

**MINUTES OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 20, 2024**

A meeting of the Common Council of the City of Oneida, NY was held on the twentieth day of February 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"/> _____
Cit 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mary Cavanagh	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/>	Public Safety Com. Dave Jones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Codes Director Bob Burnett	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Attorney Stacey Marris	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Comptroller Lee Ann Wells	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Planning Director Chris Henry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Parks & Rec Director Luke Griff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Water Super. John Monaghan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

PUBLIC HEARING: Amend Chapter 17- §17-1 of the Code of the City of Oneida and establish a new chapter regulating the harboring of hens within the City of Oneida

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

A LOCAL LAW TO AMEND CHAPTER 17, §17-1 OF THE ONEIDA CITY CODE AND TO ESTABLISH A NEW CHAPTER REGULATING THE HARBORING OF HENS WITHIN THE CITY OF ONEIDA

RESOLUTION 24-33

Moved by Councilor Laureti
Seconded by Councilor Hitchings

RESOLVED, that the Public Hearing on a proposed Local Law to amend Chapter 17, § 17-1 of the Oneida City Code and to establish a new chapter regulating the harboring of hens within the City of Oneida be hereby opened at 6:31 p.m.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

APPEARANCES

MELISA MANNIX-341 STONE STREET

Mrs. Mannix thanked Mayor Rossi and the Council for allowing her the opportunity to speak. She advised that she represented those present who are in favor of harboring hens in the City and asked them to raise their hands so that Council could see how many were in attendance that supported this.

Mrs. Mannix provided a handout that she requested be officially put on record as part of the Public Hearing. Attached hereto is the handout provided by Mrs. Mannix that contains letters of support from various residents, business owners, and other professionals in favor of this Local Law. Also contained in the packet is a petition signed by 93 residents of the City, which is not attached hereto for privacy reasons. She thanked everyone for coming together to show the importance of changing the law and stated that all of the documents contained in the packet are from community members who support the raising of hens in the City of Oneida. She noted that each recognizes the benefits that housing hens would bring to the neighborhood, such as providing fresh eggs, not only to their own family, but to neighbors, as well as the ability to come together as a community to share experiences, tips, tricks, and ideas.

Other benefits could be community vegetable plant exchanges, community clubs to share hobbies and other opportunities. She stated that she looked forward to our City being one that people “flock to” for the available opportunities, and once again thanked the Council for allowing her to speak.

CALEB MANNIX-341 STONE STREET

Caleb Mannix is the son of Melisa Mannix and stated that he is 12 years old. He read a letter to the Council that he prepared, which is included in the packet provided by Mrs. Mannix.

JEN BAILEY-417 SENECA STREET

Ms. Bailey advised that she was a resident of the City of Oneida and also the owner of a store called Worthy, which is located in Oneida. She advised that she is one of the businesses that hosted a petition in her store and was present to read a portion of the letter that she submitted to Council (also included in the packet provided by Mrs. Mannix) and to share her experiences with having the petition in her store.

She advised that over the last two months she kept a petition to sign in favor of the backyard hens at the counter in her store. Many guests saw and conversed about this topic as a result. She stated that she heard firsthand stories from neighboring communities that already have hens, who spoke with excitement and provided positive feedback. She advised that although she only collected signatures from those who live in Oneida, the interest for creating and connecting communities who raise hens was widespread from Oneida to Canastota, Chittenango, Vernon, Rome, and Sherrill. Ms. Bailey stated that their collective community craves a culture that is supportive, empowering, and inclusive. She stated that it is her belief that allowing residents to keep backyard hens already has and will only continue to grow in impacting the community in positive ways.

She quoted a comment made by Mayor Rossi at the first Common Council meeting that Public Comments were moved to the end of the meetings to encourage public engagement. She advised that the idea of keeping backyard hens directly corresponds to the one small, positive change that was made in that people are getting involved, neighbors are meeting and talking about what is important to them, and residents have access to having their voices heard. She thanked Council and concluded by stating that this is "local government in action," and Council's consideration for passing this law is very much appreciated.

