

**MINUTES OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 2, 2023**

A meeting of the Common Council of the City of Oneida, NY was held on the second day of May 2023 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 Deputy Mayor Michelle Kinville.

<u>Attendees</u>	Present	Absent	Arrived Late
Mayor Acker	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 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 Steve Lowell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
City Engineer Jeff Rowe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public Safety Com. Kevin Salerno	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Codes Director Bob Burnett	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Planning Director Chris Henry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Comptroller Lee Ann Wells	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Supervisor Mary Cavanagh	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

PROCLAMATION: Oneida Safety Week

Justin Acker-Oneida Parks & Recreation Coordinator
Megan Gillander-Oneida Public Library Youth Services Coordinator

Proclamation

City of Oneida - Office of the Mayor

WHEREAS, the City of Oneida recognizes the importance of safety for all residents and visitors of our community and are committed to a full range of efforts to ensure this reality; **and**

WHEREAS, the safety in our community is the responsibility of each and every one of us, and we must prepare now and learn to secure a strong and healthy tomorrow; **and**

WHEREAS, the community of Oneida will learn and practice healthy and safe habits so we may encourage and protect each other **and**

WHEREAS, organizations work together for the advancement of safety and knowledge in the Oneida community, **now therefore**

I, **Helen B. Acker**, Mayor of the City of Oneida do hereby proclaim that the second week of May will annually be referred to as

Oneida Safety Week

in the City of Oneida, and I ask others to join in their commitment to care for and support our beloved community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affix the official seal of the City of Oneida on this 2nd day of May 2023.

Mayor Helen B. Acker

PUBLIC COMMENT

WAYNE WINCHELL-223 WILLIAMS ST., ONEIDA

Mr. Winchell stated that he has emailed each member of Council with concerns and has not gotten any responses back. He asked if there has been a fix to the commercial inspections done by the Fire Department, and when is the Fire Department going to fix their building on Sconodoo Street that they use for the Training Center that has holes in it allowing animals to get inside. He stated that the City expects residents to follow codes, but they are not doing the same, with that building sitting in the same condition for several years ever since they stopped using it. He also noted the sidewalks in front of that building as being a safety issue, causing people to walk in the road. Mr. Winchell advised that NYS requires a barricade to be put up, which he has not seen, and traffic is supposed to be redirected for pedestrians to have a way to walk around it, which he stated has also not been done.

Mr. Winchell said the Public Safety Commissioner made a statement that there have been no wrongdoings and that he asked each member of Council if they agreed with that statement, to which he said he has received no response.

OLD BUSINESS

Planning Director, Chris Henry, advised that the Mayor asked him to address the issue of marketing the Lowe's Parcel (City owned property). He asked Council that a pause be taken before marketing it and provided the following information:

- This up-coming year, the City will be updating the Comprehensive Plan
 - The last time this was updated was back in 2005 (18 years)
 - For those not familiar, the Comprehensive Plan helps to establish overall goals and actions for the community.
 - It helps the City document what is and is not, and it also helps develop a vision of the future.
 - It helps the community come together and identify future needs and regarding this matter, economic development.
- This City has limited development opportunities along existing infrastructure. The Lowe's parcel has development potential, but he believes that a better understanding of Oneida's needs should be assessed prior to discharging this property onto the tax rolls.
- The City has significant commercial vacancies. It is an issue throughout the state and county. There are less and less brick-and-mortar commercial operations. The City needs to review these trends comprehensively to get a better understanding of how best to move forward.
 - Director Henry has talked with real estate agents, and the demographics are working against the City. The median household income in Oneida is one of the lowest in the region-at roughly \$49,000.

Utica-Rome	Syracuse Metro	Madison County	Oneida County	Onondaga County
290,000	658,281	67,658	230,274	473,236
\$60,313.00	\$64,296.00	\$63,312.00	\$63,733.00	\$66,012.00

- The City needs to understand where it has a competitive advantage and develop action items to capitalize on it to compete with these surrounding markets.
- The City has limited tools for long-term planning, and this is one of them that we received a \$63,000 grant to help address.
- He also believes the parcel will have more development interest once we have DRI projects come to fruition. We are currently working through state contracts, but once those projects come to fruition, the City will be significantly more marketable.
- Not only will private development projects improve marketability, but the DRI also allocated funds to create a Form-Based Code zoning overlay. The overlay hopes to capitalize on the development and make it easier for residents to implement projects.
- Director Henry advised that he has been touting the possibility of creating a landbank in partnership with Madison County, advising that this may take a little time, but a landbank will help the City discharge property, not just to the highest bidder, but the right bidder. Landbanks operate under the umbrella of a development plan, and properties are discharged under that umbrella. Creating a landbank will help the City with long-term development goals.
- Director Henry stated that he respects the Council's position to try and get this parcel on the tax rolls; however, it is his hope to help the parcel be as successful as possible. His concern is that if it is sold to the highest bidder or sold as an RFP that does not align with the City's long-term goals, it could create another vacant commercial property in a few years.

