

**MINUTES OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 2, 2024**

A meeting of the Common Council of the City of Oneida, NY was held on the second day of January 2024 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 Rick Rossi.

<u>Attendees</u>	Present	Absent	Arrived Late
Mayor Rossi	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
City Manager Selby	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 Hitchings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Councilor Winchell	<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 Scott Jones	<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 type="checkbox"/>	Public Safety Com. Dave Jones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Codes Director Bob Burnett	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Supervisor Michelle Kinville	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Comptroller Lee Ann Wells	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Supervisor Mary Cavanagh	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Supervisor Matt Roberts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

Mayor Rossi welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2024 and welcomed new Council members, Andrea Hitchings-Ward 3 and Ward 4 Council member, Rob Winchell. Mayor Rossi introduced the new City Manager, Doug Selby, and advised that he would be available for any questions or concerns.

Mayor Rossi advised that Public Comment will now be held at the end of Council meetings to encourage speakers to stay and participate in the meetings.

The City Clerk administered the Oath of Office to Councilor Szczerba, given his inability to attend the ceremony on December 30, 2023.

DEPUTY MAYOR NOMINATION/VOTE: Mayor Rossi advised the Council that there was a need to nominate and select a Deputy Mayor. Councilor Jim Szczerba nominated Councilor Steve Laureti. When

Councilor Pagano inquired if there were any other nominations, none were put forth. Councilor A vote was taken with 5 voting in favor and 2 abstaining (Councilor Laureti and Mayor Rossi).

OLD BUSINESS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Councilor Hitchings
Seconded by Councilor Pagano

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Special meeting of December 29, 2023, are hereby approved as presented.

Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
Abstain: 1 (Rossi)

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF WARRANT

Moved by Councilor Hitchings
Seconded by Councilor Pagano

RESOLVED, that Warrant No. 1, checks and ACH payments in the amount of \$312,576.87 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
Abstain: 1 (Rossi)

MOTION CARRIED

ORGANIZATIONAL RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION 24-1

Moved by Councilor Simchik
Seconded by Councilor Winchell

RESOLVED, that the Organizational Resolution for 2024 consisting of the following is hereby approved:

1. Regular meetings for the City of Oneida for the year 2024 shall be held in Common Council Chambers, Oneida Municipal Building, 109 N. Main Street, Oneida, New York at 6:30 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of each month, and if any of said Tuesdays shall fall on a holiday, then in such event, the Common Council shall agree on a date to reschedule.
2. The Oneida Dispatch is hereby designated as the official newspaper in the City of Oneida.
3. The City of Oneida funds for year 2024 shall be kept and retained in the following banks:
 - NBT Bank, Oneida, NY-special capital accounts and other current accounts
 - Community Bank, Oneida, NY-special reserve accounts and other current accounts
4. There shall be a Crime Protection Policy for Public Entities, which includes a “Blanket Employee Dishonesty Per Loss”, with a per occurrence limit of \$500,000 and a \$500 per occurrence deductible.

Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
Abstain: 1 (Rossi)

MOTION CARRIED

VOUCHER COMMITTEES

RESOLUTION 24-2

Moved by Councilor Hitchings
Seconded by Councilor Pagano

RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 5.22B of the City Charter, Voucher Committees shall be as follows:

FIRST COUNCIL MEETING: Councilor Laureti and Councilor Hitchings
SECOND COUNCIL MEETING: Councilor Szczerba and Councilor Winchell

Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
Abstain: 1 (Rossi)

MOTION CARRIED

SCRAP METAL SALE

RESOLUTION 24-3

Moved by Councilor Hitchings
Seconded by Councilor Winchell

RESOLVED, to authorize the Department of Public Works, Wastewater Treatment Plant, Water Department, Fire Department, Police Department and Recreation Department to sell scrap metal at a fair market price, as accumulated, for the remainder of 2024.

Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
Abstain: 1 (Rossi)
MOTION CARRIED

AGREEMENT-CITY HISTORIAN

RESOLUTION 24-4

Moved by Councilor Hitchings
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

RESOLVED, to authorize the Mayor to sign an agreement with Ariel Bero, 369 Lenox Ave., Oneida, NY 13421, as City Historian, as per the 2024 City of Oneida Budget.

Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
Abstain: 1 (Rossi)
MOTION CARRIED

STANDARD WORKDAY RESOLUTION FOR STATE COMPTROLLER

RESOLUTION 24-5

Moved by Councilor Hitchings
Seconded by Councilor Winchell

WHEREAS, New York State Rules and Regulations require the reporting of time worked for members of the New York State Local Retirement System; and

WHEREAS, the Office of the New York State Comptroller has requested that the City of Oneida adopt a resolution establishing the Standard Workday for elected and appointed officials for the purpose of determining days worked reportable to the New York State and Local Retirement System; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Common Council hereby establishes the following as a Standard Workday for elected and appointed officials for the purpose of determining days worked reportable to the New York State and Local Employees Retirement System:

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor

Five-day work week, 7-hour day maximum

Common Councilor

Five-day work week, 6-hour day maximum

City Chamberlain

Five-day work week, 7-hour day maximum

City Manager-Appointed

Five-day work week, 8-hour day maximum

ALL OTHER APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Five-day work week, 8-hour day maximum

Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
Abstain: 1 (Rossi)

MOTION CARRIED

DESIGNATE POLLING PLACES (2024)

Resolution 24-6

Moved by Councilor Hitchings
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

RESOLVED, that the polling places in the City of Oneida for 2024 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: 6
Nays: 0
Abstain: 1 (Rossi)

MOTION CARRIED

BOND RESOLUTION-DRI CAPITAL PROJECTS

RESOLUTION 24-7

Moved by Councilor Hitchings
Seconded by Councilor Winchell

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING DESIGN COSTS IN CONNECTION WITH VARIOUS DRI CAPITAL PROJECTS, IN AND FOR THE CITY OF ONEIDA, MADISON COUNTY, NEW YORK, AT A MAXIMUM ESTIMATED COST OF \$700,000, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$700,000 BONDS OF SAID CITY TO PAY COSTS 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, as follows:

Section 1. Design costs in connection with various DRI capital projects, in and for the City of Oneida, Madison County, New York, is hereby authorized at a maximum estimated cost of \$700,000.

Section 2. The plan for the financing of such maximum estimated cost is by the issuance of \$700,000 bonds of said City hereby authorized to be issued therefor pursuant to the provisions of the Local Finance Law; provided, however, that the amount of bonds to be issued shall be reduced to the extent of grants received in connection therewith.

Section 3. It is hereby determined that the period of probable usefulness of the aforesaid class of objects or purposes is five years, pursuant to subdivision 62 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.

Section 5. 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:

- 1) Such obligations are authorized for an object or purpose for which said City is not authorized to expend money, or
- 2) 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:

Mayor Rick Rossi	ABSTAIN	
Councilor James Szczerba	VOTING	<u>YES</u>
Councilor Steve Laureti	VOTING	<u>YES</u>
Councilor Andrea Hitchings	VOTING	<u>YES</u>
Councilor Robert Winchell	VOTING	<u>YES</u>
Councilor William Pagano	VOTING	<u>YES</u>
Councilor Thomas Simchik	VOTING	<u>YES</u>

The Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

DISCUSSION: Councilor Laureti asked if the \$700,000 was reimbursable by the Grant. Comptroller Wells advised that the soccer fields would be; however, regarding Vet's Field and the Downtown Infrastructure and Streetscape Improvements, the City has a commitment to make additional payment more than the DRI award. Comptroller Wells advised that she has not yet received an answer as to whether the design portion is reimbursable or not.

Councilor Laureti asked where the \$700,000 figure came from, to which Comptroller Wells advised that the figure represents the full 100% design cost for the three projects noted in the next resolution.

DRI PROJECTS-DESIGN PHASE

RESOLUTION 24-8

Moved by Councilor Hitchings
Seconded by Councilor Winchell

RESOLVED, to approve to move forward with the Design Phase of the following DRI Projects and to authorize the City Manager to sign any and all documents related to these projects.

- American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) Fields
- Downtown Infrastructure and Streetscape Improvements
- Upgrade Facilities at Veterans Memorial Park

Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
Abstain: 1 (Rossi)

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT

MELISA MANNIX-341 STONE STREET, ONEIDA

Melisa Mannix addressed the Council regarding the harboring of chickens in the City of Oneida. She advised that several neighboring communities do this, and she would like to see the Code changed in Oneida as well. She stated that she previously provided a list of pros and cons to the prior administration and would like to provide the same information to new members if they would like.

Ms. Mannix advised they would be interested in doing a Pilot/Grandfather Program to see how this will work, and there would be restrictions/stipulations to make this legal. She would like to get this on an agenda to get more public knowledge out there and move forward with this.

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Hitchings
Seconded by Councilor Winchell

Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
Abstain: 1 (Rossi)

MOTION CARRIED

The regular meeting is hereby adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

CITY OF ONEIDA

Sandra LaPera, City Clerk