	
Also Present			
City Attorney Nadine Bell		nief Dennis Fields	S 🖂
City Clerk Sandy LaPera		Chief John Little	
City Engineer Jeff Rowe	□ Public	Public Safety Com. Kevin Salerno	
Codes Director Bob Burnett			
Comptroller Lee Ann Wells			

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

PUBLIC COMMENT

RANDY JONES-521 WEST ELM STREET, ONEIDA

Mr. Jones provided Council and the Mayor with a handout containing information pertaining to his offer

to purchase property located at 513 West Elm Street. Mr. Jones advised that he was not present because he was turned down to purchase the house, but rather because of a discerning comment made during that meeting, the lack of transparency and a decision that, in his opinion, sets rehabilitation back seven years.

From that meeting, he heard that it was not about neighbors and neighborhoods, but rather the process and what is fair and right.

Mr. Jones stated that he feels the decision to sell outright or through auction should be on a case-by-case basis, based on compelling information provided by potential buyers, and if the Council cannot reach a majority vote, then it should be done through auction. He stated that homes are purchased all the time based on public notice, advertising through realtors and yard signs, as the City has done in the past. Mr. Jones commented on what he felt was "fair" to include allowing purchasers to increase their purchase offer if there are multiple offers, offering opportunities to residents of the City of Oneida before non-residents, which, in his opinion, is a genuine chance for a genuine commitment and quality outcome, and accepting reasonable offers from builders and do-it-yourselfers with a proven track record of turning undesirable properties into quality homes and businesses, noting that playing it safe was not fair or expecting market value for unsafe and disintegrating properties. He advised that he was disappointed that process is placed over neighbors.

Mr. Jones concluded his comment time by asking a rhetorical question, asking if he had offered \$40,000, which represents the market value of the property, would he be present today.

JOHN LITTLE, POLICE CHIEF, CITY OF ONEIDA

Police Chief Little spoke to all present, stating that his retirement was a tough decision that he wanted to make while he was healthy and young enough and able to meet some of the goals that he has wanted to make in his life. He stated that he loves Oneida and wanted to thank the Mayor for her support, Commissioner Salerno and Council for their support, and asked that they continue to support the Police Department.

Chief Little also included the Department Heads and countless other employees he has worked with, stating that he is honored to be in their company. He thanked his family especially, and the men and women of the Police Department that have gone above and beyond for the City, noting that he would not have had half of his success without them. He asked that everyone keep them in their thoughts and prayers.

Chief Little received a standing ovation and round of applause, as well as a special thank you and appreciation from the Mayor. She stated that it has been a real pleasure working with Chief Little over the years and that his class and compassion shines. She wished him well in his retirement.

BRAHIM ZOGBY-114 E. SANDS STREET, ONEIDA

Mr. Zogby addressed Council with comments pertaining to bonding to pay for routine matters, some of which have not been addressed in 30 years, including sidewalks in the City. He stated that sidewalks can be life blood for cities that connect people and places, noting the City is spending \$10M going forward toward downtown, but we need to get people downtown.

He asked Council to take a pause before borrowing money to fix a problem that is going to be recurring over and over again. He would like a comprehensive plan developed to fix the sidewalks in the City once and for all people. He advised that currently, the City would borrow money to fix places where trees have uprooted sidewalks, patch them, and then the homeowner would need to decide if they want to replace their sidewalk. He noted that if they don't or if they can't, we would go to the next sidewalk where someone has paid for the 50/50 Program, and there would be another tree, and next year, money would need to be borrowed again. He discussed the 50/50 Program and feels this is an opportunity for Council to put together a 3-5 year proposal to bring money in, including grants, and come up with a long-term solution and think before they vote.

OLD BUSINESS

None

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Supervisor Cavanagh advised that they had their first meeting of the year and had their committee assignments, announcing that Supervisor Matt Roberts is now the Vice Chair of the County underneath John Becker, the first ever from the City of Oneida, which is an honor. He will also remain Chair of the Finance Committee, and she will be Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee and continue to be a Government Operations Vice Chair as well, noting that Oneida is well represented at the County level.

Supervisor Roberts stated that sales tax is above their budgeted number and above last year significantly. He stated that Supervisor DuBois also is a Vice Chair on some committees and is taking more of a leadership role. He also advised that Supervisor Magliocca was instrumental in getting the rural broadband brought and continues to be on that committee. He stated that they are working on more ways to be more efficient in government, and the team they have at the county is starting to get into leadership positions where they can really make a difference.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Councilor Kinville Seconded by Councilor Simchik

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the regular meeting of January 3, 2023, are hereby approved as presented.