City Attorney Bell stated that she was not sure if the Council or the people in attendance are familiar with what Form Based Code zoning is, and she feels it is very important that they do understand it. She asked Director Henry to explain what Form Based Code zoning is, what the benefits are and why it matters, noting that most are familiar with zoning in the traditional sense.

Director Henry explained Form Based Zoning as:

- Communities traditionally developed without zoning, only based on common sense.
- As zoning came into effect, it was often based on health and safety risks.
- Form Based Code helps communities go back to how they were originally developed by looking at what makes sense for the community, but not only just by segmented uses, but how it appears, noting people live in Oneida because they like the way it looks and feels.
- Lot development standards are more predictable, where when you do it by use, if you fit in those development standards, you are allowed to do it. Form Based Code is more flexible, going on a project-by-project basis.

For more information on Zone Based Coding: <https://formbasedcodes.org/definition>.

City Attorney Bell advised that it is intended to address those parcels, such as the Lowes parcel, which is unique, either with size, location or use or those properties which have historically been commercial, because 100 years ago development occurred based upon how close you could walk to get there, noting there are structures in neighborhoods that were commercial or industrial previously that now sit vacant. Under the current code, it is just not practical.

Attorney Bell stated that the Comprehensive Plan is supposed to be updated every 10 years. Director Henry advised that the last time the City's Comprehensive Plan was updated was in 2005, and he estimated that this project could take 1-3 years, depending on grants and contracts, ideally having the Comprehensive Plan adopted and then the zoning take place. He stated that it could go much faster than that; however, he is a "Planner" and gets nervous about being pinned down to a timeline.

Councilor Laureti stated he does understand; however, he does not want to wait that long and asked what the downside would be to put it on the market now and see what we get as far as ideas from developers. Director Henry stated that it would be just that- "See what you get" and it doesn't really meet the long-term development goals of the community. He advised this does not capitalize on the positive momentum of moving the City in a cohesive direction, although Director Henry understands why the Council would want to get it on the rolls.

Councilor Laureti suggested that the City reach out to who the City wants, and he would like this to be something that citizens would enjoy, such as retail. Director Henry stated that the City has a lot of property that is sitting vacant in strip malls/developments now that could be redeveloped and isn't. He cited examples of Glenwood, Lowes Plaza area etc.

The City Attorney inquired as to what the property is currently zoned, to which Director Henry advised Commercial. She also stated that this property is subject to covenants, which are very limiting. She also inquired if Director Henry has any idea how they interact with the Commercial designation and the covenants, to which Director Henry stated the restrictions were blocked out of the copy of the covenant he has. Attorney Bell advised that as it has been recorded, she could provide him with a clean copy. Director Henry thought that Lowe's should have first refusal, to which Attorney Bell advised that Lowe's has been approached at various times in the past when there has been interest in the property, noting that sometimes they have been amenable to waiving the covenants and sometimes they have not. Councilor Laureti asked how the City would know if people were interested without putting it on the market. Director Henry responded that it would be nice to at least get an understanding of what we are looking for so the use of the property can help the community become more vibrant.

Councilor Szczerba inquired about how the demographic information works and how it affects this. Director Henry explained that larger companies are looking for a certain density of population that hits their financial marks. He feels these concerns will be put at bay when some of the DRI projects are executed, which will show that the community is on an upswing. The DRI helps to paint a better picture to attract people that have a higher disposable income and with the possibility of easing some of the zoning restrictions, especially the Downtown Business

Assistance Program, will help fill some store fronts. This would help add value to the Lowe's property. Councilor Laureti asked if the City could reach out to potential buyers. Director Henry responded that the community would be fully engaged in the comprehensive planning process to help determine need.

Supervisor Cavanagh asked if demographics of surrounding communities are considered. Director Henry advised that they are. She feels the City should focus on what they want here and reach out to businesses and was concerned about the timeline of 1-3 years previously stated. Director Henry advised they would be getting studies along the way, and hopefully it will not take that long. She referenced a new brewery that is taking off and doing great even though the demographics aren't there. Councilor Laureti stated that he would like to keep the conversation going, and Director Henry advised that his door is always open.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Councilor Simchik
Seconded by Councilor Rossi

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the regular meeting of April 18, 2023, are hereby approved as presented.