CHRIS WRIGHT-2380 MIDDLE ROAD

Mr. Wright advised that he was present not to give a speech, but with questions. One of which was the language pertaining to the zoning and defined use section, and if this would pertain to the outside district.

Mayor Rossi advised that the original law is pending to change and that it is his understanding from Council that whatever was previously deemed agricultural in the outside district will remain the same, and nothing will change. Mayor Rossi acknowledged that the wording in the original law was confusing, but through comments from the Public Hearing, revisions will be made.

Mr. Wright also questioned bedding that would have to be removed every week and from April to October that would be fine, but in the winter months dry bedding is just added to the top so that decomposing bedding adds warmth for the chickens. He asked that the Council takes this into consideration.

Mayor Rossi stated that this was new for the City, and the Council is taking it one step at a time and thanked Mr. Wright.

Mr. Wright later added that chickens are also a controller of ticks.

BRIAN BARRIS-1855 WEST ROAD

Mr. Barris advised that he sent an email to Councilor Szczerba, which he believed was forwarded to the other members of Council after the last meeting. He stated that his concern was the wording of the local law and that it might restrict their freedom in the outside district. Mr. Barris said that he fully supports

allowing chickens in the inside district, advising that he has chickens, his children love them, and that having them is a great experience. He encouraged the Council to open this up to the inside district as well and was glad to hear that this would not affect the outside district, which was his main concern.

Additional speakers that did not sign up initially were also allowed to speak:

ROBERT EATON

Mr. Eaton stated that up until last spring he had chickens until he realized it was not allowed. He noted that he had a great experience with having chickens, and he was glad Council was considering working with them to have a new code that would help everyone. He expressed concern over the limit of 6 chickens, which he felt should be based on the size of the resident's property. He stated that he did not feel someone with 3 acres of land should be held to the same restriction as someone who only had $\frac{1}{4}$ of an acre. He advised that there is no restriction on the number of dogs or cats residents can have, and it is only logical that it be appropriate to the size of the land so it can be managed properly. He stated that he also did not agree with the composting language, noting that composting is not harmful and no worse than anything else in the City. He does not feel this should be overregulated and stated the benefits of fresh eggs and knowing where your food is coming from.

Councilor Szczerba questioned the number of eggs each chicken produces, to which Mr. Eaton advised a chicken produces roughly 1 egg every 28 hours and further elaborated on the benefits of having hens.

Mayor Rossi received and placed on file an email comment received on February 20, 2024, from Mr. Jerome Cooper and an email comment received from Cherish Eastman on February 20, 2024, that were distributed to Council prior to the Public Hearing.

EVELYN BUELL

Miss Buell said that she grew up on a farm taking care of animals and thought that this would be a great opportunity for people in the community to experience. She does not feel chickens are harmful if they are taken care of properly.

AZARIA COOPER

Miss Cooper highlighted a key concern regarding the current restriction on the number of chickens allowed by the proposed local law. She emphasized the importance of having a minimum of six chickens in a flock, citing safety in numbers and the benefits for the overall community of chickens and their well-being. She expressed worry that if a chicken were to be lost due to predation or health issues, it would be challenging for individuals to replace just one chicken, particularly since some places, like TSC, sell chicks only in minimum quantities of six. This limitation could pose difficulties for chicken owners in maintaining their flock's size and health.

JEROME COOPER

Mr. Cooper shared his experience as a volunteer at Church on the Rock for over seven years, particularly highlighting the challenges faced by many people during the pandemic when they lacked basic necessities. He mentioned that local farmers stepped up to donate over 100 dozen eggs per week to the church. Despite shortages in local stores, Mr. Cooper noted that local farmers and even individuals who may be

keeping chickens illegally were contributing eggs to food pantries. Additionally, it was mentioned that Mr. Cooper provided further commentary via email as noted above.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

A LOCAL LAW TO AMEND CHAPTER 17, §17-1 OF THE ONEIDA CITY CODE AND TO ESTABLISH A NEW CHAPTER REGULATING THE HARBORING OF HENS WITHIN THE CITY OF ONEIDA