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Absent: 1 (Rossi)

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF WARRANT

Moved by Councilor Kinville Seconded by Councilor Pagano

RESOLVED, that Warrant No. 2, checks and ACH payments in the amount of \$1,694,456.12 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 (Rossi)

MOTION CARRIED

WAIVE RULE TO ACCEPT AGENDA ITEMS

RESOLUTION 23-11

Moved by Councilor Kinville 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: 5 Nays: 0

Absent: 1 (Rossi)

MOTION CARRIED

RECEIVE/FILE CORRESPONDENCE

RESOLUTION 23-12

Moved by Councilor Kinville Seconded by Councilor Simchik

RESOLVED, to receive and place on file correspondence from the following individuals regarding annexation of territory from the City of Oneida.

Ed and Shawn Chase
 Jason Munger
 Randy and Cynthia Bonville
 Ed and Shawn Chase
 228 Daniels Dr. Wampsville
 217 Daniels Dr. Wampsville
 115 Daniels Dr. Wampsville

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Absent: 1 (Rossi)

MOTION CARRIED

MONTHLY REPORTS

RESOLUTION 23-13

Moved by Councilor Simchik Seconded by Councilor Kinville

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 (Rossi)

MOTION CARRIED

AGREEMENT-BRIDGES

RESOLUTION 23-14

Moved by Councilor Simchik Seconded by Councilor Kinville

RESOLVED, to authorize the Mayor to sign an agreement with BRiDGES, a/k/a Madison County Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, Inc., P.O. Box 389, Oneida, NY 13421, for the 2023 Employee Assistance Program.

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Absent: 1 (Rossi)

MOTION CARRIED

ADOPT LOCAL LAW-AMEND CHAPTER 129 OF THE ONEIDA CITY CODE

RESOLUTION 23-15

Moved by Councilor Kinville Seconded by Councilor Simchik

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of the Municipal Home Rule Law, a proposed local law titled "A Local Law to Amend Chapter 129 of the Oneida City Code" was presented and introduced at a Regular Meeting of the Common Council of the City of Oneida held on December 20, 2022; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on such proposed local law on January 3, 2023 and by the Common Council of the City of Oneida and proof of publication of notice of such public hearing, as required by law, having been submitted and filed, and all persons desiring to be heard in connection with said proposed local law having been heard, and said proposed local law having been in the possession of the members of the Common Council of the City of Oneida in its final form in the manner required by Section 20 of the Municipal Home Rule of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, the enactment of the Proposed Local Law has previously been determined to be an Unlisted action for purposes of environmental review under SEQRA and will have no significant effect on the environment thus concluding the SEQR process;

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest to enact said Proposed Local Law.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is

RESOLVED that the Common Council of the City of Oneida, Madison County, New York, does hereby enact a Local Law as follows:

"CITY OF ONEIDA

LOCAL LAW OF 2023

A LOCAL LAW TO AMEND CHAPTER 129 OF THE ONEIDA CITY CODE

Be it enacted by the Common Council of the City of Oneida, that this local law amends Chapter 122 of the Oneida City Code, as follows:

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY.

This local law is enacted pursuant to the New York State Constitution and New York Municipal Home Rule Law §10.

SECTION 2.

So that Section 129-6 of the Oneida City Code, titled "Subject matter list," is hereby deleted in its entirety.

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Local Law shall be effective upon filing with the office of the Secretary of State."

Councilor Szczerba:

YES

Councilor Laureti:

YES

Councilor Rossi:

ABSENT

Councilor Kinville:

YES

Councilor Pagano:

YES YES

Councilor Simchik: **MOTION CARRIED**

DISCUSSION: City Attorney Bell explained that Chapter 129 of the Oneida City Code addresses Records, specifically §129-6, "Subject Matter List" that requires the City Attorney and the City Clerk to keep an updated list of every single record they have for the City of Oneida, which under Foil would include every email which is considered a record, that needs to be updated twice a year. She stated that there is no legal obligation to do this under State law, and she did not know why there would be an obligation to keep a running list of every single record maintained, which would be a task of monumental proportions, advising that because there is no legal obligation to do this, it is recommended that the language be removed.

Attorney Bell stated that it is better to take this out than have a Local Law that we cannot in good, clear conscience comply with.