Ayes: 6
Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF WARRANT

Moved by Councilor Simchik
Seconded by Councilor Pagano

RESOLVED, that Warrant No. 9, checks and ACH payments in the amount of \$576,660.89 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

AGREEMENT-BYRNE DAIRY INC.

RESOLUTION 23-73

Moved by Councilor Rossi
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

RESOLVED, to authorize the Deputy Mayor to sign an agreement with Byrne Dairy Inc. for the acceptance of high strength organic waste at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Ayes: 6
Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

AGREEMENT-MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

RESOLUTION 23-74

Moved by Councilor Simchik
Seconded by Councilor Rossi

RESOLVED, authorize the Deputy Mayor to sign an agreement with the Oneida Memorial Association to co-sponsor the 2023 Memorial Day Parade to be held on Friday, May 26, 2023.

Ayes: 6
Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

**INTRODUCE A LOCAL LAW AMENDING ARTICLE VI, SECTION 6.1(B)(1) OF THE ONEIDA CITY CHARTER-
SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING**

RESOLUTION 23-75

Moved by Councilor Rossi
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

WHEREAS, the City of Oneida Common Council introduces this Local Law to revise the procedure for the payment for the construction/reconstruction of sidewalks; and

WHEREAS, as proposed, the amendment of Section 6.1(B)(1) of the Oneida City Charter reflects the City's desire to improve the system of sidewalks within the City and avoid unpredictable, large, lump-sum assessments charged to City of Oneida property owners for the same; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Local Law has been introduced and will be considered for enactment

pursuant to the provisions of the Municipal Home Rule Law; and

WHEREAS, no other agency has the legal authority or jurisdiction to approve or directly undertake the enactment of a local law in the City of Oneida, such that there are no other involved agencies within the meaning of the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) with respect to the proposed enactment of said Local Law, with the result that the Common Council shall act as lead agency in this matter; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of said Local Law is an unlisted action for purposes of environmental review under SEQRA and the Common Council has determined that a short environmental assessment form (EAF) shall be required in connection with this matter; and

WHEREAS, said EAF has been prepared and has been reviewed by the Common Council; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council has considered the adoption of said Local Law, has considered the criteria contained in 6 N.Y.C.R.R. Part 617.7 and has compared the impacts which may be reasonably expected to result from the adoption of said Local Law against said criteria; and

WHEREAS, the enactment of said proposed Local Law is subject to a permissive referendum pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law § 24.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is

RESOLVED AND DETERMINED, that there are no other involved agencies, that the Common Council shall act as lead agency and that the enactment of the proposed Local Law is an unlisted action for purposes of SEQRA review; and it is further

RESOLVED AND DETERMINED, that the Common Council has determined this action shall have no significant adverse impact on the environment; that, accordingly, an environmental impact statement (EIS) shall not be required; and that this resolution shall constitute a negative declaration under SEQR; and it is further

RESOLVED AND DETERMINED, that the Common Council shall conduct a public hearing as to the enactment of the proposed Local Law at the Oneida City Hall located at 109 North Main Street, Oneida, New York on May 16, 2023, at 6:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, at which time all persons interested in the subject shall be heard; and it is further

RESOLVED, that notice of said public hearing shall be provided at least five (5) days prior to the date of said public hearing in a newspaper of general circulation within the City of Oneida.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

**CITY OF ONEIDA
PROPOSED LOCAL LAW**

**A LOCAL LAW AMENDING ARTICLE VI, SECTION 6.1(B)(1)
OF THE ONEIDA CITY CHARTER**

Be it enacted by the Common Council of the City of Oneida, that this Local Law amends Article VI, Section 6.1(B)(1) of the Oneida City Charter in the following manner:

SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

The City of Oneida currently imposes different sidewalk assessments based upon the circumstances of replacement. Accordingly, at times, either the full cost, fifty percent (50%) of the full cost, or none of the costs of sidewalk construction and repair is assessed against the abutting property owner; such deviations in assessments results in unpredictable, and sometimes lump-sum, charges against property owners and/ or unanticipated reconstruction costs by the City that have not been budgeted for. As a result, the construction and repair of sidewalks throughout the City has been discouraged and neglected. It has been determined by the City of Oneida that: a comprehensive and high-quality network of sidewalks is beneficial to residents, businesses, organizations and individual property owners beyond the abutting property; and City of Oneida residents are better served by paying an annual assessment for the construction and repair of sidewalks rather than face unpredictable, large, lump-sum assessments for construction and repair of abutting sidewalks.

