

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

A meeting of the Common Council of the City of Oneida, NY was held on the second day of April 2024 at 6:30 pm in the auditorium of the Oneida High School, 560 Seneca St., 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public Safety Com. Dave Jones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Codes Director Bob Burnett	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Parks & Rec Director Luke Griff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Comptroller Lee Ann Wells	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	City Chamberlain Anna Hood	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Attorney Rich Andino	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Water Super. John Monaghan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Supervisors Roberts, Cavanagh DuBois and Kinville	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

PUBLIC HEARING: A Public Hearing on a proposed Local Law to amend Section 12.1 of the Oneida City Charter to change the qualifications of the City Manager position.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

**PROPOSED LOCAL LAW TO AMEND SECTION 12.1 OF THE ONEIDA CITY CHARTER TO CHANGE
THE QUALIFICATIONS OF THE CITY MANAGER POSITION**

RESOLUTION 24-66

Moved by Councilor Hitchings
Seconded by Councilor Szczerba

RESOLVED, that the Public Hearing on a proposed Local Law to amend Section 12.1 of the Oneida City Charter to change the qualifications of the City Manager position by hereby opened at 6:32 p.m.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

APPEARANCES

BOB BURNETT-109 N. MAIN ST.

Mr. Burnett, Director of Code Enforcement for the City of Oneida stated that he was asked if he would be interested in being the Acting City Manager in the absence of the City Manager, and his reply was “if I could do anything to help the City of Oneida, I’d do that.” He stated that being the backup does not pay any additional money, and that he would only be needed in the absence of the City Manager. Mr. Burnett stated that he believes he has done a good job with Code Enforcement, essentially created the department and effectively executed his duties. He noted that he does not have the qualifications to be the City Manager for the City of Oneida based on the current criteria; however, he advised that it wasn’t about him, but rather opening the pool of potential candidates, stating that there are many examples of great leaders that do not have a degree but built their careers based on experience. He stated that he has always worked hard in whatever job he’s had, including his current position.

Mr. Burnett advised that he agreed to be the backup for one reason, to help the City. Mr. Burnett stated that he is requesting two things:

- He wants the community to prosper and revitalize and asks anyone who opposes himself as being the backup City Manager to make the opposing debate about the position and to not make it personal about himself, as his only intent is to help in any way he can; and
- Whatever decision is made this evening, everyone comes together and unites, as currently within City Hall and clearly the public, there is a division, morale is low, and tension is high. For the City to move forward and continue to thrive, we need to work cohesively as a team.

In conclusion, Director Burnett expressed his commitment to working diligently for the betterment of the City of Oneida, emphasizing his dedication to positively impacting the community, which he has grown to

love. He reiterated his commitment to revitalizing and changing the community for the better in whatever role he undertakes.

POLICE CHIEF STEVE LOWELL-108 MAIN ST.

Police Chief Steven Lowell, accompanied by Executive Team Members, Fire Chief Scott Jones, Comptroller Lee Ann Wells, City Engineer, Jeff Rowe, Parks and Recreation Director Luke Griff, Water Superintendent, John Monaghan and Executive Secretary to the Civil Service Commission, Jessica Kaiser, read a prepared letter to Mayor Rossi and the Council, which is included with the minutes as **Attachment A**.

JANET JONES-257 E. WALNUT ST.

Janet Jones stated she has deep concerns regarding recent reports and decisions made by some of the City Council, advising that as a resident and taxpayer of the City, she believes in the principles of transparency and accountability that the current Council members campaigned on last year. She stated that as the representatives in City government, they can do better. Ms. Jones advised that the recent actions and decisions by some of the Council members were troubling, unacceptable, and possibly illegal. She urged the City Council to reconsider its approach, commit to a policy of transparency and openness in all proceedings, allow public access to discussions during decision making processes and make meeting minutes and documents readily available to all residents without the need to foil, which she stated, just wastes more taxpayer money.

Ms. Jones addressed the Council, directing her inquiry to Ward 4 Councilor Rob Winchell, seeking clarification regarding recent closed-door decisions, and advocating for transparency in future proceedings. She expressed her belief that fellow Ward residents shared her discontent with recent actions and proposed employment adjustments, characterizing them as a "bait and switch" tactic. Ms. Jones emphasized the importance of restoring confidence in elected officials and ensuring fair and open representation of the community's interests.

Advising that she has been a resident of the City of Oneida for 32 years, she, along with her husband who was a lifelong resident, active citizen, and registered republican, have witnessed a decline in the City. She stated that they want and deserve a safe City that is run on smart, fiscal business decisions and common sense with the best people in all positions, regardless of party affiliations. Admitting that she and her husband differed on their position pertaining to the City Manager referendum, they believe the City needs a City Manager.

Ms. Jones advised that they are now witnessing that the wrong City Council was in place to effectively execute the City Manager form of management with consideration and fidelity. She urged the City Council to uphold the values they campaigned on and were elected to uphold and to take immediate steps to rectify the lack of openness in recent actions, stating that the City depends on it and the trust of the community hangs in the balance. She expressed her support for Mayor Rossi and the Council members who stand with him for the greater good and concluded by saying that "doing the right thing is always the right thing to do."

DAVID SCHOLL-230 COTTAGE PLACE

Mr. Scholl stated that in his opinion, it has become clear that the citizens are not very happy with the Common Council, because he feels the Open Meetings Law was violated while trying to change the qualifications of the City Manager position, trying to remove the previously appointed Acting City Manager, and trying to appoint the lessor qualified Director of Codes as Acting City Manager. He stated that the reasons for this are unknown, as the Council refuses to communicate or speak out on the matter

when asked to do so. He stated that after reading the agenda for this meeting, it was evident that the Council planned on going forward, regardless of what the constituents want or what the City needs. He stated that based on Agenda items 11 and 12, it appears that the Council plans on appointing the Codes Director as Acting City Manager, firing the City Manager, and then by default, the Acting City Manager will run the City for as long as Council wants, as there are no provisions as to how long he can fill the position, which is his opinion is deceitful.

