



CITY OF ONEIDA
MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
109 N. MAIN ST., ONEIDA, NY 13421

AGENDA

Date:	November 5, 2025	Presiding:	Rick Rossi, Mayor
Time:	6:30 p.m.	Clerk:	Sandy LaPera, City Clerk
Location:	Common Council Chambers	Meeting Type:	Regular ☒ Special ☐

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

PROCLAMATION: Zonta Says No to Violence Day (Received by Michelle Coe)

PUBLIC COMMENT: Limited to 3 minutes

OLD BUSINESS

REPORTS:

- **MAYOR'S REPORT**
- **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Approval of the Minutes: October 21, 2025

Approval of Warrant: 21

Item	Title	Facilitator
1.	CONTRACT: authorize the City Manager to sign the 2025-2026 Annual Court Cleaning and Minor Repairs Contract Renewal and Budget with the NYS Unified Court System	CITY MANAGER
2.	AGREEMENT: authorize the City Manager to sign an agreement with Wanderer's Rest Humane Association for participation in the "Borrow a Buddy Fur a Day" Program	LOWELL
3.	INTRODUCE LOCAL LAW: introduce a Local Law authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the limit established in General Municipal Law §3-C and schedule a Public Hearing for Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at 6:30p.m., Common Council Chambers, 109 N. Main Street Oneida	CITY MANAGER
4.	MISC. UTILITY BILLING: receive and place on file the City of Oneida Miscellaneous Utility Billing for unpaid service charges, water rents and sewer taxes; authorize the charges in the 2025 assessment roll to be re-levied onto the 2026 tax roll, and schedule a Public Hearing for Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at 6:30p.m. in Common Council Chambers, 109 N.	ROWE

Item	Title	Facilitator
	Main St. Oneida (Report will be provided prior to the meeting-not available until after November 1)	
5.	2026 CITY MANAGER'S BUDGET: receive and place on file the 2026 City of Oneida City Manager's Budget and schedule a Public Hearing for Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at 6:30p.m. in Common Council Chambers, 109 N. Main St., Oneida	CITY MANAGER
6.	ESTABLISH FEE: approve to establish and amend the Mobile Food Vendor License fee for the City of Oneida	CITY MANAGER
7.	INTRODUCE LOCAL LAW: introduce a Local Law amending Section 12.2 of the City Charter to require a supermajority vote of the Common Council to remove the City Manager and schedule a Public Hearing for Tuesday, November 18, 2025, Common Council Chambers, 109 N. Main St. Oneida	MAYOR
8.	BUDGET TRANSFERS/AMENDMENTS: to approve the budget transfers and amendments as outlined by the Comptroller or a third party duly retained to perform such services	WELLS

NEW BUSINESS:

MINUTES OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 5, 2025

A meeting of the Common Council of the City of Oneida, NY was held on the fifth day of November 2025 at 6:30 pm at the City of Oneida Common Council Chambers, 109 N. Main Street, Oneida NY 13421.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Rick Rossi.

<u>Attendees</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Arrived Late</u>
Mayor Rossi	☐	☐	☐ _____
Kyle Lovell, CM	☐	☐	☐ _____
Councilor Szczerba	☐	☐	☐ _____
Councilor Laureti	☐	☐	☐ _____
Councilor Hitchings	☐	☐	☐ _____
Councilor Winchell	☐	☐	☐ _____
Councilor Pagano	☐	☐	☐ _____
Councilor Simchik	☐	☐	☐ _____

Also Present

City Attorney Nadine Bell	☐	Public Safety Comm. Dave Jones	☐
City Clerk Sandy LaPera	☐	Other: _____	☐
Fire Chief Scott Jones	☐	Other: _____	☐
Police Chief Steve Lowell	☐	Other: _____	☐

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

PROCLAMATION: Zonta Says No to Violence Against Women Day (Michelle Coe)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

OLD BUSINESS:

REPORTS:

- Mayor's Report
- City Manager's Report

Proclamation

City of Oneida - Office of the Mayor

WHEREAS, Zonta International is a global organization working in 62 countries to advance gender equality and empower women and girls; **and**