SECTION 2. AUTHORITY

Pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law § 10, the City of Oneida is authorized to adopt a local law relating to the authorization, making, confirmation and correction of benefit assessments for local improvement.

SECTION 3. AMENDING ARTICLE VI, SECTION 6.1(B)(1) OF THE ONEIDA CITY CHARTER

So that Subsection 1, "Assessment for sidewalks," of Subsection B, titled "Sidewalks" of Section 6.1, titled "Local improvements," of the Oneida City Charter, shall be amended so as to read, in its entirety, as follows:

"1. Assessment for sidewalks.

- a. The Common Council may, by a 2/3 vote of all the Council persons in office, authorize or direct the construction or reconstruction of public sidewalks anywhere in the City, and said Common Council shall determine the type of materials to be used therein and the specifications therefor.
- b. In the event said Common Council mandates the reconstruction of a public sidewalk that has been uplifted or damaged by the root structure of a tree located within the City of Oneida highway or street right-of-way, the cost thereof for said sidewalks shall be borne 100% by the City as a whole.

- c. In all other cases, the payment for the cost of construction or reconstruction of a public sidewalk shall be paid for by the collection of an annual assessment fee levied against each real property lot or parcel located within the City of Oneida.
 - i. Such annual assessment fee shall be established by resolution of the Common Council which may be thereafter amended from time to time by like resolution.
 - ii. Such annual assessment fee shall be a lien upon the real property so assessed. Such annual assessment fee shall be collected in the manner provided in this Charter and the Code of the City of Oneida for the enforcement, levy, and collection of City taxes.”

SECTION 4. **VALIDITY & SEVERABILITY**

If a court determines that any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision or part of this Local Law or the application thereof to any person, firm or corporation, or circumstance is invalid or unconstitutional, the court’s order or judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder of this Local Law, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision or part of this Local Law or in its application to the person, individual, firm or corporation or circumstance, directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment or order shall be rendered.

SECTION 5. **PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM**

Pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law § 24, this Local Law is subject to a permissive referendum and thus may not be filed with the Secretary of State until the applicable time period has elapsed to file a petition, or a referendum has been conducted approving this Local Law.

SECTION 6. **EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the New York State Department of State.

SPECIAL EVENT-JESSICA’S HEROES 5K RUN/WALK

RESOLUTION 23-76

Moved by Councilor Rossi
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

RESOLVED, to approve the application from Jessica’s Heroes for their annual 5K Run/Walk to be held on September 23, 2023.

Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
MOTION CARRIED

SPECIAL EVENT-FALL FEST 2023

RESOLUTION 23-77

Moved by Councilor Rossi

Seconded by Councilor Szczerba

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 9-11 of the Oneida City Code, the possession or consumption of alcohol is permitted on City-owned property if properly authorized by the City of Oneida Common Council; **and**

WHEREAS, the John R. Deschamps Sr., Police Benevolent Association, and employee organization representing the full-time, permanent police officers of the Oneida Police Department, and the Oneida City Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring a "Fall Fest" to be held on September 30, 2023 during the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., on property owned by the City of Oneida located at Mott Street; **and**

WHEREAS, the Fall Fest is intended to provide a celebration that is recreational in nature for City residents and serves to improve the quality of life for residents; **and**

WHEREAS, as part of the Fall Fest activities, wines and alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase by the public; **and**

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Common Council to promote public interest and participation in community events and to allow such sales by vendors; **now, therefore be it**

RESOLVED, that the City of Oneida Common Council does hereby authorize the distribution and consumption of wine and alcoholic beverages in a restricted area of Mott Street during the hours of the Fall Fest on September 30, 2023; **and be it further**

RESOLVED, that the City of Oneida Common Council does permit such distribution and sales of wine and alcoholic beverages by private vendors upon application to the City of Oneida Clerk and submission of proof of a general liability insurance policy in the amount of \$1,000,000, with the City of Oneida named as an additional insured, no less than 30 days prior to the event.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

ADVERTISE FOR BIDS-PHASE I-HIGINBOTHAM CULVERT REPLACEMENT

RESOLUTION 23-78

Moved by Councilor Rossi
Seconded by Councilor Pagano

RESOLVED, to authorize the Purchasing Agent to advertise for bids for Phase I of the Higinbotham Brook Culvert Replacement.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