Mr. Scholl suggested that Council reach out to Department Heads and other City employees to see how they feel about this and asked for an explanation as to what prompted this change, why it will make Oneida a better City, who was responsible for bringing this forward, and why they still want to go forward with it. He strongly believes that this topic be tabled until a later date when they can respond to these questions. He stated that he believes to be a successful leader and a manager, one must do so with honesty, integrity, and transparency.

Having previously served on the City of Oneida Sign Review Board for over 17 years until its demise, Mr. Scholl advised that he has a willingness to serve the City again and offered to serve on a committee to resolve this situation in an amicable, professional manner where the City residents end up with a competent and qualified Permanent and Acting City Managers. He thanked the City of Oneida employees who provide the residents with a safe, clean, and inviting environment on a daily basis, despite the problems with City management by City Council. He also thanked Mr. Selby for his service and expressed appreciation for the help and guidance he provided during his time here. Mr. Scholl apologized to Mr. Selby that his City failed him. He asked the Council to do the right thing and accept the help and opinions of others in an effort to show the willingness to rebuild the trust that the public had in them during the 2023 election.

BRIAN BORTREE-444 LEONARD ST.

Mr. Bortree informed the Council that a committee was formed to help make decisions regarding the City Manager position, and he emphasized the significant time commitment the committee members dedicated to this. He expressed concern that the Council's desire to change this decision without consulting City residents is a violation of their Oath of Office. He criticized the Council for not listening to their constituents and suggested that those who signed the letter should resign immediately.

PATRICIA ALBAUGH-118 HAGAN CIRCLE

Patricia Albaugh, a retired schoolteacher, stated that she is a resident of the second ward and has lived in Oneida since 1973. Despite being encouraged to run for Mayor herself over the years due to her interpersonal skills, she acknowledged her lack of knowledge about how to run a City. She commended past mayors for their qualities and skills, cited various professions each held, and acknowledged their desire to do good for the City despite the absence of formal training in City Administration.

Ms. Albaugh highlighted the community's longstanding discussions about hiring a City Manager, which finally culminated last year. She emphasized the voters' desire for a qualified individual to manage the City efficiently, despite the cost. Ms. Albaugh reminded the Council of their commitment to uphold the trust of the people and adhere to the responsibilities outlined in the Oath of Office, including compliance with the Open Meetings Law.

Ms. Albaugh strongly advised the Council against considering any changes to what the voters approved in November. She emphasized the importance of moving forward with honesty, openness, and transparency, always prioritizing the trust of the people.

SUE PULVERENTI-217 MAPLE DRIVE

Ms. Pulverenti expressed her extreme disappointment by the lack of respect that several council members have shown to the Mayor, noting that each council person was elected to their ward only by their residents, while Mayor Rossi was elected by the entire City. She stated that sneaking around behind his back is uncalled for and when the Council disrespects their Mayor, they disrespect every person in the City, noting that it needs to stop.

Ms. Pulverenti reminded the Council of a Facebook Page created before the November election, which specifically promoted the need for and approval of a City Manager, to which she believed some members of Council may have been authors of that page. She read excerpts from that page, which included key benefits noted as:

- Professional Expertise-City Managers are experienced professionals, and they bring a high level of expertise to efficiently run the City operations, make data driven decisions, and manage budgets effectively.
- We need a CEO with experience in leading a successful multi-million-dollar enterprise, adding that a business with an inexperienced leader is likely to fail and decline, stating that our City now is declining and suffering from lack of experienced leadership.
- A City Manager will have the experience and qualifications to lead our City into the future, with the qualifications for this position being a 4-year degree and 5 years of public administration experience.
- We need someone with integrity and strong experience to start running the City like a business-it's time to take the politics out of the day by day.

She questioned the Council if all these statements were just "trickery" to get the residents to vote in a positive manner so they could then change the qualifications to fit a specific individual? She advised that the City voters approved the referendum to hire a City Manager based on what they were told, which included the qualifications as outlined in Local Law No. 6 of 2023 for that referendum. She stated that what Council was trying to do now is deceptive and not in the best interest of the City, noting that Council's plan to place any unqualified person into a position where he or she will be the boss of Department Heads who have Master's Degrees, Bachelor's Degrees, Engineering Degrees, and Finance Degrees is irresponsible and negligent on their part. Ms. Pulverenti advised that this will create a hostile working environment and is not in the best interest of the City and its residents.

Mr. Selby was the City Manager of the City of Las Vegas, with a population of 645,000 people and the City of Auburn with a population of 27,000 people, both much bigger than the City of Oneida and in her opinion, a much better choice as City Manager. She advised that Mr. Selby choose the City Comptroller as his selection as Acting City Manager, because she meets the qualifications and has the experience and skill sets to tackle the demands of this position, asking Council why they would hire a skilled professional like Mr. Selby and then ignore his expertise, which puts politics back into the equation. She thanked Councilor Simchik for his knowledge and understanding that "dumbing down" the qualifications is wrong and will not serve the residents of the City. She also thanked Mayor Rossi for his Veto of Resolution 24-64 to change the qualifications of City Manager. She reminded Council that they work for the public and should listen to the people present.

MIKE KAISER-220 N. BROAD ST.

Mike Kaiser provided written comments as noted in **Attachment B.**

PETER HEDGLON-449 BROAD ST.

Attorney and former Mayor Peter Hedglon advised that he has 47 years of experience in or around municipal law and stated that he agrees with everything that everybody has said, including Mr. Burnett and his former next-door neighbor, Pat Albaugh. He advised Mr. Burnett that somebody at the table put his qualifications, education, and experience on the table for fair comment and analysis, as someone is presenting him as qualified for the office of either Acting City Manager or as City Manager.