RESOLUTION 24-34

Moved by Councilor Hitchings
Seconded by Councilor Winchell

RESOLVED, that the Public Hearing on a proposed Local Law to amend Chapter 17, § 17-1 of the Oneida City Code and to establish a new chapter regulating the harboring of hens within the City of Oneida be hereby closed at 6:52 p.m.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

CEREMONIAL: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

REPORTS:

- **MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Rossi advised that the Sconondoa St. homeless encampment was recently moved and cleaned up, as it was a public safety concern not only for the residents surrounding it, but for the people living in it. A public statement was issued.
- **SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:** None
- **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:** City Manager Doug Selby provided an update on the collapsed building at 125 Oneida Street. The cleanup process is currently at a standstill due to a debate with the owner and the insurance company. Despite the Fire Marshal issuing a notice to clean up the property, the deadline has already passed. The next course of action will involve presenting the Fire Marshal's report to the Council and scheduling a Public Hearing. During this process, the Council will review the report and decide whether to deem the property a public nuisance and the ordering of an abatement/cleanup. Manager Selby expressed optimism that the owner will resolve the insurance issue before this process is brought before the Council.

Mayor Rossi added that the City is working to get this cleaned up faster than some of the other

buildings that have collapsed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Councilor Hitchings
Seconded by Councilor Laureti

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the regular meeting of February 6, 2024, are hereby approved as presented.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF WARRANT

Moved by Councilor Simchik
Seconded by Councilor Winchell

RESOLVED, that Warrant No. 4, checks and ACH payments in the amount of \$2,433,409.65 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 24-35

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

BUDGET TRANSFERS/AMENDMENTS

RESOLUTION 24-36

Moved by Councilor Hitchings
 Seconded by Councilor Winchell

	<u>To</u>	<u>From</u>
2024 Budget Adjustments		
\$ 180.00	001.0001.0885.0000 Kallet Capital Improvement Reserve	001.0019.2413.0000 Kallet Revenue
To re-allocate funds from the ticket sales to the capital improvement reserves as per the contract		
\$ 2,875.00	001.8020.0403.0000 Planning Contracts	001.0001.0912.0000 General Fund Balance
To allocate funds for the survey contract approved on 2/6/24 resolution #24-25		
\$ 3,000.00	001.3410.0116.0000 Fire Healthcare Worker Bonus Reimbursements	001.0025.3401.0000 State Healthcare Worker Bonus Issuance
\$ 186.00	001.9030.0801.0000 Social Security	001.0025.3401.0000 State Healthcare Worker Bonus Issuance
\$ 43.50	001.9035.0802.0000 Medicare	001.0025.3401.0000 State Healthcare Worker Bonus Issuance
To re-allocate funds from revenue received as a pass through for NY State. We are mandated by New York State to pay out the Healthcare Worker Bonus to the state approved Firefighters in their salary and FICA expenses		
\$ 2,100.00	002.8300.0403.0000 Water-Contracts	002.0022.2650.0000 Water Sale of Scrap
To re-allocate funds for the purchase of shirts and sweatshirts for the water dept.		

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

CELLULAR TELEPHONE ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY

RESOLUTION 24-37

Moved by Councilor Hitchings
Seconded by Councilor Winchell

RESOLVED, that the Employee Acknowledgement of Receipt and Understanding of the Cellular Telephone Administrative Policy from Firefighter Travis Krol, be hereby received and placed on file.

RESOLVED, that the Telephone Request Form from Firefighter Travis Krol, 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.

DISCUSSION: City Manager Selby, in response to a question from Councilor Laureti regarding the amount of the allowance, advised that the current policy states that "in some cases, the City will provide a cell phone requirement allowance of up to \$50 per month." The Council members briefly discussed the current policy and decided they would like to table this resolution to afford them the opportunity to review it further and update it. Manager Selby asked if the Council would like an alternative policy developed for their consideration, to which they agreed. Councilor Simchik advised that in the past, members of the Fire Department used pagers that were discontinued.

