

**MINUTES OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 16, 2024**

A meeting of the Common Council of the City of Oneida, NY was held on the sixteenth day of January 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at the Common Council Chambers, 109 N. Main, 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"/> _____

Supervisors

Matt Roberts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mary Cavanagh	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brandee DuBois	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Michelle Kinville	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Also Present

City Attorney Nadine Bell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fire Chief Scott Jones	<input 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. Dave Jones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Codes Director Bob Burnett	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comptroller Lee Ann Wells	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

CEREMONIAL: None

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Rossi extended a welcome to everyone at the second meeting of the year and announced changes to the meeting format. Moving forward, a Mayor's Report and City Manager's Report will be presented in addition to the Supervisor's Report during the second meeting of each month.
- Mayor Rossi announced that a Local Law concerning Henning will be introduced at the next meeting, with a Public Hearing scheduled for the following meeting.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

- Supervisor Matt Roberts noted that there haven't been any committee meetings this year, but Committee assignments have been finalized, and the meetings will start next week. He advised there is a new Chairman, Joseph (John) Pinard, Supervisor for the Town of Lenox, who will be serving a two-year term. Additionally, he mentioned the new Vice-Chair, Melissa During from the Town of Lincoln, who is the first woman to hold this position.
- The 2023 tax receipts (approximately \$42M) have been finalized, and are about 6.5% above last year's, which was \$39M.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- City Manager Selby informed that he has designated Comptroller Lee Ann Wells as City Manager in his absence, as mandated by the new Charter (Section 12.3). He mentioned that a letter would be sent to the Mayor and members of the Council to officially communicate this.
- City Manager Selby advised that he received a Structural Engineer's Report on 136 Madison Street, which was not good. The report indicated that the building needs to be stabilized as soon as possible. DPW has fenced the walls that might be subject to collapse, and they are looking into contractors now for pricing to stabilize this.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilor Rob Winchell raised concerns about the building at 136 Madison St., noting that other property owners are facing challenges accessing their buildings. City Attorney Bell suggested that property owners with concerns should contact the City Manager after the meeting, and a legal solution can be explored to address the issue without putting the City in a position while still safeguarding the property owner. City Manager Selby added that the primary concern was for public safety, avoiding potential injuries for those passing by.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Councilor Simchik
Seconded by Councilor Hitchings

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the regular meeting of January 2, 2024, are hereby approved as presented.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF WARRANT

Moved by Councilor Hitchings
Seconded by Councilor Szczerba

RESOLVED, that Warrant No. 2, checks and ACH payments in the amount of \$569,363.65 as audited by the Voucher Committee are hereby approved for payment in the usual manner at the discretion of the Comptroller.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

MONTHLY REPORTS

RESOLUTION 24-9

Moved by Councilor Hitchings
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

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: 7
Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

AMUSEMENT DEVICE LICENSE-NEILS VENDING, LLC

RESOLUTION 24-10

Moved by Councilor Winchell
Seconded by Councilor Pagano

RESOLVED, to approve the 2024 Amusement Device License Application from Neils Vending, LLC, 6734 Strain Rd., Munnsville, NY 13409 for machines located at the following locations:

- Owl's Club
- Elks Club
- Oneida American Legion

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

ORDER OF SUCCESSION

RESOLUTION 24-11

Moved by Councilor Hitchings
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

RESOLVED, to approve the order of succession for the members of the Common Council pursuant to Section 3.0 (2.10) of the Oneida City Charter.

Mayor Rick Rossi
Deputy Mayor Steve Laureti
Councilor Tom Simchik
Councilor Bill Pagano
Councilor Jim Szczerba
Councilor Andrea Hitchings **
Councilor Rob Winchell**

** Under the terms of the Charter, if two or more Councilors have the same length of service, the one to act as Mayor is selected by lot.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

AGREEMENT-BRIDGES

RESOLUTION 24-12

Moved by Councilor Winchell
Seconded by Councilor Hitchings

RESOLVED, to authorize the City Manager 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 2024 Employee Assistance Program.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING-NADINE C. BELL

RESOLUTION 24-13

Moved by Councilor Hitchings
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

RESOLVED, to authorize the City Manager to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Nadine C. Bell for service and compensation as City Attorney.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

AMUSEMENT DEVICE LICENSE-PEPI'S PIZZA INC.