INTRODUCE A LOCAL LAW-ZONING MAP AMENDMENT AND INTRODUCE SEQR REVIEW FOR 1445 W. ELM STREET AND SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING

RESOLUTION 23-79

Moved by Councilor Rossi
Seconded by Councilor Pagano

WHEREAS, the proposed Local Law is being introduced and will be considered for enactment pursuant to the provisions of the Municipal Home Rule Law; **and**

WHEREAS, the City of Oneida Common Council has the authority to adopt provisions to define, clarify and make uniform the Code of the City of Oneida; **and**

WHEREAS, a written request from George Clark, 1445 W. Elm Street., Oneida, NY 13421 requesting a zone change for a portion of his parcel from M-I (Manufacturing-Industrial) to A (Agricultural) on the parcel identified as Tax Map Parcel No. 29.-2-41.1 located at 1445 W. Elm Street is received and placed on file, **and**

WHEREAS, no other agency has the legal authority or jurisdiction to approve or directly undertake the enactment of a local law in the City of Oneida, such that there are no other involved agencies within the meaning of the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) with respect to the proposed enactment of said Local Law, with the result that the Common Council shall act as lead agency in this matter; **and**

WHEREAS, the adoption of said Local Law is an Unlisted Action for purposes of environmental review under SEQRA and a Short Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) in support of this Local Law will be prepared for review by the Common Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is

RESOLVED AND DETERMINED, that there are no other involved agencies, that the Common Council shall act as lead agency and that the enactment of the proposed Local Law is an Unlisted action for purposes of SEQRA review; **and it is further**

RESOLVED AND DETERMINED, that this proposed Local Law will be referred to the City of Oneida Planning Commission/ Zoning Board of Appeals and the Madison County Planning Department pursuant to New York General Municipal Law § 239; **and it is further**

RESOLVED AND DETERMINED, that the Common Council shall conduct a public hearing as to the enactment of the proposed Local Law at the Oneida City Hall located at 109 North Main Street, Oneida, New York on for May 16, 2023, at 6:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, at which time all persons interested in the subject shall be heard; **and it is further**

RESOLVED, that notice of said public hearing shall be provided at least five (5) days prior to the date of said public hearing in a newspaper of general circulation within the City of Oneida.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

A LOCAL LAW AMENDING THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF ONEIDA TO CHANGE THE ZONING DESIGNATION FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY FROM BEING ZONED M-I (Manufacturing-Industrial) TO A (Agricultural) IN THE CITY OF ONEIDA

Be it enacted by the Common Council of the City of Oneida, as follows:

Section 1.

The Zoning Map of the City of Oneida, as provided for in Section 190-9 of the Code of the City of Oneida, shall be amended to change the zoning use designation of certain lands situated off West Elm Street, identified as Tax Map Parcel No. 29.-2-41.1, from M-I (Manufacturing-Industrial) to A (Agricultural), as such zoning districts are defined and regulated pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 190 of the Code of the City of Oneida.

Section 2.

The parcel of land, which shall be the subject of said zone change totaling approximately 1.633 acres, is situated on West Elm Street – **see Schedule “A”**.

Section 3.

The City of Oneida Zoning Map shall be amended and shall incorporate the change of zoning classification, as herein provided.

Section 4.

This Local Law shall become effective upon filing with the office of the New York Secretary of State.

APPROVE BID-SENSUS WATER METERS

RESOLUTION 23-80

Moved by Councilor Simchik
Seconded by Councilor Rossi

RESOLVED, to approve the lowest bid meeting specifications for Sensus Water Meters to Core and Main, 2220 State Route 5, Utica, NY 13502 as the Apparent Low Bidder.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVE BID-140 MADISON STREET DEBRIS REMOVAL (TABLED)

RESOLUTION 23-81

Moved by Councilor Simchik
Seconded by Councilor Szczerba

RESOLVED, approve the lowest bid meeting specifications for 140 Madison Street Debris Removal to Dan's Hauling & Demo, PO Box 409, Wynantskill, NY 12198 as the Apparent Low Bidder.

DISCUSSION: Councilor Simchik requested that this be tabled until the next meeting, as the bid came back about 3 times higher than they anticipated, and he would like to look deeper into this. Councilor Laureti asked if this would void the bids by waiting another two weeks. City Engineer Rowe advised that he believes it is 45 days. Councilor Laureti advised that he has a couple of ideas to save money and Councilor Rossi concurred.