Motion to Table by Councilor Hitchings
Seconded by Councilor Szczerba

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0

MOTION TABLED

APPROVE POSITION-ASSISTANT WATER MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

RESOLUTION 24-38

Moved by Councilor Hitchings
Seconded by Councilor Szczerba

RESOLVED, to amend the 2024 Salary Schedule and approve the position of Assistant Water Maintenance Supervisor; and

RESOLVED, to add a new job description for Assistant Water Maintenance Supervisor to the City of Oneida approved CSEA positions with a base wage of \$32.00 per hour.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0
MOTION CARRIED

APPROVE REFUND- WATER BOARD RECOMMENDATION

RESOLUTION 24-39

Moved by Councilor Hitchings
Seconded by Councilor Winchell

RESOLVED, to approve the recommendation from the Water Board to refund Derrick Buell-Rocky Road Trailer Park, Rocky Road, Oneida, NY 13421, Account No. 01-044002-00, the amount of \$1,541.40, to be paid by voucher, for bills overestimated during the period between December 1, 2021, and December 1, 2022.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0
MOTION CARRIED

AGREEMENT-CIVIC PLUS

RESOLUTION 24-40

Moved by Councilor Hitchings
Seconded by Councilor Pagano

RESOLVED, to authorize the City Manager to sign an agreement with Civic Plus for \$5,500.75 for the annual City website platform maintenance and Municode subscription.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0
MOTION CARRIED

GRANT APPLICATION-PARKS PASSPORT PROGRAM

RESOLUTION 24-41

Moved by Councilor Hitchings
Seconded by Councilor Winchell

RESOLVED, to approve for the Director of Parks and Recreation to submit a grant application

through Madison County Youth Bureau, Youth Sports and Education Opportunity Funding for the City of Oneida Parks and Recreation Parks Passport Program.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS: Presentation by Planning Director, Chris Henry-Proposed changes to Zoning Code

City Manager Selby requested Planning Director Chris Henry to deliver a presentation to the Council regarding the update of several zoning codes, likely to be done collectively-in a block. This initiative aims to provide clarity and transparency for both the public and the Council regarding upcoming local laws.

Director Henry emphasized that the last 5 years have shown the need for the city's zoning regulations to adapt and evolve more rapidly and to be less restrictive. He highlighted that there are still unresolved issues from last year, indicating that there's ample opportunity for modifications and updates.

Director Henry provided a handout to Council highlighting a short-term plan to address the issues which are attached and includes Smoke Shops, Body Art Establishments, Mass Definition Update, Adaptive Reuse Law and Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU's). He reviewed each of these as per the handout.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

RESOLUTION 24-42

Motioned by Councilor Winchell

Seconded by Councilor Szczerba

RESOLVED, that the meeting is hereby adjourned to Executive Session at 7:00 p.m. to

Seek advice of Counsel Discuss a personnel matter

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

PRESENT: Mayor City Manager Council Comptroller Wells (left at 8p.m.)
 Attorney Stacy Marris (left at 8p.m.)

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

Motioned by Councilor Simchik
Seconded by Councilor Laureti

RESOLVED, that Executive Session is hereby adjourned to the regular meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Szczerba
Seconded by Councilor Laureti