WHEREAS, for over 100 years, Zonta has worked to end violence against women, including through its annual "Zonta Says No to Violence" campaign from November 25 to December 10; **and**

WHEREAS, one in three women worldwide experiences physical or sexual violence, and countless others face child marriage, trafficking, and other forms of abuse; **and**

WHEREAS, ending gender-based violence requires education, advocacy, and the collective action of individuals, communities, and institutions; **and**

WHEREAS, Zonta envisions a world where women are treated with dignity, have equal opportunities, and live free from violence;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Rossi, Mayor of the City of Oneida, do hereby proclaim November 5, 2025, as

"Zonta Says No to Violence Against Women Day"

in the City of Oneida and encourage all residents to support gender equality and advocate for a world free from violence against women and girls.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand
and affix the official seal of the City of Oneida on this 5th
day of November 2025.

Mayor Rick Rossi

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Councilor
Seconded by Councilor

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the regular meeting of October 21, 2025, are hereby approved as presented.

Ayes:

Nays:

MOTION CARRIED/FAILED

1. CONTRACT-UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM

RESOLUTION 25-

Moved by Councilor

Seconded by Councilor

RESOLVED, to authorize the City Manager to sign the 2025-2026 Annual Court Cleaning and Minor Repairs Contract Renewal and Budget with the New York State Unified Court System.

Ayes:

Nays:

MOTION CARRIED/FAILED

2. AGREEMENT-WANDERER'S REST HUMANE ASSOCIATION

RESOLUTION 25-

Moved by Councilor

Seconded by Councilor

RESOLVED, to authorize the City Manager to sign an agreement with Wanderer's Rest Humane Association for participation in the "Borrow a Buddy Fur a Day" Program.

Ayes:

Nays:

MOTION CARRIED/FAILED



Borrow a Buddy Fur a Day

Business Liability Waiver & Participation Agreement

Wanderer's Rest Humane Association

1. Business Information

Business Name: _____

Business Address: _____

Primary Contact Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

2. Program Participation

By signing this agreement, the business agrees to participate in the Borrow a Buddy Fur a Day program and host a shelter animal for a designated period under the supervision and guidance of Wanderer's Rest Humane Association.

3. Liability Waiver

- Wanderer's Rest Humane Association retains full ownership and responsibility for the animal.
- The business will follow all care instructions provided and ensure the animal's safety and well-being.
- The business is not liable for any pre-existing health conditions or behavioral issues of the animal.
- The business agrees to notify Wanderer's Rest immediately in the event of any incident, injury, or concern.
- Wanderer's Rest Humane Association is not liable for any property damage or personal injury that may occur during the visit, unless due to gross negligence on the part of the shelter.



4. Terms of Agreement

- The business agrees to provide a safe, pet-friendly environment.
- The animal will be supervised at all times.
- The business will not transport the animal unless pre-approved and trained.
- The business agrees to complete a feedback form after each visit.
- Participation may be revoked at any time by either party.

5. Media Release (Optional)

☐ I give permission for Wanderers Rest Humane Association to use photos or videos taken during the visit for promotional purposes.

☐ I do NOT give permission for media use.

6. Signature

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Title/Role: _____

Date: _____

Email: info@wanderersrest.org

Website: www.wanderersrest.org

For general assistance: 315-697-2796

Emergencies, call 315-802-9429 (Cristie)

3. INTRODUCE A LOCAL LAW AUTHORIZING A PROPERTY TAX LEVY IN EXCESS OF THE LIMIT ESTABLISHED IN GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW §3-C-SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING

RESOLUTION 25-

Moved by Councilor
Seconded by Councilor

WHEREAS, the proposed Local Law relates to the ability of the City of Oneida to override the limit on the amount of real property taxes that may be levied by the City of Oneida pursuant to General Municipal Law §3-c, and to allow the City of Oneida to adopt a City budget for the fiscal year 2026 in excess of the "tax levy limit," if necessary; and

