

**MINUTES OF THE COMMON COUNCIL  
JANUARY 3, 2017**

A meeting of the Common Council of the City of Oneida, NY was held on the third day of January, 2017 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 Mayor Leo Matzke

PRESENT: Councilors Alan Cohen, Michael Bowe, Erwin Smith, James Chamberlain, and Thomas Simchik

ABSENT: Councilor Helen Acker

ALSO PRESENT: City Attorney Nadine Bell  
City Chamberlain Nancy Andrews  
City Clerk Susan Pulverenti  
City Engineer Jon Rauscher  
Comptroller Lee Ann Wells  
Director of Planning and Development Cassie Rose  
Director of Parks and Recreation Luke Griff  
Fire Chief Kevin Salerno  
Supervisor Scott Henderson  
Supervisor John Reinhardt  
Supervisor Joe Magliocca

**OLD BUSINESS** - None

Moved by Councilor Bowe  
Seconded by Councilor Smith

**RESOLVED**, that the minutes of the special meeting of December 29, 2016 are hereby approved as presented.

Ayes: 5  
Nays: 0  
Absent: 1 (Acker)

**MOTION CARRIED**

Moved by Councilor Bowe  
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

**RESOLVED**, that Warrant No. 1, checks and ACH payments in the amount of \$280,519.00 as audited by the Voucher Committee is hereby approved for payment in the usual manner at the discretion of the Comptroller.

Ayes: 5  
Nays: 1  
Absent: 1 (Acker)

**MOTION CARRIED**

**WAIVE RULE TO ACCEPT AGENDA ITEMS**

**RESOLUTION 17-01**

Moved by Councilor Smith  
Seconded by Councilor Bowe

**RESOLVED**, that per Resolution 08-180 adopted by the Common Council on August 19, 2008, the provisions of the procedure to accept agenda items is hereby waived.

Ayes: 5  
Nays: 0  
Absent: 1 (Acker)

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **RESCHEDULE COUNCIL MEETING**

#### **RESOLUTION 17-02**

Moved by Councilor Cohen  
Seconded by Councilor Bowe

**RESOLVED**, that the Common Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday, July 4, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. be hereby rescheduled to Wednesday, July 5, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Ayes: 5  
Nays: 0  
Absent: 1 (Acker)

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **ORGANIZATIONAL RESOLUTION**

#### **RESOLUTION 17-03**

Moved by Councilor Chamberlain  
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

**RESOLVED**, that the Organizational Resolution for the year 2017 consisting of the following is hereby approved:

1. Regular meetings for the City of Oneida for the year 2017 shall be held in Council Chambers, Oneida Municipal Building, 109 North Main Street, Oneida, New York at 6:30 o'clock P.M. on the first and third Tuesday of each month, and if any of said Tuesdays shall fall on a holiday, then in such event, the Common Council shall agree on a date to reschedule.
2. The Oneida Dispatch is hereby designated as the official newspaper in the City of Oneida.
3. The City of Oneida funds for the year 2017 shall be kept and retained in the following banks:
  - NBT Bank, Oneida, NY - special capital accounts and other current accounts
  - Community Bank, Oneida, NY- special reserve accounts and other current accounts

4. There shall be one bond, which covers all employees, and the limit is \$350,000 worth of coverage per loss.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 (Acker)

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **VOUCHER COMMITTEES**

#### **RESOLUTION 17-04**

Moved by Councilor Chamberlain

Seconded by Councilor Smith

**RESOLVED**, that pursuant to Section 5.22 B of the City Charter, voucher committees shall be as follows:

Councilor Simchik and Councilor Smith - First Council meeting  
Councilor Cohen and Councilor Bowe - Second Council meeting

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that backup for said voucher committees shall be as follows:

Councilor Chamberlain – First and Second Council meetings

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 (Acker)

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **SCRAP METAL**

#### **RESOLUTION 17-05**

Moved by Councilor Chamberlain

Seconded by Councilor Simchik

**RESOLVED**, to authorize the Department of Public Works, Waste Water Treatment Plant, Water Department, Fire Department, Police Department and Recreation Department to sell scrap metal at a fair market price, as accumulated, for the remainder of the year.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 (Acker)

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICES PROPOSAL**

#### **RESOLUTION 17-06**

Moved by Councilor Simchik

Seconded by Councilor Smith

**RESOLVED**, to authorize the Mayor to sign a Professional Services Contract with In.Site: Architecture LLP to provide architectural services to assist the City of Oneida in developing customized façade renovations and design guidelines in an amount not to exceed \$4,950.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 (Acker)

**MOTION CARRIED**

Councilor Cohen said he wanted to be sure the public knows that there are resources out there for business owners when rehabbing their buildings in the City Center.