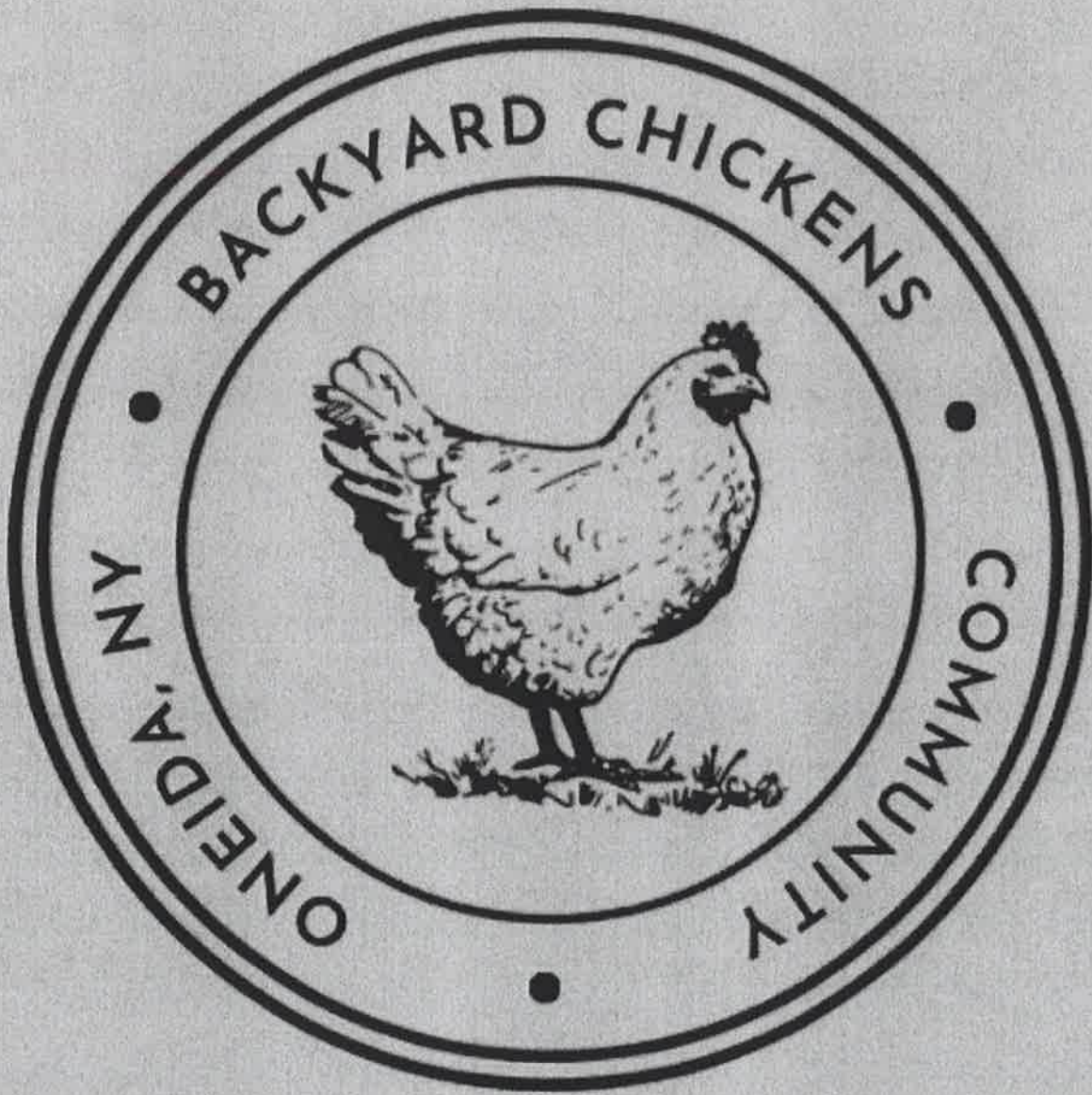
Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

The regular meeting is hereby adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

RECEIVED
FEB 20 2024
BY: Slippery



February 20, 2024

Thank you, Mayor Rossi and Council Members for providing us with this opportunity. I would like it put on record that you were each given a packet. In this packet you will find the following:

1. A letter from Barbara A. Roach, DVM
2. A letter from Jackie Hailey
3. A letter from Carmel Keeley
4. A letter from Melinda Mugford
5. A letter from Jen Bailey
6. A letter from Ariel Bero
7. A letter from Caleb Mannix
8. A petition signed by 93 # of people residing in Oneida

I also represent the following people here tonight who favor housing chickens being allowed in Oneida.

****Would you all please raise your hands?****

As you can see council, we have all come together to show you the importance of changing the law.

All of these documents are from community members who support the raising of hens within the city of Oneida. Each of them recognizes the benefits that housing hens would bring to our neighborhoods. The opportunity to provide fresh eggs to not only their own family but also to their neighbors around them. Raising chickens would open doors for our community. We can share experiences, tips, tricks, and coop ideas.

Our community can benefit in other ways too. We can start community vegetable and plant exchanges. We could even start community clubs to share our hobbies. The number of opportunities are limitless.