He advised that some councilors were attempting to overturn the November 2023 referendum, in which the majority of the voters approved the adoption of the City Manager form of government, separating the political process of making policy at the Common Council from the Executive function of executing that policy in the management of City government. In his opinion, there is too much politics in the execution of policy. Attorney Hedglon read the "Purpose Statement" in the referendum, which was approved by the voters.

The Purpose Statement read:

Section 2. PURPOSE.

"A full-time city manager has the education and experience required to administer the City of Oneida's operations and has expertise in managing departments and preparing budgets. A professional manager who understands how to motivate and evaluate staff will make the City of Oneida more responsive to citizens and better enable the City to hire and maintain qualified individuals."

He stated that this statement is the intent, the spirit, and the purpose of this referendum, noting that some councilors have proposed a series of resolutions affecting Lee Ann Wells and Douglas Selby, clearly intending to be replaced by Robert Burnett in the position of City Manager, making Mr. Burnett's qualifications an issue. Mr. Hedglon raised the question "does he have the education, experience and expertise in managing departments and budgeting to professionally manage City government?" Following that question, Attorney Hedglon advised that Robert Burnett has been the Director of Codes since October 5, 2021, less than 2.5 years. He manages 3 employees, which is 1.75% of all City employees. He manages a salaried budget of \$238,823, less than 1% of the total City budget. Also noted was his prior position as a Code Enforcement Officer had no management or executive responsibilities according to the job description. Also highlighted were other positions Mr. Burnett held prior to coming to the City of Oneida.

Attorney Hedglon stated that Mr. Selby has a lot of experience, including a Master's Degree, a Bachelor's Degree and a PhD. He advised that Ms. Wells has 7.5 years of experience as Comptroller, noting that the Comptroller knows more about what goes on in the City than anybody else. He stated that the Councilors that want Mr. Burnett to be Acting City Manager and likely City Manager, appear to have concluded that he has the better credentials, including the education and the expertise, with his 2.5 years of experience in management. Peter Hedglon then stated that they owe the people of the City of Oneida an answer as to why they think Mr. Burnett's credentials qualify him to be the City Manager, acknowledging that they do not have to answer.

BRAHIM ZOGBY-114 E. SANDS ST.

Mr. Zogby yielded his time to Mayor Hedglon.

PETER HEDGLON

Former Mayor Hedglon stated that he was going to give a quick lesson in Civics. He advised that the City Council is the legislative body of the City and makes policy when it meets in compliance with the City Charter and the Open Meetings Law. The Council does not have the authority to make policy by text, by email, or by a series of phone conversations. He advised that the Council is supposed to meet in the open, with public notice, an agenda and a quorum, resolutions and recorded votes with minutes taken. When a Common Council does not do that, the things they decide behind closed doors can be addressed in an Article 78 proceeding. Attorney Hedglon advised that a lot of what has been done regarding the City Manager has been done by councilors not in public, breaking the trust of the City residents who put them in office, who violated their Oath, and who are obligated to follow the laws of the State and the Charter. The letter, which he advised is a matter of public record came into being by a process that is not in compliance with the Open Meetings Law or the City Charter, noting that each person that signed that letter owes an obligation to the people explaining how they did this and how they thought it was legal.

As a former mayor, attorney, resident, and self-professed government “nerd” with extensive knowledge and experience with the Open Meetings Law, Attorney Hedglon expressed uncertainty about whether the Council's actions demonstrated ignorance or arrogance regarding the law. Considering the tenure of his council person (Councilor Szczerba) and Councilor Laureti, as well as Ward 3's experience as Deputy City Clerk for two years, Attorney Hedglon feared it was arrogance.

Councilor Szczerba responded by reading a letter written by Peter Hedglon after losing the election to Leo Matzke. Mayor Rossi questioned the relevance of this action. Councilor Szczerba explained that Mr. Hedglon, the former mayor, was criticizing the current council for potentially embarrassing the city and threatening costly lawsuits, which counterintuitively would cost the taxpayers money.

Mr. Hedglon reminded Councilor Szczerba of the time when he came to his house last Fall seeking his vote for re-election as a member of the Common Council. Councilor Szczerba engaged in conversation about why he wanted to be re-elected, to which former Mayor Hedglon asked him the same question he stated he asks everyone who seeks his vote for City office or for when he was on the Republican City Committee when they came seeking his endorsement, “what is the job description for the position in which you are seeking?” Based on the response Mr. Hedglon received, he stated that Mr. Szczerba did not know what the job description was, and that Mr. Szczerba acknowledged that he had not read the City Charter. Attorney Hedglon advised that the job description for the Council is in the Charter.

Attorney Hedglon emphasized that the Council functions as a collective body when establishing policy, rather than acting as individuals. He asserted that no single Councilor possesses the authority to instruct Department Heads or City employees on their duties or the direction to follow. Instead, the Council as a whole is responsible for providing direction through resolutions and proper meetings.

Reflecting on his tenure as Mayor, Attorney Hedglon recalled the challenges faced during the international recession of 2008-2009 and the issue of Land into Trust. He acknowledged working diligently to address some problems but noted the limitations of his capacity to solve every issue due to the significant challenges the City encountered during that time, concluding by saying that he was very proud of what he was able to accomplish while Mayor.

RICHARD DROPP-ONEIDA

Mr. Dropp advised that he was a 10-year resident of Oneida and voted for Mr. Rossi and voted for the City to have a Manager position. He stated that he has been a victim of fraud embezzlement in the past and

“obviously” some corruption and that a City Manager is supposed to vent that for them. He stated that based on the body language he observed of certain Council members, he hoped it was because they knew they did something wrong. He held up the agenda and advised the Council that it was “our” agenda and not “their” agenda and to please respect that.

VINCENT BAILEY-ONEIDA

Mr. Bailey stated that he owns several properties in the City of Oneida, including the City Center building across from the Police Station that houses the Blend, Nava Browtique and Aesthetics, 105 Hair Salon and the Chinese Restaurant, as well as several other projects in the City that translate into millions of dollars in investments. He stated that although he cannot take sole credit for the projects, it was evident that all the projects he has done have benefited the City. Personal comments directed toward Mr. Burnett were made; however, they will not be included in these minutes.