AMUSEMENT DEVICE LICENSE APPLICATION-PEPI'S PIZZA

RESOLUTION 23-16

Moved by Councilor Kinville Seconded by Councilor Simchik

> RESOLVED, to approve the Amusement Device License Application from Pepi's Pizza, for machines located at 228 Genesee Street, Oneida, NY 13421 for 2023.

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Absent: 1 (Rossi) **MOTION CARRIED**

BOND RESOLUTION-AUTHORIZE IMPROVEMENTS TO SIDEWALKS

RESOLUTION 23-17 TABLED

Moved by Councilor Kinville Seconded by Councilor Simchik

BOND RESOLUTION DATED JANUARY 17, 2023.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING IMPROVEMENTS TO SIDEWALKS, IN AND FOR THE CITY OF ONEIDA, MADISON COUNTY, NEW YORK, AT A MAXIMUM ESTIMATED COST OF \$256,000, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT EXCEEDING \$256,000 BONDS OF SAID CITY TO PAY THE COST THEREOF.

BE IT RESOLVED by the affirmative vote of not less than two thirds of the total voting strength of the Common Council of the City of Oneida, Madison County, New York (the "City"), as follows:

Section 1. Improvements to sidewalks, including tree removal as well as landscaping and other improvements and costs incidental thereto, in and for the City of Oneida, Madison County, New York, is hereby authorized at a maximum estimated cost of \$256,000.

Section 2. The plan for the financing of such maximum estimated cost is by the issuance of not to exceed \$256,000 bonds of said City hereby authorized to be issued therefor pursuant to the provisions of the Local Finance Law.

Section 3. It is hereby determined that the period of probable usefulness of the aforesaid class of objects purposes is ten years, pursuant to subdivision 24 of paragraph a of Section 11.00 of the Local Finance Law.

Section 4. The faith and credit of said City of Oneida, Madison County, New York, are hereby irrevocably pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds as the same respectively become due and payable. An annual appropriation shall be made in each year sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such bonds becoming due and payable in such year. To the extent not paid from other sources, there shall annually be levied on all the taxable real property of said City, a tax sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such bonds as the same become due and payable.

Subject to the provisions of the Local Finance Law, the power to authorize the issuance of and to sell bond anticipation notes in anticipation of the issuance and sale of the bonds herein authorized, including renewals of such notes, is hereby delegated to the City Comptroller, the chief fiscal officer. Such notes shall be of such terms, form and contents, and shall be sold in such manner, as may

be prescribed by said City Comptroller, consistent with the provisions of the Local Finance Law.

Section 6. All other matters except as provided herein relating to the bonds herein authorized including the date, denominations, maturities and interest payment dates, within the limitations prescribed herein and the manner of execution of the same, including the consolidation with other issues, and also the ability to issue bonds with substantially level or declining annual debt service, shall be determined by the City Comptroller, the chief fiscal officer of such City. Such bonds shall contain substantially the recital of validity clause provided for in Section 52.00 of the Local Finance Law, and shall otherwise be in such form and contain such recitals, in addition to those required by Section 51.00 of the Local Finance Law, as the City Comptroller shall determine consistent with the provisions of the Local Finance Law.

Section 7. The validity of such bonds and bond anticipation notes may be contested only if:

- Such obligations are authorized for an object or purpose for which said City is not authorized to expend money, or
- The provisions of law which should be complied with at the date of publication of this resolution are not substantially complied with,

and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of such publication, or

3) Such obligations are authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution.

Section 8. This resolution shall constitute a statement of official intent for purposes of Treasury Regulations Section 1.150-2. Other than as specified in this resolution, no monies are, or are reasonably expected to be, reserved, allocated on a long-term basis, or otherwise set aside with respect to the permanent funding of the object or purpose described herein.

Section 9. This resolution, which takes effect immediately upon the final passage thereof, shall be published in summary form in the official newspaper of said City for such purpose, together with

a notice of the City Clerk in substantially the form provided in Section 81.00 of the Local Finance Law.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call, which resulted as follows:

VOTING	-
VOTING	
	VOTING VOTING VOTING

The resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

<u>DISCUSSION:</u> Councilor Szczerba thought what Mr. Zogby proposed made sense and discussed having a separate line number whereby each resident contributes a certain amount each year to cover this expense rather than bonding might be an option and asked that this be tabled to allow more time to look into this. Councilor Kinville stated that she had no objection to tabling it as long as something gets done. Council agreed that they would like more time to discuss the Sidewalk Replacement Program and other possible options for funding. The Mayor advised that a meeting needs to take place to discuss this further.