I look forward to our city becoming one that people flock to for all our available opportunities.

Thank you again for the opportunity,



Melisa Mannix
341 Stone Street
Oneida, NY 13421
(607)760-0734

January 16, 2024

Barbara A Roach, DVM
Village Veterinary Hospital
230 Genesee Street
Canastota, NY 13032

The Oneida Common Council
109 N Main Street
Oneida, NY 13421

Dear Mayor Rossi and Council Members,


Urban chicken farming in local communities has become increasingly popular in recent years. Not only do chickens provide a sustainable source of fresh eggs and meat, but they also make excellent pets and can help to reduce food waste by consuming kitchen scraps and leftovers.

There are many benefits to keeping chickens in urban areas, including reduced food miles, decreased carbon footprint, and increased self-sufficiency. Additionally, many people find that raising chickens is a fun and rewarding hobby that brings them closer to nature and their community.

However, it is important to note that keeping chickens in urban areas requires careful planning and consideration. Cities may decide to restrict the number and type of animals that can be kept, as well as the construction of coops and runs. It is also important to ensure that the chickens are kept in a safe and healthy environment, with access to clean water, nutritious feed, and adequate space to move around.

Overall, urban chicken farming has the potential to provide numerous benefits to local communities, including increased access to fresh, sustainable food and a closer connection to nature and one another. With proper planning and care, it can be a fun and rewarding hobby for people of all ages and backgrounds.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Roach, DVM

February 14, 2024

The Oneida Common Council

109 N Main Street

Oneida, NY 13421

Dear Mayor Rossi and Council Members,

My Name is Jackie Haley and I live at 448 Leonard Street in Oneida. I am an employee at the local Oneida Tractor Supply Company. I am in favor of passing a law that allows backyard hens for residents of Oneida.

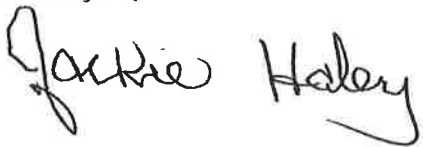
My letter today is to inform the council that if the law is passed, anyone wishing to keep hens has local and easy access to a lot of resources, tools, information, and help pertaining to chickens and their care at the local Tractor Supply located by Walmart in Oneida.

Tractor Supply Company (TSC) offers a wide range of tools and resources for backyard hens and poultry enthusiasts. From chicken coops and feeders to health supplements and bedding, Tractor Supply has everything people need to create a safe and comfortable environment for your hens.

Additionally, TSC offers expert advice and resources on poultry care, including tips on feeding, housing, and health maintenance. Their knowledgeable staff can help choose the right tools and products to meet specific needs.

People can also access a community of like-minded individuals who share your passion for raising backyard hens. TSC often hosts workshops, events, and online forums where you can connect with other poultry enthusiasts, ask questions, and share experiences. Tractor Supply is a valuable resource for all backyard hen needs and makes it easy access for anyone!

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jackie Haley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jackie Haley

Thank you for considering the approval of backyard chickens in the city of Oneida. As a resident, I believe the approval of this proposal would be a benefit to many members of the community. It would be one more step in making Oneida a greener, more self sufficient, and sustainable community.

Backyard chicken keeping has been on the rise over the last few years. The supply shortages that arose during the recent pandemic encouraged so many of us to try to become more self sufficient with our needs. We can already start a garden in our backyards but the addition of a few hens would allow for a consistent healthy, protein source to give a more rounded level of nutrition that we can rely on; no risk of it being sold out at the grocery store when we can get our own eggs from our own hens.

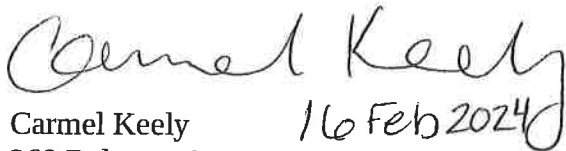
Speaking of the grocery store, the fluctuating price of commercially sourced groceries, especially eggs, has made it rather difficult for the average home to effectively budget. Between inflation and reduced commercial supply, the price of eggs has been going up and up but the average income has not.