LYNNE McHUGH-420 WILBUR ST.

Lynne McHugh advised that she lives in Ward 1 and ran for council in 2022. She also stated that she did read the Charter and is concerned that the Common Council would even consider sweeping aside the educational requirements for the purposes of expediency or convenience. She stated that there is a very good reason why education is required to perform specific duties in our society, understanding how running a municipality falls into this category. Ms. McHugh advised that for a City comparable in size to Oneida, having a minimum Bachelor’s Degree is reasonable. She continued to advise that the City already has a very qualified candidate who would be capable of stepping into the City Manager role, noting that City Comptroller, Lee Ann Wells, has a college degree in business and accounting (Bachelor’s Degree); she has nearly 10 years of experience in the City Comptroller’s office and has played a pivotal role in planning a path forward for Oneida.

Ms. McHugh expressed concern about the highly politicized nature of the City Manager selection process, noting that throwing one's hat into the ring exposes one’s career stability to political whims and allegiances. She mentioned that Mr. Selby's appointment of Mrs. Wells as Acting City Manager was intended to be temporary, and while the Council has stated that having Ms. Wells is a conflict of interest, they do not see Mr. Burnett's position in the same light. Ms. McHugh also pointed out that Mr. Selby's time in Oneida was always meant to be limited; however, now that the Council wants to terminate him, she finds it concerning. She questioned the metrics used to evaluate Mr. Selby or any other person in that position, as it appears to her that the Council's intention is to onboard a less qualified candidate of their choosing quickly.

Ms. McHugh highlighted that the decision to support the change in November was based on the expectation that the City Manager would possess a college degree in a related field and the necessary experience to effectively manage the city. However, she expressed concern that only two months after implementing these criteria, there is now a desire to change course to accommodate a specific individual. She echoed Mr. Zogby's sentiment from the last meeting that it is not appropriate to "cherry-pick" based on current personalities. Ms. McHugh emphasized that while experience and performance are important, they cannot replace the value of education. Despite past disagreements, she conveyed her respect for Mayor Rossi's decision to veto this change and expressed appreciation for it.

JIM COULTHART-544 BROADWAY

Mr. Coulthart, a former two-term councilman for the third ward, offered a unique perspective on the matter. He indicated his agreement with previous comments and opinions expressed. He inquired whether the City of Oneida was a member of the NYS Conference of Mayors, to which the Mayor and

Comptroller confirmed. Mr. Coulthart recalled his own experience when he first took office, mentioning that he and other councilors sought education on the responsibilities of being a City elected official. He then questioned how many current councilors had undertaken similar education. Councilor Simchik was the sole councilor to acknowledge having done so.

He strongly suggested that they make that time investment, which would have foreseen some of the embarrassing situations they are now finding themselves in. He stated that his concern is how this document got done and how it ended up in a form that looked to be an actual item of legal voting, asking if the Clerk had seen this before it became part of the agenda, and if not, why not? He also asked where the City Attorney was in all of this, stating that it seems as though that is what we (or you) hired the City Attorney for. He strongly suggested that they do the right thing and get smart about what they are going to be doing.

RICK KINSELLA-452 MAIN ST.

Mr. Kinsella advised that he has spent almost all of his 75 years in the City Oneida, and that he and his six siblings all graduated from Oneida High School, acknowledging that his father was President of the school board when the high school was conceived and built. He stated that he was present to primarily address his comments to the 5 members of the Council who set this activity in motion. He asked if they have no sense of decency, reminding them of the public meeting at OPL (Oneida Public Library) last Fall when they all, as candidates, professed their commitment to transparency in their role of government, while some even mocked their opponents who spoke about providing an open government.

He reminded them that in their role as a public servant, they are responsible for knowing their duties and the Open Meetings Law, advising that they failed miserably. At the very least, before taking any further action, they should feel compelled to take training from the Committee for Open Government on the Open Meetings Law and demonstrate they have some proficiency in this. The course of action, as they have proceeded, has set in motion the resignation of an imminently qualified person who has taken steps and begun to put the structure and format for this new position that all were very excited about. Instead, their actions have resulted in promoting somebody to replace that person whose responsibility to date is supervising 3 people and a budget of less than \$250,000.

Mr. Kinsella stated that he does not know if this is legal, as he is not an attorney, but it is certainly not moral to try and change the requirements of what the voters voted for just last November, especially when it is being done based on two months' worth of experience and have yet to provide any explanation of their actions whatsoever. He stated that it is hard to see this as anything other than bait and switch. There have been multiple attempts to have a City Manager in the past, and the voters finally saw the wisdom of it, adding that there was no rationale for what the Council has done. Mr. Kinsella stated that it "stinks of cronyism." This represents a complete abdication of the responsibility outlined in the oath and will lead to waste, fraud, and abuse.

ARIEL BERO-369 LENOX AVE.

Ms. Bero advised that she had something prepared about qualifications and education, but now she is just angry and appalled by some of the councilmen's behaviors and actions over the last month, and especially tonight. Ms. Bero stated that she feels all the people that signed that letter should be ashamed and resign immediately.

GARY LAURETI-ONEIDA

Mr. Laureti spoke to the Council stating that he just wanted to commend all of them for taking all of the harassment and insulting. Addressing them directly, he stated that he expected they were all making a lot of money up there, and every day that they come to work, or meet, or whatever, they have to answer several complaints. He provided examples, such as “there were birds flying around my house, there is garbage over here or something is happening over here.” He advised that they were not making any money but were doing it because their heart is in it, and he wanted to commend them all for that.