Planning Director Cassie Rose said there will be a marketing program for the grant, which is a requirement of the funding. She said that this contract is for design guidelines for downtown and are also required for the grant program. She said this is the first step to move forward, noting that property owners within the target area of the grant will be sent letters. Director Rose said this is a big project, and there will meetings scheduled and information disseminated to allow people to decide if they want to participate.

### **ADVERTISE FOR BIDS – WATER METERS**

#### **RESOLUTION 17-07**

Moved by Councilor Chamberlain

Seconded by Councilor Smith

**RESOLVED**, to authorize the Purchasing Agent to advertise for bids for water meters for 2017.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 (Acker)

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **2017 TAX WARRANT**

#### **RESOLUTION 17-08**

Moved by Councilor Bowe

Seconded by Councilor Smith

**RESOLVED**, that the tax warrant for the year 2017 herewith in all respects is hereby approved and issued, and the City Chamberlain is hereby authorized to proceed with the collection of taxes for the year 2017, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that pursuant to Section 5.8 of the City Charter, there shall be levied and raised on the taxable real estate property of the entire City, in manner from and to the extent heretofore authorized and directed by the Common Council, the necessary sums of money for the estimates and disbursements for the year 2017, constituting the budget for the City of Oneida, as the same has been heretofore adopted and approved, and the tax of the several amounts for the different funds of the City, constituting said budget, to be computed at the ratios and upon the different property in said budget and levy set forth.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0  
Absent: 1 (Acker)  
**MOTION CARRIED**

### AMUSEMENT DEVICE LICENSE

#### **RESOLUTION 17-09**

Moved by Councilor Smith  
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

**RESOLVED**, approve the Amusement Device License for Neil's Vending, Inc., Abbie Deraway, Strain Road, Munnsville NY 13409 for amusement machines at the Owls Club, Elks Club and American Legion.

Ayes: 5  
Nays: 0  
Absent: 1 (Acker)  
**MOTION CARRIED**

### NEW BUSINESS

John Reinhardt, Oneida, questioned if there was an update on the solar issue. The Mayor said there was nothing new. He said that they are moving ahead with the project off Hubbard Street and cited the difficulties with boring because of the heavy shale. The Mayor said GroSolar will be building an access road to the site rather than using the trail. Mayor Matzke said that the extension was granted without his having to travel to Albany, and the Council will be looking at a lease agreement once prepared. In response to a question, the Mayor said that he speaks with the representatives of GroSolar once in a while if need be. He said GroSolar will be subcontracting the building of the solar array. The Mayor said they anticipate beginning the project in late spring.

City Attorney Nadine Bell said that she reviewed the solar lease agreement for the area of Baker Reservoir, and it is her opinion that the lease is still in effect. She explained the options/authority involved with terminating the lease agreement. Attorney Bell said the terms of that lease are not uncommon given the investment by the financiers of the project. Attorney Bell said the City has retained outside counsel to prepare the new solar lease or easement agreement, and the Mayor said that the City Attorney will be kept in the loop. The Mayor said that he will question GroSolar as to when they plan to terminate the lease at Baker Reservoir.

The Mayor passed out the list of properties that was received and filed by the Council in November 2016. Mayor Matzke said that at the next meeting there will be an agenda item to schedule public hearings so as to afford the Council the opportunity to issue an order declaring the five properties as public nuisances and to order corrective action. The Mayor said that Good Energy will do a presentation at the next Council meeting. He said several municipalities are using this company. The Mayor said that at a February meeting, the codes for vacant residential properties and abandoned buildings (zombie properties) will be addressed. He said the changes to the Codes Department will be addressed in March.

Supervisor Magliocca said that in the tax bills there was a notice for Madison County residents. He said that currently when residents receive their renewals, the return address to mail the payments is addressed to the DMV in Utica. He stressed the importance of keeping that business in Madison County, and urged residents to pay by mail to Madison County or pay in person at the County office building. He said the County receives 12.7% of those fees, which amounted to approximately \$1M for the County in 2015. He

said these monies help to keep the county taxes down. Supervisor Reinhardt added that the County is petitioning the Governor to get the amount of the County's share raised to 25%, rather than 12.7%.

Councilor Smith thanked the Mayor for bringing the fireworks back to Oneida. He said it was an excellent fireworks display. Councilor Chamberlain said the parking lots at the Northside Shopping Plaza and Vet's Field were full of cars, as was Williams Street. He said it was a great show.

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Chamberlain

The regular meeting is hereby adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

CITY OF ONEIDA, NEW YORK

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Susan Pulverenti, City Clerk