Another benefit of raising our own eggs, is that we can trust that our food is being sourced ethically. Many people are uncomfortable with supporting factory farming practices, but not everyone has access to a local farm stand. With the chickens under our own care, the husbandry and quality of care is not a mystery.

Finally, a large part of the appeal of backyard chickens, is just keeping them as pets. People have kept chickens for thousands of years due to their usefulness and their companionship.

For all these reasons and more, I sincerely hope you consider expanding the city codes to allow the responsible keeping of backyard chickens.

Sincerely,



Carmel Keely
268 Belmont Ave
Oneida NY,
13421

16 Feb 2024

02/10/24

I live in the city of Oneida, and am in favor of the city implementing a new code allowing chickens. I have a one year old daughter and I make her own food because of the constant stress of recalls and scares with food products at the grocery stores. It would be wonderful to be able to add fresh eggs to that list to get my daughter a healthy and safe protein option. I think it has the potential to bring neighbors together. I grew up in Verona and there was constant trade between neighbors for fresh produce and eggs and that could be something we encourage here in Oneida as well.

Melinda Mugford

235 North St
Oneida NY 13421

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melinda Mugford". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the printed name and address.

February 20, 2024

Jennifer Bailey
417 Seneca Street
Oneida, NY 13421
607-222-2011

The Oneida Common Council
109 N Main Street
Oneida, NY 13421

Dear Mayor Rossi and Council Members:

I am outwardly proud to reside and own a small business in the City of Oneida. I am hopeful as the City stimulates growth, empowerment, and positive developments for our community. I have personally witnessed the changes and support the encouraged and impactful activism within our city.

Over the last two months, I kept a petition to sign in favor of the backyard hens at the counter of my store, Worthy, located at 767 Lenox Ave. Many guests in my store saw and conversed about the ideas of being able to keep backyard hens within city limits as a result. I have first-hand heard positive stories from people in neighboring cities who already have hens, I have witnessed excitement and intrigue from locals living in Oneida, and my experience talking about it has been filled with positive feedback. Although the signatures I collected were only from people living in Oneida; the interest for creating and connecting communities who raise hens was wide spread from Oneida, Chittenango, Canastota, Vernon, Rome, and Sherrill.

Our community craves a culture that is supportive, empowering, and inclusive. It is my belief that allowing residents to keep backyard hens already has and will continue to grow and impact our community in positive ways.

Mayor Rossi stated at the first common council meeting this year that public comments had been moved to the end of the meeting to encourage public engagement. The idea of keeping backyard hens directly corresponds to that one small positive change made. People are getting involved! Neighbors are meeting and talking about what is important to them! Residents have access to getting their voices heard! Thank YOU! This is local government in action.

Your consideration for passing a law to make keeping backyard hens is appreciated. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Bailey



January 18, 2024

The Oneida Common Council

109 N Main Street

Oneida, NY 13421

Dear Mayor Rossi and Council Members,

I believe that backyard chicken keeping should be allowed in our city of Oneida. Not only does it promote sustainable living by providing a source of fresh eggs, but it also encourages the humane treatment of animals by allowing them to live in a natural environment. Additionally, backyard chickens can help reduce waste by eating food scraps and producing nutrient-rich fertilizer for gardens. Chickens also make wonderful pets and can serve as a valuable source of entertainment for the whole family.

Not only are there environmental benefits to backyard chicken keeping, but it also promotes a sense of community. Neighbors can come together and share resources, such as feed and coop supplies, and even exchange eggs. It provides an opportunity for people to connect with their food and the process of raising it.

Overall, I believe that backyard chicken keeping is a positive and valuable addition to any neighborhood. By promoting sustainable living, humane treatment of animals, and community building, it's a movement that's worth changing the current law for.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ariel J. Bero".

Ariel J. Bero, City Historian

February 20, 2024

Good evening Mayor Rossi and Council Members. My name is Caleb Mannix. I am 10 years old and live at 341 Stone Street in Oneida. When I was born in May 2013 my family had already had chickens for a year. I was raised sharing my backyard with my 6 fluffy hens, and I really loved them.