Mr. Laureti stated that he wanted to talk about the last couple of years, where there was a large sum of money that was taken from the City of Oneida, noting that some were on the Council, and some were out in the audience, and he did not think there was any mention of that. So again, he commended them for doing an excellent job, because for some reason they see that there is an issue here, is addressing it and is on top of it. Advising that we have been here for a month of office, and nothing has been done that he can see, asking “are we saving any money, are we doing anything to the City that we haven’t done?” He stated that in previous administrations, you had some mayors that had no experience, recalling one mayor that said he had no business experience, but that he was going to learn. He asked what the experience was up here now and what we have done in the last few months to save some money and lower the taxes for the people, keeping it at a significant rate, so it was not out of sight. He stated that he believed we were at a 9% tax rate, and they got it down to 2 to 3% and commended them for that and thanked them for addressing this issue and for being on top of it.

RALPH KOHLER-222 E. GROVE ST.

Mr. Kohler advised that he has lived in Ward 1 for 25 years and has served 37 years in government, with government-related graduate degrees and understands government services. While Mr. Hedglon mentioned arrogance and ignorance when referring to the letter signed by 5 members of the Council, he sees another word: corruption, noting that certain members of the Council have not acted in accordance with their obligation as civil servants.

Like many residents and voters, Mr. Kohler advised that he has been following the City Manager issues for a year. I witnessed a committee creating qualification recommendations for the City Manager position, which were approved by a 60 to 40% split vote by the Common Council. I was dismayed last month when five members of the Council acted illegally by designating an alternate Acting City Manager without providing a reason, despite their obligation to explain their actions to the public. Make no mistake, that action was illegal.

Mr. Kohler advised that he was also shocked when he read, they were proposing to change the qualifications to be so nebulous and arbitrary, that they could pick almost anybody over 35 to fill that job position. When Mayor Rossi asked them collectively at the last meeting why this change was being made, Mr. Kohler was incredulous when most of them were silent. Mr. Laureti spoke for 30 seconds, while being completely unresponsive to the question that the Mayor asked, especially after several people in the audience explained that these qualifications were chosen after extensive work.

He advised that they did not pass the resolution with no other debate and with no explanation as to why they were overriding the will of the voters, and that expression was less than 4 months ago. Mr. Kohler said that he was flabbergasted last week that they voted to override the Mayor’s veto and thanked Mayor Rossi. He stated that they placed those resolutions today to override the veto and to remove Mr. Selby. He thanked Mr. Selby for his service and acknowledged him having a PhD and 10 years’ experience as the

manager of one of America's largest cities, which is a step even further in illegal action from February, because there they were not removing Mr. Selby, but rather putting in a new backup manager.

He stated that they are currently attempting to replace him with someone who supervises 3 people and is manifestly unqualified to be the City Manager in the position the voters approved less than 4 months ago. A vote for City Manager resolutions tonight would be corrupt acts because all the acts point to a yearlong conspiracy that could lead the voters to choose a City Manager that is not well qualified for the position, but rather appears to be your unqualified cronie. He stated that these resolutions are a test for the Common Council members tonight, advising that they failed the test collectively for the last couple of months and he hopes they do better tonight, as he is sure everybody here hopes they do better tonight.

Councilor Steve Laureti read a prepared speech, which is included with these minutes as **Attachment C.**

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

PROPOSED LOCAL LAW TO AMEND SECTION 12.1 OF THE ONEIDA CITY CHARTER TO CHANGE THE QUALIFICATIONS OF THE CITY MANAGER POSITION

RESOLUTION 24-67

Moved by Councilor Simchik
Seconded by Councilor Hitchings

RESOLVED, that the Public Hearing on a proposed Local Law to amend Section 12.1 of the Oneida City Charter to change the qualifications of the City Manager position by hereby closed at 7:46 p.m.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS: None
REPORTS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Councilor Hitchings
Seconded by Councilor Pagano

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the regular meeting of March 19, 2024, are hereby approved as presented.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF WARRANT

Moved by Councilor Rossi

Seconded by Councilor Simchik

RESOLVED, that Warrant No. 7, checks and ACH payments in the amount of \$164,475.31 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

RESOLUTION 24-64 INTRODUCING A LOCAL LAW AMENDING SECTION 12.1 OF THE ONEIDA CITY CHARTER TO CHANGE THE QUALIFICATIONS OF THE CITY MANAGER (MARCH 19, 2024)

RESOLUTION 24-68

Moved by Councilor Simchik

Seconded by Councilor Pagano

WHEREAS, upon receipt of the Mayor's objections, Section 3.7(B) of the Oneida City Charter requires the City Clerk present the Council's prior resolution and local law to the Common Council at the next Common Council meeting for the Common Council to reconsider same, passage of which requiring a 2/3 vote of all Councilmen in office; and

WHEREAS, that on March 28, 2024, Mayor Rick Rossi provided the City Clerk, in writing, his official Veto of Resolution 24-64, dated March 19, 2024, titled "Introduce a Local Law Amending Section 12.1 of the Oneida City Charter to Change the Qualifications of the City Manager," that was moved by Councilor Hitchings and seconded by Councilor Szczerba, and resulted in a vote of 4 Ayes (Councilor Szczerba, Councilor Laureti, Councilor Hitchings, and Councilor Winchell) and 3 Nays (Mayor Rossi, Councilor Pagano, and Councilor Simchik); now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 3.7(B) of the Oneida City Charter, upon presentation of Mayor Rossi's Veto of Resolution 24-64 by the City Clerk, the Oneida Common Council does hereby reconsider Resolution 24-64 and the introduction of Local Law 2024, titled "A Local Law Amending Section 12.1 of the Oneida City Charter to Change the Qualifications of the City Manager Position;" be it further

RESOLVED, that the City of Oneida Common Council in its reconsideration does hereby revoke Resolution 24-64 and rescind the introduction of Local Law 2024, titled "A Local Law Amending Section 12.1 of the

Oneida City Charter to Change the Qualifications of the City Manager Position.”