Motion to Table by Councilor Simchik
Seconded by Councilor Rossi

Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
MOTION TABLED

BUDGET TRANSFERS/AMENDMENTS

RESOLUTION 23-82

DISCUSSION: As this Resolution involves a transfer to fund the previous Resolution (Resolution 23-81) to approve the bid for 140 Madison Street Debris Removal that was tabled, Council voted as follows:

Motion to amend the Resolution to allocate funds for the ARPA Tree Contract only, and removing any reference to the allocation of funds for the removal of debris from 140 Madison Street

By Councilor Laureti
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

	<u>To</u>	<u>From</u>
<i>2023 Budget Adjustments</i>		
\$ 20,000.00	030.5110.0402.0000 ARPA Tree Contract	030.0030.0912.0000 ARPA Unassigned Fund Balance
<i>To allocate funds for tree removal</i>		
\$ 107,500.00	001.3650.0400.0000 Demolition	001.0001.0912.0000 General Fund Balance

To allocate funds for the removal of debris from 140 Madison Street

Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
MOTION CARRIED AS AMENDED

PURSUE THE DEVELOPMENT AND ADOPTION OF A CLIMATE ADAPTATION

AND RESILIENCY PLAN

RESOLUTION 23-83

Moved by Councilor Simchik
Seconded by Councilor Rossi

WHEREAS, the City of Oneida adopted the New York State Climate Smart Communities Pledge by resolution on February 6, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the City believes that climate change poses a real and increasing threat to our local and global environments; and

WHEREAS, the effects of climate change will endanger our infrastructure, economy, and livelihoods; harm our farms, orchards, and ecological communities, including native fish and wildlife populations; pose health risks to our citizens; spread invasive species and exotic diseases; and reduce drinking water supplies and recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the City believes that even if emissions were dramatically reduced today, communities would still be required to adapt to the effects of climate change for decades to come; and

WHEREAS, the City understands that Disadvantaged Communities are the most likely to be impacted significantly by climate change, yet have the fewest resources to be able to adapt and withstand frequent and prolonged extreme climate events,

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the City of Oneida, in order to adapt to a changing climate and create a more resilient community, will pursue the development of a Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Plan in accordance with current Local, State, and Federal recommendations;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Planning process will be an inclusive one that engages the community in a participatory manner, with emphasis on disadvantaged and traditionally marginalized communities, and enables them to visualize and experience different climate scenarios;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board, as the designated regional Climate Smart Communities Coordinator, will write the Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Plan, assist in public outreach, assist in coordination between the local climate action groups and local government, and serve as the point of contact for any questions related to the plan;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City will provide Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board with current emergency response plans and other relevant information, make staff available for one on one or small group interviews to help identify hazard concerns in the City, be supportive of the climate adaptation and resiliency planning process, and assist with outreach by including information regarding the Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Plan on City websites and social media pages.

DISCUSSION: Councilor Szczerba asked where the City was going with this. Planning Director Henry advised that this is something that is free to the City and is about emergency management, climate adaptation and potential flood bench restoration projects. Director Henry explained that the City is a part of the Climate Smart Communities and Clean Energy Communities programs and moving forward with this plan will help get points for these programs. Councilor Szczerba asked about Oneida being a disadvantaged community, to which Director Henry advised parts of it were. Director Henry advised that he is willing to provide further information if needed, but this was just to pursue the development of a plan and not to adopt it at this point.

Councilor Szczerba asked what the City would be responsible for, to which Director Henry advised that it is still early in the process and there were only a couple of meetings. CNY Regional Planning Board is doing this for the City and it will be folded into the comprehensive planning process.

Motion to Table by Councilor Szczerba
Seconded by Councilor Laureti

DISCUSSION: Director Henry stated that to be clear, this was not to adopt the plan, but rather to move forward with the process.

Ayes: 0
Nays: 6

MOTION TO TABLE FAILED

Ayes: 6
Nays: 0

MOTION TO APPROVE TO PURSUE THE DEVELOPMENT AND ADOPTION OF A CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCY PLAN CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

Deputy Mayor Kinville stated that she would like to take a moment to recognize Fire Chief Dennis Fields, as this is his last Common Council meeting. She stated that the Chief began working for the Oneida Fire Department in 1996, and after 27 years, this is his final week. She stated that on behalf of the Mayor, the Common Council, and the City of Oneida, she thanked him for years of dedicated service to our City. Chief Fields received a standing ovation.

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Rossi
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

Ayes: 6
Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

The regular meeting is hereby adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

CITY OF ONEIDA

Sandra LaPera, City Clerk