

**MINUTES OF THE COMMON COUNCIL  
NOVEMBER 9, 2016**

A special meeting of the Common Council of the City of Oneida, NY was held on the ninth day of November, 2016 at 6:00 o'clock P.M. in Council Chambers, Oneida Municipal Building, 109 N. Main Street, Oneida, NY.

Meeting was called to order by Deputy Mayor Jim Chamberlain

PRESENT: Mayor Leo Matzke, Councilors Alan Cohen, Michael Bowe, Erwin Smith, Helen Acker (arrived at 6:08), and Thomas Simchik

ALSO PRESENT: City Clerk Susan Pulverenti  
Comptroller Lee Ann Wells  
Director of Parks and Recreation Luke Griff  
Fire Chief Kevin Salerno

**2017 MAYOR'S BUDGET DISCUSSION**

*Recreation Department*

Recreation Director Luke Griff said the biggest change in his budget is the addition of the Recreation Coordinator position. The position would be 37.5 hours per week at \$16.25 per hour, with the hours being split to when the programs are going on. Currently, the part-time employees cover when events are being held. The Director said the rest of his budget is pretty much the same as previous years. He said the adult basketball league didn't have any participation this year, but he is projecting 4 to 5 teams for next year, noting once again that a Recreation Coordinator will help overall. He said there are four part-time people who work the same position of Recreation Specialist/Building Supervisor during the winter, which consists of a total of 45 hours a week. He said the Recreation Specialist (PT) is down to 15 hours per week. Recreation Director Luke Griff said he currently works an average of 4 to 5 hours a week over his scheduled hours on programming and doesn't have the time to do more. In response to a question, he said the \$1,000 budgeted for Halloween is good.

Director Griff said that funding for the Ferris mower in the amount of \$3,000 was removed from the budget. He said Ferris is no longer on NYS Bid list, which now allows for trade-ins. He said it is approximately \$10K for a new mower, and if he traded in the current mower at \$7K, the new 2017 mower would cost approximately \$3K. He said that 400 hours per year is spent on mowing. The Deputy Mayor said this would be a great investment and a discussion ensued. The Director said that he would wait on the martin's mix, if the mower could be added back in and the Council agreed. The Mayor said there was a possibility of a semi pro baseball team coming to Oneida, and the Recreation Director said it is not in his budget, because it would cost \$100K to \$125K for the upgrades needed for a semi pro team. He said the City would not recoup the investment with the current fiscal situation, however, it is not totally off the table for 2018. Director Griff said that he can get by one more year without replacing the field lining machine. He said the wood fiber playground mulch is a new item this year, as it is much needed at Allen Park and Vet's Field. He said the Mayor has included \$1,000 for tennis tournaments this year, as Mayor Matzke wants to see if some interest can be generated next year, noting they haven't been done since 2014. The new Recreation Coordinator should be able to promote this. Overtime at the Rec Dept has been allocated at \$250, just in case it is needed. He said that normally if the Account Clerk has overtime hours, she takes comp time, but just in case she chooses overtime; Director Griff said he needs to have funds budgeted for it.

The Mayor said that all adult recreation programs are paid for by the adults, and that is noted on the revenue pages of the budget. The Council discussed having tennis camps for children. The Mayor said the goal is to have a different activity each week during the summer with offsetting fees to cover the costs. The Grant Finder program was removed by the Mayor, who stated that will come through the Planning and Development office. The need for chain link fencing was discussed by the Council, although this was removed from the budget by the Mayor. Recreation Director Griff said 6 ft. fencing should be installed in front of the benches for liability issues on the first and third base sides of the fields, and he also had budgeted fencing for the dugouts. After discussing, the Council decided to put in \$3,500 for fencing.

Councilor Bowe said the changes for the Recreation portion of the 2017 budget are to put \$3,000 back in the budget for a new mower, take out \$3,500 for the martin's mix, add \$3,500 back in for the chain link fencing, put \$500 in the equipment maintenance account line (0409), and modify the 0307 line (other chemicals, swim rec/inst/suits) down by \$1,000.

*Fire Department*

Fire Chief Kevin Salerno said \$10K was taken from overtime and with no major fires or injuries this should be enough. He said he salaries line is down. He said it is better to hire a new firefighter than to staff overtime with current personnel, and the discussion turned to hiring another firefighter. Chief Salerno outlined the figures he received from the Comptroller's office. The Council discussed the total cost using overtime, training costs for the academy, the current staff of 23 firefighters (6 on three shifts, 5 on one shift), Kelly day's firefighters receive, the OSHA standard of 2 in 2 out for a fire, changing of the

shifts, overtime rates, and the call back rate where firefighters are paid a minimum of 3 hours if called in. The Council discussed payment for services rendered, and Chief Salerno said that Vineall Ambulance can be reimbursed, because they transport. The City can bill for Hurst tools, road cleanup, etc., however, the Chief said some years is it \$14K and others only \$4K, so that money cannot be counted on. A Certificate of Need is required before the City could have an ambulance service, however, the cost would be approximately \$1M just for startup costs, then staff would have to be hired. Chief Salerno said there are not enough calls within the City of Oneida to warrant two ambulance services, as the majority of calls are Medicaid, which pay very little from the government. Mayor Matzke said that he is waiting to see how the Fire negotiations go before making any decisions, adding that we have to control our Fund Balance.

The Council questioned what the Chief's expense line was for. In the 3410 line, building maintenance, which is lower for next year, as this year the bay doors were replaced. The Mayor said there is funding in the budget for security to protect the building, as people can currently enter the building when the Fire Department is out on a call, and the Mayor informed the Council of a particular incident. In the training line, 100 hours is budgeted for EMS training and Fire training. Councilor Smith said he spoke with the City Engineer relative to the boiler replacements at City Hall and the Fire Department, and one generator will service the entire building. Councilor Bowe suggested putting \$8K back into Fire OT (102 line), until the Council decides where it wants to go.

The Mayor said, that in his budget message, he references the repair of the 100 foot ladder truck in 2018. He said the cost is expected to be approximately \$300K and won't affect the 2017 or 2018 budgets, but will affect the 2019 budget. The Fire Chief said that would be a solid investment.

Mayor Matzke said there is \$2K in the police portion of the budget for Neighborhood Watch. The Mayor said the Housing Inspector will report to the Mayor and new lines have been created for salaries, equipment, insurance, training and clothing allowance. The Mayor said the demolition line on page 31 has been zeroed, as there will be many demolitions going on in the flood zone due to the buyout program.

The next meeting will be Monday, November 14, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Simchik

The regular meeting is hereby adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

City of Oneida

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Susan Pulverenti, City Clerk