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

WHEREAS, the adoption to said Local Law is an unlisted action for purposes of environmental review under SEQR; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council has determined that a short environmental assessment form (EAF) shall be required in connection with this matter; and

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, it is

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

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

RESOLVED, that a proposed Local Law authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the limit established in General Municipal Law §3-C be hereby received and placed on file as follows:

**CITY OF ONEIDA
PROPOSED LOCAL LAW**

**A LOCAL LAW OVERRIDING THE TAX LEVY LIMIT ESTABLISHED IN GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW §3-C IN
THE CITY OF ONEIDA**

Section 1. Legislative Intent

It is the intent of this local law to allow the City of Oneida to adopt a budget for the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2026, that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the "tax levy limit" as defined by General Municipal Law § 3-c.

Section 2. Authority

This local law is adopted pursuant to subdivision 5 of General Municipal Law §3-c, which expressly authorizes a local government's governing body to override the property tax cap for the coming fiscal year by the adoption of a local law approved by a vote of sixty percent (60%) of said governing body.

Section 3. Tax Levy Limit Override

The Common Council of the City of Oneida, County of Madison, is hereby authorized to adopt a budget for the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2026, that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the amount otherwise prescribed in General Municipal Law §3-c.

Section 4. Severability

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

Section 5. Effective date

This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a Public Hearing on the proposed Local Law authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the limit established in General Municipal Law §3-C be scheduled for Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at 6:30 pm.

Ayes:

Nays:

MOTION CARRIED/FAILED

4. MISCELLANEOUS UTILITY BILLING-SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING

RESOLUTION 25-

Moved by Councilor

Seconded by Councilor

RESOLVED, to receive and place on file the City of Oneida Miscellaneous Utility Billing for unpaid service charges, water rents and sewer taxes; authorize the charges in the 2025 assessment roll to be re-levied onto the 2026 tax roll, and to schedule a Public Hearing for Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at 6:30p.m. in the Common Council Chambers, 109 N. Main Street, Oneida, NY 13421.

Ayes:

Nays:

MOTION CARRIED/FAILED

5. 2026 CITY OF ONEIDA CITY MANAGER'S BUDGET-SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING

RESOLUTION 25-

Moved by Councilor

Seconded by Councilor

RESOLVED, that the 2026 City of Oneida City Manager's Budget be hereby received and placed on file and schedule a Public Hearing on the proposed budget for Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. at City of Oneida City Hall, Common Council Chambers, 109 N. Main St. Oneida, NY 13421.

Ayes:

Nays:

MOTION CARRIED/FAILED

6. **A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING ANNUAL LICENSE FEE PURSUANT TO LOCAL LAW NO. 6 OF 2024**

RESOLUTION 25-

Moved by Councilor

Seconded by Councilor

WHEREAS, Local Law No. 6 of 2024, adopted on November 19, 2024, by Resolution 24-267, authorizes the Common Council to establish and amend license fees from time to time by resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council finds it in the public interest to standardize and simplify the existing fee structure for mobile food vendors by adopting a single annual fee;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Common Council of the City of Oneida, that:

1. **Annual Fee Established.** The license fee for all licenses governed by Local Law No. 6 of 2024 is hereby established at One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$150.00) per calendar year, covering the period January 1 through December 31.
2. **Effective Period.** This annual fee shall apply to all new and renewed licenses issued for any calendar year following the adoption of this resolution and shall remain in effect until amended by subsequent resolution of the Common Council.
3. **Supersession.** Any prior resolutions, schedules, or provisions establishing a daily or differing fee structure inconsistent with this resolution are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.
4. **Administrative Implementation.** The City Clerk is directed to update the City's official fee schedule, application materials, and website accordingly, and to provide notice of the new fee to all affected departments and the public.

