

**MINUTES OF THE COMMON COUNCIL  
NOVEMBER 20, 2018**

A regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Oneida, NY was held on the twentieth day of November, 2018 at 6:30 o'clock P.M. in Council Chambers, Oneida Municipal Building, 109 N. Main Street, Oneida, NY.

Meeting was called to order by Deputy Mayor James Chamberlain

PRESENT: Councilors Alan Cohen, Mike Bowe, James Coulthart,  
Helen Acker and Thomas Simchik

ABSENT: Mayor Leo Matzke

ALSO PRESENT: City Clerk Susan Pulverenti  
City Engineer Eric Schuler  
Comptroller Lee Ann Wells  
Fire Chief Dennis Fields  
Police Chief Paul Thompson  
Supervisor Mary Cavanaugh  
Supervisor Thomas Boylan  
Supervisor Joseph Magliocca

**RULES OF ORDER AT COUNCIL MEETING**

Deputy Mayor Chamberlain said that he went over the Rules of Order at the last Council meeting. He said these rules help to run a productive meeting, mentioning that the County also has rules. He asked that audience members not speak out without raising their hands to be acknowledged by the Mayor or himself. He said that if an audience member is acknowledged and called on to speak, to please stand up, identify yourself (name and where you live) before speaking.

**PUBLIC HEARING – MISCELLANEOUS UTILITY BILLING**

**RESOLUTION 18-239**

Moved by Councilor Acker  
Seconded by Councilor Bowe

**RESOLVED**, that the Public Hearing for the City of Oneida Miscellaneous Utility Billing for unpaid service charges, water rents and sewer taxes be hereby opened at 6:34 p.m.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

**APPEARANCES:** None

Councilor Acker said that the amount of the relevy is \$49,269.37.

Moved by Councilor Cohen  
Seconded by Councilor Coulthart

**RESOLVED**, that the Public Hearing on the City of Oneida Miscellaneous Utility Billing be hereby closed at 6:35 p.m.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

**PUBLIC HEARING – 2019 MAYOR’S BUDGET**

**RESOLUTION 18-240**

Moved by Councilor Acker  
Seconded by Councilor Bowe

**RESOLVED**, that the Public Hearing on the 2019 City of Oneida Mayor’s Budget be hereby opened at 6:35 p.m.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

**APPEARANCES**

Deputy Mayor Chamberlain said that the three weeks of budget meetings have gone smoothly with good communication and cooperation. Councilor Bowe said that they are not done yet, and they are diligently working to maintain the City services, while keeping the tax increase as low as possible to sustain those services. The Deputy Mayor said that the Council is hoping to finish tonight.

David Cimpi, Sayles Street, Oneida, asked what the tax increase is currently at and how much is in the City’s General Fund Balance. Councilor Bowe said that they are currently at a little less than 4%, about 3.7%, with approximately \$400K coming from Fund Balance. The Comptroller said that will leave \$3.2M in Fund Balance or 24.36%.

Moved by Councilor Cohen  
Seconded by Councilor Bowe

**RESOLVED**, that the Public Hearing on the City of Oneida 2019 Mayor’s Budget be hereby closed at 6:39 p.m.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**SUPERVISORS REPORT**

Supervisor Mary Cavanaugh said that the tentative Madison County Budget is on their website. She said that Budget Officer Cindy Edick did a great job, and the Supervisors will be meeting again on December 18, 2018 to confirm the budget.

Supervisor Tom Boylan said that Supervisor John Becker and Supervisor John Reinhardt are currently working on a program to lease County vehicles through Enterprise. He said that they are predicting a \$1.6M savings over a ten year period. Supervisor Boylan said they are having a meeting on Tuesday, November 27<sup>th</sup> with Enterprise, and a representative from the City would be welcome to sit in on the meeting to see if leasing could be a benefit to the City as well.

Supervisor Magliocca said that the Dispatch did a nice job in their article regarding the County budget. He said there are three strong factors that differentiate the County's success from the City. He said the City's assessed value has increased about \$2.6M over last year, and the County's value has increased \$47M. He said that the sales tax at the county is up 16% over the amount projected for 2017 and 6% above 2018. He said that he is confused as to why the City sales tax is flat and even lower than expected. Supervisor Magliocca said that Madison County receives \$3.5M annually from the settlement agreement with the State/Nation and redistributes less than \$200K. He said that the County also receives a Host County benefit from the Nation of approximately \$2.25M, which totals \$5.75M. They redistribute funds from the Host County benefit, but overall Madison County keeps approximately \$4M of the total proceeds. He said that the County budget maintains services, but deferred some Capital Projects until they are certain that the estimated \$2.5M will be coming from the Nation.

Councilor Cohen asked Supervisor Magliocca to remind the County that the City has been significantly impacted, but we are not the most rewarded by the County. Supervisor Magliocca said that the City of Oneida, Town of Lenox (Canastota), Stockbridge and the Town of Sullivan (Chittenango) are impacted the most and should be fairly compensated for that loss. Supervisor Boylan said that this loss should also be taken up at the State level, reminding the Council that we are not guaranteed the Host Benefit.

Moved by Councilor Acker  
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

**RESOLVED**, that the minutes of the regular meeting minutes of November 5, 2018 and the special meeting minutes of November 8, 2018, November 13, 2018 and November 14, 2018 are hereby approved as presented.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

Moved by Councilor Simchik  
Seconded by Councilor Bowe

**RESOLVED**, that Warrant No. 23, checks and ACH payments in the amount of \$770,451.28, as audited by the Voucher Committee is hereby approved for payment in the usual manner at the discretion of the Comptroller.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

Moved by Councilor Acker  
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

**RESOLVED**, that a check in the amount of \$14,758.39 (City Attorney) as audited by the Voucher Committee is hereby approved for payment in the usual manner at the discretion of the Comptroller.