Mayor Rossi	YES
Councilor Szczerba	NO
Councilor Laureti	NO
Councilor Hitchings	NO
Councilor Winchell	NO
Councilor Pagano	YES
Councilor Simchik	YES

MOTION CARRIED

CELLULAR TELEPHONE POLICY

RESOLUTION 24-69

Moved by Councilor Hitchings
Seconded by Councilor Laureti

RESOLVED, to receive and place on file the City of Oneida Cellular Telephone Policy; **and be it further**

RESOLVED, to approve the personal phone use allowance of \$40 per month for the balance of 2024.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

STANDARD WORKDAY RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION 24-70

Moved by Councilor Hitchings
Seconded by Councilor Pagano

RESOLVED, that the Common Council hereby establishes the following as standard workdays for elected officials and will report the following days worked to the New York State and Local Employees’ Retirement System based on the Record of Activities maintained and submitted by these officials to the Clerk of this body:

Name	SS#	(Last four digits) Reg #	Title	Term begins and end dates	Standard Workday	Records of Activity Results	Not submitted	Pay Frequency	Tier I
James Szczerba	****	3215	Councilor	01/01/2023 12/31/2024	6			bi-monthly	

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

MOTION CARRIED

LIQUOR LICENSE-CINCO DE MAYO II MEXICAN RESTAURANT LLC

RESOLUTION 24-71

Moved by Councilor Hitchings
Seconded by Councilor Winchell

RESOLVED, to receive and place on file the Standardized Notice Form for Providing 30-Day Advance Notice to a Local Municipality or Community Board for a new application for an On-Premises Alcoholic Beverage License for Cinco De Mayo II Mexican Restaurant LLC, 127 Genesee St., Oneida, NY 13421.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0
MOTION CARRIED

AUTHORIZE MEDICARE PART B REIMBURSEMENT PAYMENTS TO RETIREES

RESOLUTION 24-72

Moved by Councilor Hitchings
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

RESOLVED, that the City Comptroller be, and hereby is authorized and directed, throughout the period from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024, to reimburse the cost of Medicare Part B coverage to all eligible retired City Employees and eligible dependents, regardless of union or non-union affiliation, in accordance with the provisions regarding such reimbursement as set forth in the current contracts of CSEA, Inc., Local 1000 AFSCME and Oneida Paid Firefighters Association Local 2692, **and be it further**

RESOLVED, that the City Comptroller be, and hereby is authorized and directed, throughout the period from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024, to reimburse the cost of Medicare Part B coverage to all eligible retired City employees and eligible dependents, who retired prior to July 1, 2015, regardless of whether said retiree and any eligible dependent is enrolled in the City's Medicare Advantage & Prescription Program.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

**SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING PER ONEIDA CITY CODE CHAPTER 34, ARTICLE III, UNSAFE BULDINGS
AND COLLAPSED STRUCTURES**

RESOLUTION 24-73

Moved by Councilor Hitchings
Seconded by Councilor Winchell

RESOLVED, that the Report of Unsafe Structures, as per Oneida City Code Chapter 34, Article III, Unsafe Buildings and Collapsed Structures, from Brian B. Burkle Jr., Fire Marshal, for property located at 238 Allen Park Place in the City of Oneida (Tax Map No. 38.48-1-57) is hereby received and placed on file, **and be it further**

RESOLVED, that a Public Hearing be scheduled on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. in the Common Council Chambers, 109 N. Main Street, Oneida NY 13421 to afford the Common Council the opportunity to issue an order deeming the property to be a "Public Nuisance" and to order corrective action be taken on 238 Allen Park Place, Oneida, NY.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

ADVERTISE FOR BIDS-MAPLE DRIVE SANITARY SEWER REPAIR

RESOLUTION 24-74

Moved by Councilor Simchik
Seconded by Councilor Winchell

RESOLVED, to authorize the Purchasing Agent to advertise for bids for Maple Drive Sanitary Sewer Repair.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

CAPITAL PROJECT 24-1-ANNUAL STREET RESURFACING

RESOLUTION 24-75

Moved by Councilor Hitchings
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

RESOLVED, to authorize the City Engineer to proceed with Capital Project 24-1; **and be it further**

RESOLVED, to authorize the use of Unit Prices established for 2024 by Madison County; **and be it further**

RESOLVED, to authorize the Purchasing Agent to advertise for bids for any portions of the project not covered under the County’s Unit Pricing; **and be it further**

RESOLVED, to authorize the City Engineer to expend funds up to the programmed amount dispersed by NYSDOT (CHIPs, PAVENY, EWR); **and be it further**

RESOLVED, to authorize the City Manager to sign any and all documents related to Capital Project 24-1.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

BUDGET TRANSFERS/AMENDMENTS

RESOLUTION 24-76

Moved by Councilor Hitchings
Seconded by Councilor Winchell

	<u>To</u>	<u>From</u>
<i>2024 Budget Adjustments</i>		
\$ 15,400.00	001.3410.0413.0000 Fire Training	001.3410.0107.0000 Fire EMS Overtime
<i>To re-allocate funds CC-Paramedic Bridge Training program</i>		
\$500.00	001.3120.0403.0000 Police Contracts	001.0001.0912.0000 General Fund Balance
<i>To allocate funds for incinerator costs for drug disposal</i>		

\$ 3,000.00 001.1620.0403.0222 001.0001.0912.0000
Justice Center Building Maintenance General Fund Balance

To allocate funds to upgrade the access control at the Justice Center

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

SALARY CHANGE-ASSISTANT MAINTENANCE SUPRVISOR (WATER DEPARTMENT)

RESOLUTION 24-77

Moved by Councilor Hitchings
Seconded by Councilor Winchell

RESOLVED, to authorize a change in the rate of pay from \$32.00 per hour to \$33.05 per hour, retroactive to the start date of the creation of the Assistant Maintenance Supervisor position.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

ADOPT A LOCAL LAW AMENDING SECTION 12.1 OF THE ONEIDA CITY CHARTER TO CHANGE THE QUALIFICATIONS OF THE CITY MANAGER POSITION