Motion to table by Councilor Kinville Seconded by Councilor Simchik

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Absent: 1 (Rossi)
MOTION TABLED

CAPITAL PROJECT 23-6

<u>DISCUSSION</u>: Council voted to **pull** Capital Project 23-6, Sidewalk Replacement Program, from the Agenda to be addressed at a later date, as the bonding for said project was tabled.

Motion to remove Agenda Item No. 6 (Capital Project 23-6) by Councilor Kinville Seconded by Councilor Pagano

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Absent: 1 (Rossi)

MOTION CARRIED

LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION-WILLIAM DI PAOLO INC.

RESOLUTION 23-18

Moved by Councilor Kinville Seconded by Councilor Simchik

RESOLVED, that the Standardized Notice Form for providing 30-Day Advanced Notice to a Local Municipality or Community Board for filing a new application for an On-Premises Alcoholic Beverage License by William Di Paolo Inc., 159 Main Street, Oneida, NY 13421 (Kallet Civic Center) be hereby received and placed on file **and be it further**

RESOLVED, that the 30-day advance notice requirements as may be set forth by the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law be hereby waived.

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Absent: 1 (Rossi)

MOTION CARRIED

BUDGET TRANSFER/WATER FUND

RESOLUTION 23-19

Moved by Councilor Kinville Seconded by Councilor Simchik

WHEREAS, by Resolution duly adopted on April 7, 1992, the City has established a Capital Reserve Fund to finance the cost of construction or reconstruction of water treatment and transmission facilities, pursuant to General Municipal Law, Section 6-c, **and**

WHEREAS, pursuant to said Resolution, the City Comptroller has deposited monies of this reserve fund in a separate bank account known as the Water Reserve Fund, **now therefore be it**

RESOLVED, that the City Comptroller is hereby authorized to transfer \$125,486.35 from the Water Fund to the Water Reserve Fund.

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Absent: 1 (Rossi)

MOTION CARRIED

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING-CITY ATTORNEY

RESOLUTION 23-20

Moved by Councilor Kinville Seconded by Councilor Simchik

RESOLVED, to authorize the Mayor to sign a Memorandum of Understanding by and between the City of Oneida and Nadine C. Bell for service and compensation as the attorney for the City of Oneida for the term ending December 31, 2023.

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Absent: 1 (Rossi)

MOTION CARRIED

BUDGET TRANSFERS/AMENDMENTS

RESOLUTION 23-21

Moved by Councilor Kinville Seconded by Councilor Pagano

20	023 Budget Adjustn	<u>To</u> nents		<u>From</u>
20	022 Budget Adjustn	nents		
\$	54,500.00	002.8300.0101.0000 Water Salaries	\$ 19,500.00	002.8300.0302.0000 Water Equip Maint & Repair
			\$ 22,900.00	002.9060.0805.0000 Water Health Insurance

		\$ 12,100.00	002.8300.0431.0000 Water Taxes
\$ 1,500.00	002.8300.0102.0000 Water Overtime		002.9010.0806.0000 Water Retirement
\$ 2,400.00	002.9030.0801.0000 Water Social Security		002.9010.0806.0000 Water Retirement
\$ 555.00	002.9035.0802.0000 Water Medicare		002.9010.0806.0000 Water Retirement
\$ 41.00	001.1315.0101.0000 Comptroller Salaries	ĕ	001.1315.0404.0000 Fiscal Bonding Fees
\$ 27.00	001.1325.0101.0000 Chamberlain Salaries		001.1325.0200.0000 Chamberlain Equipment
\$ 42.00	001.1355.0101.0000 Assessor Salaries		001.1355.0403.0000 Assessor Contracts

To re-allocate funds to account for hours worked in 2022 but paid in 2023

\$ 2,483.00	001.3120.0415.0000	001.9060.0805.0000
	Police Education Expense	General Health Insurance

To re-allocate funds to pay for contractual education expense

\$ 2,712.50	001.1420.0410.0000	001.9060.0805.0000
	Legal Services	General Health Insurance
\$ 379.50	001.1420.0411.0000	001.9060.0805.0000
	Labor Services	General Health Insurance

To re-allocate funds to cover legal expenses for December 2022

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Absent: 1 (Rossi)
MOTION CARRIED

DESIGNATE POLLING PLACES FOR 2023

RESOLUTION 23-22

Moved by Councilor Kinville Seconded by Councilor Simchik

RESOLVED, that the polling places in the City of Oneida for 2023 are hereby designated as follows:

WARD 1-1	St. Paul's United Methodist Church-551 Sayles St.
WARD 2-1	St. Paul's United Methodist Church-551 Sayles St.
WARD 3-1	Kallet Civic Center. 159 Main St.
WARD 4-1	Kallet Civic Center. 159 Main St.
WARD 5-1	Kallet Civic Center. 159 Main St.
WARD 6-1	Kallet Civic Center. 159 Main St.