Ayes: 5  
Nays: 0  
Abstain: 1 (Bowe)  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**MONTHLY REPORTS**

**RESOLUTION 18-241**

Moved by Councilor Simchik  
Seconded by Councilor Coulthart

**RESOLVED**, that monthly reports from the Chamberlain, City Clerk, Comptroller, Fire Department, Housing Codes Enforcement, Police Department and Recreation Department be hereby received and placed on file.

Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**MAINTENANCE AGREEMENTS**

**RESOLUTION 18-242**

Moved by Councilor Acker  
Seconded by Councilor Coulthart

**RESOLVED**, to authorize the Mayor to sign the following agreements:

- 2019 Stockbridge Maintenance Agreement
- 2019 Prospect Street Maintenance Agreement

Ayes: 5  
Nays: 0  
Abstain: 1 (Chamberlain)  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**BUDGET AMENDMENTS/TRANSFERS**

**RESOLUTION 18-243**

Moved by Councilor Bowe  
Seconded by Councilor Coulthart

**RESOLVED**, to approve the following budget amendments/transfers:

| <b><u>AMOUNT</u></b> | <b><u>FROM</u></b>   | <b><u>TO</u></b> |
|----------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| \$18,000             | 001.5110.0408        | 001.5142.0315    |
|                      | Sidewalk Maintenance | Salt and Sand    |

*(To reallocate funds to purchase road salt)*

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **ADVERTISE FOR BIDS**

#### **RESOLUTION 18-244**

Moved by Councilor Acker

Seconded by Councilor Cohen

**RESOLVED**, to authorize the Purchasing Agent to advertise for bids for hydrants, pipes and materials for the Water Department. (Smolinski)

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Gary Taylor, Oneida, said that there use to be alternate side of the street parking on the back side of Thompson Appliances; however, those signs have not been replaced since the work on the Rail Trail. He questioned where his tenants should park, so they do not receive a summons from the Police Department. The City Engineer said this will probably not get resolved until January, but he will get the Police Chief to see what can be worked out. City Engineer Schuler said that he will get back to Mr. Taylor next week.

Gary Taylor also said that the leaves on E. Grove Street didn't get picked up due to the inclement weather and questioned when/if that would be done this year. The City Engineer said that with the early snowfall the fall cleaning was put on hold, adding that once the weather permits they will resume with the leaf pickup.

### **DISCUSSION OF 2019 MAYOR'S BUDGET**

Deputy Mayor Chamberlain said that he wanted to recap the budget. He confirmed with the Council that an additional \$100K will be added to contingency bringing the total amount budgeted to \$125K. He said that the reserve account will cover retirements with about \$85K being added from salary balances that will be left at the end of this year. The Comptroller said that the audited financials show that money was put back into the Fund Balance at the end of 2016 and 2017, adding that it is normally about \$50K.

The Deputy Mayor said that Mayor Matzke would like \$1K put back into Entertainment, as the Council had pulled \$1K from the \$5K the Mayor had budgeted. A discussion ensued noting that OC3 pays for many bands during their Thursday night events, and the Council debated and decided, 4 to 2, that the \$1K would be put back in. The Council briefly talked about the stipends included in the additional salary lines of the budget and ultimately all agreed that the funding should be removed. The \$20K insurance recovery for the Kallet leftover this year will be put back in the Kallet line next year.

Deputy Mayor Chamberlain said the FT worker budgeted for in the Parks and Rec portion of the budget was changed to two PT workers, which was how it was originally budgeted. The increased hours for one Recreation Specialist was discussed, and the Council decided to keep the same hours as last year, as the need for more hours was not known at this point. The budgeted hours/duties for the Pool Maintenance worker were discussed with the Recreation Director on speaker phone. The Council reviewed the savings if that position changed from 20 weeks to 15 or 16 weeks, and the Council decided on 16 weeks to save

\$1,776. The Capital Projects for the roof, gym floor and pool repairs were relooked at. Councilor Cohen said that the roof at the Rec Center should be repaired before refurbishing the floors to ensure there are no further leaks. The Comptroller said that no monies are allocated from the General Fund at this point, so the Council can wait and see how the bidding process goes before making a determination as to which projects to follow through with.

The Deputy Mayor said that the Police Department will hire two Police Officers, but at different intervals during the year to save money in the salary line. The Fire Chief will not receive funding for a new vehicle, but a sport utility vehicle from the Police Department will be assigned to the Fire Department as a backup vehicle. The Deputy Mayor said a second SUV will be assigned to the Housing Inspector, and his vehicle will be sold.

Councilor Bowe said the budget will include a 3.5% tax increase. He stated that the Council has added \$50K for sidewalks, \$150K above the CHIPS funding for additional paving, and an additional \$100K in contingency. He said that City Administrator was pulled from the budget, as there had been no determination as to the job description or duties of the position. The PT person for the Codes will be looked at for later in the year. The Council took a straw vote and were all in agreement to formally adopt the budget at the next regular meeting with the exception of Councilor Simchik, who excused himself from the meeting at 7:30 p.m. and returned just after the meeting had adjourned.

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Acker

The regular meeting is hereby adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

CITY OF ONEIDA, NEW YORK

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Susan Pulverenti, City Clerk