Having chickens was fun. When I was a toddler I spent time in the grass crawling around. While I was in the backyard my chickens would come sit next to me in the grass and let me cuddle and pet them. As I got older I was excited to learn more about their care and feeding. I helped to feed them and change their water every day. When mom cleaned out their coop I was there with my little wheelbarrow to take the shavings to our compost pile. If they were in the yard and my mom needed them back to their pen I would call them back in with treats. I liked to check the nesting boxes every morning to see what colored eggs were laid! Did you know that chickens lay various colored eggs and that you can tell what color their egg will be by the color of their ear lobes!? I bet you didn't! 😊 We often gave our eggs away to our neighbors and friends. I met so many new people when I offered them eggs.

When I was 5 years old my mom found out that we were not allowed to have chickens in Oneida. We were made to rehome our girls after having them for 6 years! I cried the day my mom drove them to her friend's house in Bridgeport, NY where they would spend the rest of their lives. I asked my mom several times when we would get our chickens back.

I am here today to ask that you help me get my chickens back. I want my little brother to learn about raising chickens and eating fresh eggs from home like I did.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Caleb Mannix

Caleb Mannix



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Laws from Planning Short-term 1-2 Months:

1. Smoke Shops

- Former Mayor and Council implemented a moratorium on Smoke Shops due to their proliferation and potential negative impacts on community health, safety, and welfare.
- Proposed law aims to address concerns through:
 - Location restrictions:
 - Prohibition within a 1,000-foot radius of residential zones, schools, parks, etc.
 - Not allowed within 1,000 feet of another smoke shop.
 - Signage regulations to warn about product dangers.
- Definitional updates, including an amendment to the definition of Neighborhood Retail Services.

2. Body Art Establishments

- Increase in body art establishments noted.
- Proposed law intends to address concerns with:
 - Location restrictions similar to Smoke Shops.
 - Requirement for proper disposal of sharps.
 - Compliance with County and State Health Department regulations.

3. Mass Definition Update

- Update to definitions in the Zoning Schedule to aid Code Enforcement and reduce ambiguity.

Future Laws- Next 2-4 Months:

- **Adaptive Reuse Law**
 - Definition: Legal framework for repurposing existing buildings emphasizing preservation of historical significance and sustainable development.
 - Benefits:
 - Revitalizes historic buildings and preserves cultural heritage.
 - Promotes sustainable development and economic revitalization.
 - Enhances community aesthetics and reduces environmental impact.
 - Challenges:
 - Regulatory complexity.
 - Financial barriers.
 - Technical constraints.

- **Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)**
 - Definition: Secondary housing units on the same property as primary residence.
 - Benefits:
 - Increases affordable housing options.
 - Promotes sustainable development.
 - Challenges:
 - Balancing housing needs with neighborhood concerns.
 - Infrastructure and service adequacy.
 - Concerns about property values and neighborhood aesthetics.



The ABCs of ADUs

A guide to
Accessory Dwelling Units
and how they expand housing options
for people of all ages



DETACHED ADU



BASEMENT ADU



GARAGE-CONVERSION ADU



ATTACHED ADU



SECOND-STORY ADU

AARP.org/ADUs



ABOVE-GARAGE ADU



DETACHED-BEDROOM ADU



DETACHED ADU

- An accessory dwelling unit is a small residence that shares a single-family lot with a larger primary dwelling.
- As an independent living space, an ADU is self-contained, with its own kitchen or kitchenette, bathroom and living/sleeping area. (Garage apartments and backyard cottages are each a type of ADU.)
- ADUs can enable homeowners to provide needed housing for their parents, adult children, grandchildren or other loved ones.
- An ADU can provide older adults a way to downsize on their own property while a tenant or family member resides in the larger house.
- Since homeowners can legally rent out an ADU house or apartment, ADUs are an often-essential income source.
- ADUs help to improve housing affordability and diversify a community's housing stock without changing the physical character of a neighborhood.
- ADUs are a beneficial — and needed — housing option for people of all ages.

Learn more about ADUs and
order or download

The ABCs of ADUs

by visiting

AARP.org/ADU

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