RESOLUTION 24-14

Moved by Councilor Simchik
Seconded by Councilor Winchell

RESOLVED, to approve the Amusement Device License Application for 2024 from Pepi's Pizza, Inc. 228 Genesee Street, Oneida, NY 13421 for machines located at said address.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

BOARD APPOINTMENT-TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD

RESOLUTION 24-15

Moved by Councilor Hitchings
Seconded by Councilor Winchell

RESOLVED, to approve the Mayor’s appointment of Brian Bortree, 444 Leonard St., Oneida, NY to the Traffic Safety Board for a 3-year term.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

BUDGET TRANSFERS/AMENDMENTS

RESOLUTION 24-16

Moved by Councilor Simchik
Seconded by Councilor Pagano

	<u>To</u>	<u>From</u>
2024 Budget Adjustments		
\$ 1,000.00	001.1989.0400.0000 Printing	001.8020.0400.0000 Planning Contracts
<i>To re-allocate funds to consolidate legal notice expense to one GL line for the General Fund</i>		
\$ 500.00	001.7522.0400.0000 City Historian	001.0001.0912.0000 General Fund Balance
<i>To allocate funds to the City Historian as the position was approved on 1/2/24 Common Council meeting</i>		
\$ 2,040.00	001.0001.0885.0000 Kallet Capital Improvement Reserve	001.0019.2413.0000 Kallet Revenue
<i>To re-allocate funds from the ticket sales to the capital improvement reserves as per the contract</i>		
2023 Budget Adjustments		
\$ 19,600.00	001.3120.0101.0000	001.5110.0101.0000

		Police Salaries	DPW Salaries
\$	6,000.00	001.5132.0101.0000 Central Garage Salaries	001.5110.0101.0000 DPW Salaries
\$	74.00	001.8020.0101.0000 Planning Salaries	001.5110.0101.0000 DPW Salaries

To re-allocate funds to cover payroll accrual for 12/19-12/31/23.

\$	1,550.00	001.1410.0101.0000 Clerk Salaries	001.5110.0101.0000 DPW Salaries
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To re-allocate funds to cover short budget due to benefit payout.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

CELLULAR TELEPHONE ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY

RESOLUTION 24-17

Moved by Councilor Hitchings
Seconded by Councilor Winchell

RESOLVED, that the Employee Acknowledgement of Receipt and Understanding of the Cellular Telephone Administrative Policy from Fire Marshal Brian Burkle, be hereby received and placed on file.

RESOLVED, that the Telephone Request Form from Fire Marshal Brian Burkle, pursuant to the City of Oneida Cellular Telephone Policy adopted June 15, 2010, Resolution 10-153 and reaffirmed on May 17, 2016, be hereby approved.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Jim Szczerba requested a moment of silence in honor of Edward (Ted) Hanifin, an all-around great guy, who passed away on January 15th. Mr. Hanifin served as Councilor for Ward 2 in the City of Oneida for eight years and held the position of Deputy Mayor for several years during his term.

PUBLIC COMMENT

ROBERT BRITTON-ONEIDA

Although Mr. Britton is glad the chicken issue is going to be taken care of, he feels there are more important issues that need to be addressed, such as buildings that are falling, a drug problem, and the homeless. He stated that he does not care what other municipalities are doing; he cares about our City and what solutions can be found to address our problems.

JOAN KLISH-422 SAYLES ST., ONEIDA

Joan Klish advised she was present in support of allowing chickens. She has been a lifelong resident of the City, having been born and raised here, and is concerned over what is going on in the world right now. She stated that we are as close to a World War III as we have ever been, and a war could be coming any day. She feels it might not be a bad idea to have chickens or a "Victory Garden," that the younger generation won't remember, to prepare for stores, such as Walmart, to be closed. She feels that everyone needs to wake up and see what is going on in the world around us.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

RESOLUTION 24-18

Motioned by Councilor Szczerba
Seconded by Councilor Hitchings

RESOLVED, that the meeting is hereby adjourned to Executive Session at 7:43 p.m. to

Seek advice of Counsel Discuss personnel matter.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

PRESENT: Mayor Rossi, Members of the Common Council, City Attorney Nadine Bell, Attorney Chris Militello

1. Discussion was held to: Seek advice of Counsel.
 Discuss a personnel matter.

Motioned by Councilor Pagano
Seconded by Councilor Hitchings

RESOLVED, that Executive Session is hereby adjourned to the regular meeting at 7:48 p.m.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Winchell

Seconded by Councilor Hitchings

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

The regular meeting is hereby adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

CITY OF ONEIDA

Sandra LaPera, City Clerk