STRICKEN DUE TO THE PASSAGE OF RESOLUTION 24-66

Moved by Councilor
Seconded by Councilor

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of the Municipal Home Rule Law, a proposed local law titled “A Local Law Amending Section 12.1 of the Oneida City Charter to Change the Qualifications of the City Manager Position” was presented and introduced at a Regular Meeting of the Common Council of the City of Oneida held on March 19, 2024; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on such proposed local law on April 2, 2024, by the Common Council of the City of Oneida and proofs of publication of notices of such public hearings, as required by law, having been submitted and filed, and all persons desiring to be heard in connection with said proposed local law having been heard, and said proposed local law having been in the possession of the members of the Common Council of the City of Oneida in its final form in the manner required by Section 20 of the Municipal Home Rule of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, because the enactment of the Proposed Local Law has previously been determined to be an unlisted action for purposes of environmental review under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), an environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required, and the Common Council has determined that a short environmental assessment form (EAF) was required in connection with this matter; and

WHEREAS, said EAF has been prepared and has been reviewed by the Common Council and 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, it is in the public interest to enact said Proposed Local Law.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is

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 SEQRA; and it is further

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

“LOCAL LAW 2024

A LOCAL LAW AMENDING SECTION 12.1 OF THE ONEIDA CITY CHARTER TO CHANGE THE
QUALIFICATIONS OF THE CITY MANAGER POSITION

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

Section 1. AUTHORITY

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

Section 2. AMEND ONEIDA CITY CHARTER SECTION 12.1

So that Section 12.1 of the Oneida City Charter, titled “City Manager, Appointment and Qualifications,” shall be revised to read, in its entirety, as follows:

“Section 12.1 City Manager; Appointment and qualifications.

“The City Council by a majority vote of its total membership shall appoint a City Manager for an indefinite term and fix the City Manager’s compensation periodically. The City Manager shall be an employee of the City. The City Manager shall be appointed solely on the basis of executive and administrative qualifications for the duties of the office. Prior to the appointment, it is preferred that the City Manager shall be qualified by at least five (5) years’ management experience and shall have a Bachelor’s Degree in business and/or public administration and/or

substantially similar field. In the alternative, a candidate for the position of City Manager must have a minimum of ten (10) years' management experience that is satisfactory to the Council. The City Manager need not be a resident of the City, but it is preferred."

Section 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

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

REVOKE CITY MANAGER'S DESIGNATION OF ACTING CITY MANAGER AND ANY OTHER PRIOR DESIGNATIONS OF ACTING CITY MANAGER-DESIGNATE NEW ACTING CITY MANAGER-ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF DOUGLAS SELBY FROM THE INTERIM POSITION OF CITY MANAGER

RESOLUTION 24-78

Moved by Councilor Laureti
Seconded by Councilor Winchell

"RESOLVED, the Oneida City Common Council does hereby revoke the City Manager's designation of the City Comptroller, Lee Ann Wells, as Acting City Manager, and any other prior designations of Acting City Manager in his absence; **be it further**

RESOLVED, that the Common Council does further, in accordance with Section 12.3 of the City Charter, hereby designate Director of Code Enforcement Robert Burnett to the position of Acting City Manager, effective immediately; **be it further**

RESOLVED, the Oneida City Common Council does hereby accept the resignation of Douglas Selby, dated April 1, 2024, from the interim position of City Manager, effective April 3, 2024."

Mayor Rossi	NO
Councilor Szczerba	YES
Councilor Laureti	YES
Councilor Hitchings	YES
Councilor Winchell	YES
Councilor Pagano	NO
Councilor Simchik	NO

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT

DAN JONES (READ BY JANET JONES)-257 E. WALNUT ST.

Mrs. Janet Jones read a prepared letter from her husband, Dan Jones, as he was unable to attend the meeting due to being an elections official who was working at the Kallet for the Primary. Attached to the minutes is a copy of the letter, noted as **Attachment D**.

DEE SCHAEFER-240 ALLEN PARK PLACE

Ms. Schaffer expressed her disappointment with the Council, commenting that as public servants, they were "hired" by the public and work for them, and they "kicked us." She emphasized that this sentiment transcends party lines and that there is a sense of letdown among the community.

Ms. Schaffer then raised concerns about the house next to hers, located at 238 Allen Park Place, which burned down. She stated that the house had been broken into twice since the fire through an open window that was not boarded up until March 26, 2024. She mentioned that the house was sold on December 15, 2023, for \$5,000 to another absentee property owner. Ms. Schaffer explained that they have had to deal with wood, slate, flashing, and tar paper falling into their yard. She also noted that they have experienced large pieces of metal flashing and a tarp flapping on their roof during windy days and nights.

Ms. Schaffer also expressed concern about health issues related to a roofless house, explaining that rainwater from the winter has turned it into a breeding ground for mosquitoes, bats, and squirrels. She stated that she is fed up with the eyesore and tired of cleaning up after it. Additionally, she mentioned that she is considering moving out of Oneida due to her frustrations with the Council. Ms. Schaffer mentioned that if there were no measurable difference in the condition of the building by the end of April, which would mark nine full months of living with this situation, perhaps the local Syracuse and Utica media stations would like to come out and hear their story about what the City Council is about.

SUE PULVERENTI-217 MAPLE DRIVE

Sue Pulverenti expressed her dissatisfaction with the recent actions of the City Council. She highlighted the termination of City Manager Doug Selby, the removal of Lee Ann Wells as Comptroller from being the City Manager's designation, and the appointment of Bob Burnett as the Acting City Manager. Mayor Rossi clarified that Mr. Selby had resigned before being terminated. Pulverenti noted that the first four Councilors voted in favor of these actions, while the last two voted against them.