Ayes:

Nays:

MOTION CARRIED/FAILED

7. **A LOCAL LAW AMENDING SECTION 12.2 OF THE CITY CHARTER TO REQUIRE A SUPERMAJORITY VOTE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL TO REMOVE THE CITY MANAGER**

RESOLUTION 25-

Moved by Councilor
Seconded by Councilor

WHEREAS, Section 12.2 of the Oneida City Charter currently provides that the City Manager may be removed by a majority vote of the Common Council; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council recognizes that the office of the City Manager is vital to the effective and stable operation of City government, and that the City Manager should be protected from undue political influence or abrupt transitions; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council believes that requiring a two-thirds supermajority vote for removal will promote fairness, professionalism, and continuity in the executive management of the City; and

WHEREAS, no other agency has the legal authority or jurisdiction to approve or directly undertake the enactment of local laws in the City of Oneida, such that there are no other involved agencies within the meaning of the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) with respect to the proposed enactment of said Local Law.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED, that there are no other involved agencies, that the Common Council shall act as lead agency and that the enactment of this proposed Local Law is an Unlisted action under SEQR, thus requiring the preparation of a Short Environmental Assessment Form; be it further

RESOLVED, that Local Law of 2025, titled "A Local Law Amending Section 12.2 of the City Charter to Require a Supermajority Vote of the Common Council to Remove the City Manager," is hereby introduced; be it further

RESOLVED, that a public hearing on said Local Law shall be held on the 18th day of November, 2025, at 6:30 p.m., in the Common Council Chambers, City Hall, 109 North Main Street, Oneida, New York, or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, at which time all persons interested in the subject shall be heard and that the City Clerk is hereby directed to cause notice of said hearing to be published in the official newspaper of the City in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Home Rule Law.

Ayes:

Nays:

MOTION CARRIED/FAILED

CITY OF ONEIDA

A Local Law Amending Section 12.2 of the Oneida City Charter to Require a Supermajority Vote of the Oneida City Common Council to Remove the City Manager

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

Section 1. Legislative Intent

The Common Council of the City of Oneida does hereby find that the position of City Manager serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the City, charged with overseeing daily operations, implementing Council policy, and ensuring continuity in the administration of public services. To safeguard the stability and professional integrity of the office of City Manager, and to insulate it from undue political influence, it is the intent of this Local Law to require a two-thirds (2/3) supermajority vote of the Common Council to remove the City Manager.

Section 2. Amendment to Section 12.2 of the City Charter

Section 12.2 of the City Charter of the City of Oneida is hereby amended to read, in its entirety, as follows:

“§12.2 Removal.

The City Manager may be suspended or removed by a resolution approved by the City Council which shall set forth the reasons for the proposed suspension or proposed removal. A copy of such resolution shall be served immediately upon the City Manager. The City Manager shall have 15 days in which to reply thereto in writing, and upon request, shall be afforded a public hearing, which shall occur no less than 10 days nor more than 15 days after such hearing is requested. After the public hearing, if one be requested, and after full consideration, the City Council by a vote of no less than two-thirds (2/3) of the whole number of the City Council may adopt a final resolution of suspension or removal.”

Section 3. Severability

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this Local Law shall be adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part thereof directly involved in the controversy.

Section 4. Effective Date

This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State in accordance with the provisions of the New York State Municipal Home Rule Law.

8. BUDGET TRANSFER AND AMENDMENTS

RESOLUTION 25-

Moved by Councilor
Seconded by Councilor

RESOLVED, to approve the budget transfers and amendments as outlined by the Comptroller or a third party duly retained to perform such services.

	<u>To</u>	<u>From</u>
2025 Budget Adjustments		
\$4,501.00	001.3310.0300.0000 Traffic Materials & Supplies	001.0022.2680.0000 Insurance recovery
<i>To re-allocate funds received from insurance claim to make repairs to the damaged streetlights</i>		
\$2,750.00	001.7521.0403.0000 Kallet Contracts	001.0001.0912.0000 General Fund Balance
<i>To allocate funds to cover the expense of an appraisal at the Kallet Theater</i>		

Ayes:

Nays:

MOTION CARRIED/FAILED

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to adjourn by Councilor
Seconded by Councilor

Ayes:

Nays:

MOTION CARRIED/FAILED

The regular meeting is hereby adjourned at _____ p.m.

CITY OF ONEIDA

Sandra LaPera, City Clerk