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Absent: 1 (Rossi)

MOTION CARRIED

ANNEXATION OF TERRITORY FROM THE CITY OF ONEIDA

RESOLUTION 23-23

Moved by Councilor Kinville Seconded by Councilor Simchik

WHEREAS, on or about November 9, 2022, a Petition for the annexation of designated lands located in the City of Oneida, consisting of approximately 3.89 acres, by the Village of Wampsville was received by the Oneida City Clerk; and

WHEREAS, on December 19, 2022, a Joint Public Hearing was held for the purpose of hearing comments from the public on a proposed annexation of territory from the City of Oneida, New York, to the Town of Lenox, New York, and the Village of Wampsville, to wit the following parcels situated on Daniels Drive in the City of Oneida:

•	215 Daniels Drive	Tax Map No. 37.14-1-11
•	217 Daniels Drive	Tax Map No. 37.14-1-15.3
•	220 Daniels Drive	Tax Map No. 37.14-1-15.2
•	224 Daniels Drive	Tax Map No. 37.14-1-15.4
•	228 Daniels Drive	Tax Map No. 37.14-1-15.5

232 Daniels Drive Tax Map No. 37.14-1-15.1

118 Daniels Drive Tax Map No. 37.14-1-14

• 115 Daniels Drive Tax Map No. 37.14-1-13

Adjacent lot next to/attached to 208 Daniels Drive Tax Map No. 37.14-1-12,
 and

WHEREAS, a vote was taken at said Public Hearing designating the Village of Wampsville as Lead Agency for the State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQR) purposes, and the City of Oneida and the Town of Lenox were designated as Interested Parties, and

WHEREAS, representatives were present at said hearing from the City of Oneida, Village of Wampsville and Town of Lenox to hear testimony pertaining to this request; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council has evaluated the testimony received during the public hearing and the materials submitted with regard thereto, to determine whether the proposed annexation is in the overall interest of the public; **now therefore be it**

RESOLVED, that the City of Oneida Common Council does hereby find and determine the following:

- To date, the Village of Wampsville has not completed its environmental review of the project pursuant to SEQR;
- That eight (8) of the subject lands under consideration for annexation are improved with single family homes and one parcel is vacant and undeveloped;
- That the Village of Wampsville does not provide law enforcement services and, if the annexation is approved, law enforcement protection from the Oneida Police Department will cease;
- That fire protection services currently provided by the Oneida City Fire Department will cease and fire protection will be rendered by the volunteer Wampsville Fire Department;
- That public water and hydrant service to the subject lands is currently provided by the City of Oneida; if the proposed annexation is approved, the subject lands will be subject to an existing intermunicipal agreement with the Village of Wampsville for public water and hydrant services;
- The annexation if approved will result in a beneficial impact on the tax revenues of the Village of Wampsville and Town of Lenox, and a loss of tax revenue to the City of Oneida; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the City of Oneida Common Council does hereby deny the proposed annexation of the designated parcels stated above situated on Daniels Drive in the City of Oneida by the Village of Wampsville as proposed in the Petition, determining that the annexation is not in the overall interest of the City of Oneida as a whole or the territory to proposed to be annexed, or the Village of Wampsville.

Councilor Szczerba <u>YES</u> Councilor Laureti YES Councilor Rossi **ABSENT** Councilor Kinville YES Councilor Pagano YES Councilor Simchik YES

MOTION CARRIED

<u>DISCUSSION:</u> Mayor Acker thanked Village of Wampsville Mayor Jerry Seymour, for bringing this forward and doing his due diligence.

NEW BUSINESS

Public Safety Commissioner, Kevin Salerno thanked Police Chief, John Little, for all he has done for the City and the department, noting he has done an awesome job. In an effort to make the transition as smooth as possible, Commissioner Salerno advised he has chosen Assistant Chief, Steve Lowell, as Police Chief effective upon Chief Little's retirement. The Mayor congratulated Assistant Chief Lowell and thanked him as well, noting he will do a great job.

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Kinville Seconded by Councilor Simchik

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Absent: 1 (Rossi) **MOTION CARRIED**

The regular meeting is hereby adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

CITY OF ONEIDA

Sandra LaPera, City Clerk