She questioned how those Councilors could live with themselves after hearing from everyone present and criticized the lack of decency in not seconding Councilor Simchik's veto to the resolution, discussing it, and showing that they care about the opinions expressed. She expressed disappointment that their minds seemed made up before the meeting and questioned the purpose of the Public Hearing if the Council didn't consider the feedback. She concluded by expressing disgust with the City and the City Council.

Pulverenti also addressed Ward 1 Councilor Jim Szczerba, expressing disbelief at the way he talked to the Mayor, raising his voice, and pointing his finger at him. She stated that the Councilor was only voted for by people in his ward, and the Mayor was voted for by everyone in the City.

ANGEL VARGAS JR.-DURHAMVILLE

Mr. Vargas, who owns two businesses in the City, expressed agreement with the sentiments of others. He addressed Mr. Selby, referring to him as Dr. Selby, and apologized for what he had had to endure. Mr. Vargas acknowledged that the City has good residents but lamented that they were not represented by good people in the Council. He noted that the Council seemed to evade addressing what the people truly want.

Mr. Vargas stated that Mr. Selby's credentials speak for themselves and acknowledged that what was happening was embarrassing. He addressed Councilor Szczerba, alleging that he was the one who constructed the letter that designated Mr. Burnett as Acting City Manager. He made comments directly to Mr. Burnett, which due to being personal in nature, will not be included in the minutes.

Mr. Vargas concluded by expressing his hope that in the future, the people will vote for the Councilors out of office. He emphasized that the Councilors will then need to face the people they represent and acknowledge that they have not been listening to them. Finally, he thanked Councilor Bill Pagano for attending the meeting despite having some health issues and for rescinding his vote and voting the proper way.

PETER HEDGLON-BROAD ST.

Mr. Hedglon advised that he has read the Charter numerous times, and wanted to respond to Mr. Laureti's raising of the possibility of a conflict of interest as a reason to remove Comptroller Lee Ann Wells as the Acting City Manager, stating that he wished Mr. Laureti had read the Charter or understood it, as the Charter provides for an Audit Committee (Voucher Audit Committee) of the Common Council who reviews each and every audit, has to approve it, and report it to the Council as a whole. The council must approve every check that comes out of the City.

Mr. Hedglon stated that the signing of City checks is typically done by the Chief Executive Officer and the Comptroller, noting If there was a conflict of interest, the resolution should have been for the Mayor to appoint a Special Committee to reconcile the checkbooks. Currently, this reconciliation is not done by the Council to ensure that what was paid out matches what was approved by the Common Council Audit Review Committee (Voucher Committee), as well as the Council as a whole. He added that if there were a genuine conflict of interest, there was an appropriate and legitimate workaround. Tagging Mrs. Wells with a conflict of interest, in his opinion, was "ignorant and cruel."

Councilor Laureti advised that it was not appropriate to call people ignorant, noting that he has let the people speak and has not called any names or made any snide remarks in response to comments made. Councilor Laureti advised that under fundamental accounting concept, there must be checks and balances and brought up the \$550,000 (that was allegedly stolen by the former City Chamberlain). Attorney Hedglon advised that he was not aware of all the details as they have not been made public and advised that the City Chamberlain is an elected official, and the Mayor and Common Council cannot be blamed for what the City Chamberlain allegedly did. He noted that the City Chamberlain is accountable only to the people and does not get direction from the Mayor or the Council.

Councilor Laureti clarified that the issue was not personal to anyone in the position and likened it to the structure in any company where the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) would not be the same as the Chief Operating Officer (COO). There was further discussion between Council members and members of the audience, but this will not be included in the minutes as per the rules established for the meeting, which state that anyone wishing to speak must sign up and come to the front to address the Council.

Mr. Hedglon, addressing the Council, inquired if anyone had considered establishing a Special Committee on a temporary basis to review the checks when Mrs. Wells serves as both Comptroller and Acting City Manager, especially when the potential for a conflict of interest arises. Councilor Laureti advised that it was not just the checks, to which Mayor Rossi responded that members of the Council, unfortunately, did not ask any of the Department Heads how Mr. Selby was doing. Mayor Rossi commented that they had just fired Mr. Selby so they could put in their own person.

BRAHIM ZOGBY-114 E. SANDS ST.

Mr. Zogby, a former Councilman for four years, expressed heartbreak over this situation. He mentioned that the issue of the money allegedly taken by the former City Chamberlain has come up multiple times. He recalled a vote from two years ago regarding making the City Chamberlain a non-elected official, which was voted down.

Directing his remarks to Councilor Laureti, he noted that Laureti was a Councilor then and is a Councilor now, and asked when he introduced new legislation to change the City Chamberlain from an elected to an appointed position to ensure oversight. He questioned why, if this matter was so important to Laureti as a Councilman, he did not introduce such legislation.

Mr. Zogby also addressed a comment made by Councilor Laureti regarding the Council only being able to meet twice a month, pointing out that this limitation is not in the Charter, which allows the Council to have Special Meetings as often as they want. When asked if he was too busy for such meetings, Councilor Laureti responded, "yes." Mr. Zogby then directed a question to Mr. Burnett inquiring as to who it was that asked him if he would be interested in becoming Acting City Manager. However, as questions between speakers and members of the audience are not being recorded in the minutes, that portion of the interaction is being omitted.

RALPH KOHLER-222 E. GROVE ST.

Mr. Kohler thanked Mr. Selby for his service and felt that he was speaking on behalf of most of the people present that he is sorry that Mr. Selby could not stay longer and that he was effectively pushed out by people who "acted illegally and it is quite clear no, acted corrupt."

Mayor Rick Rossi expressed gratitude to Dr. Douglas Selby and issued a formal apology on behalf of the City, recognizing the positive relationships all Department Heads had fostered with him, as well as his belief that the City was moving forward. He expressed the hope of finding a successor with comparable experience and qualifications to Dr. Selby. Mayor Rossi concluded by extending heartfelt thanks to Dr. Selby once more.

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Szczerba
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

The regular meeting is hereby adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Sandy LaPera, City Clerk