

**MINUTES OF THE COMMON COUNCIL**  
**APRIL 5, 2016**

A regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Oneida, NY was held on the fifth day of April, 2016 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, Helen Acker, James Chamberlain and Thomas Simchik

ALSO PRESENT: Assessor Lonnie Stedman  
City Attorney Nadine Bell  
City Clerk Susan Pulverenti  
Comptroller Linda Pease  
Director of Planning and Development Cassie Rose  
Fire Chief Kevin Salerno  
Police Chief David Meeker  
Supervisor John Reinhardt  
Supervisor Joseph Magliocca

The Mayor asked for a moment of silence to honor the heroes in our own lives, our City and country. Councilor Simchik asked that the young girl who died in the house fire in Vernon and first responders be honored, and Councilor Smith honored fifteen year old Robert Grozl from Oneida who passed away due a relapse of leukemia.

**OLD BUSINESS**

*Elks Hoop Shoot Competition*

Councilor Acker stated that the two young ladies in the Elks Hoop Shoot Competition came in third place at the Northeast Regionals. A round of applause was given.

*Benefit for Mike Healy*

Councilor Acker said the benefit for Mike Healy is on April 17, 2016 at the Kallet Civic Center from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. She said they have over 100 baskets and will have plenty of food, and she invited everyone to attend and show their support for Mike.

*Housing Rehabilitation Grant Received*

Planning Director Cassie Rose stated that the City has received a \$400,000 Housing Rehabilitation Grant. She asked the Council if they knew of anyone in their wards who might need or would benefit from this service to please have them contact the Planning Department, and she will provide them with the applications.

Moved by Councilor Acker  
Seconded by Councilor Smith

**RESOLVED**, that the minutes of the regular meeting of March 15, 2016 are hereby approved as presented.

Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

Moved by Councilor Acker  
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

**RESOLVED**, that Warrant No. 7, checks and ACH payments in the amount of \$771,904.91, 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**

Councilor Smith said that employee health insurance and the chassis/cab/box on the dump truck were two of the large vouchers.

Councilor Smith said that over the weekend he was treated at Oneida Healthcare Center. He said he received great care and was treated with utmost respect and professionalism.

**SPECIAL EVENTS APPLICATION**

**RESOLUTION 16-58**

Moved by Councilor Smith  
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

**RESOLVED**, to approve the following Special Events Application:

<i>Name of Event:</i>	Y’s Changing Lives Walk
<i>Sponsor:</i>	YMCA of the Greater Tri-Valley
<i>Address:</i>	701 Seneca Street, Oneida NY
<i>Event Date:</i>	Saturday, April 30, 2016

Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

**AMUSEMENT DEVICE LICENSE**

**RESOLUTION 16-59**

Moved by Councilor Chamberlain  
Seconded by Councilor Acker

**RESOLVED**, to approve the Amusement Device License for Quarter’s Only Vending, 385-7 Gaffney Drive, Watertown NY 13601.

Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

**PROPOSAL – WATER TESTING**

**RESOLUTION 16-60**

Moved by Councilor Simchik  
Seconded by Councilor Bowe

**RESOLVED**, to authorize the Mayor to sign a Proposal with the Mohawk Valley Water Authority, One Kennedy Plaza, Utica NY 13502 for Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule testing for 24 sampling events in the amount of \$11,360.

Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

**AGREEMENT - BUYOUT PROGRAM**  
**NYS DIVISION OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES**

**RESOLUTION 16-61**

Moved by Councilor Acker  
Seconded by Councilor Smith

**RESOLVED**, to authorize the Mayor to sign the Agreements by and between the City of Oneida and the NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services for HMGP Project #4031-0035 - City of Oneida Acquisition Project.

Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

Mayor Matzke said this is the contract for the Buyout Program. Mayor Matzke explained the appraisal process and said we will be hiring firms to do the demolitions and local people to do the surveying. The Mayor said the Assessor did the RFP for the appraisals, and the City Engineer will take care of the RFP's for the surveys and demolitions. Councilor Cohen said he would like to seek local firms for the work. The City Attorney explained that sometimes this can be problematic, using the example of the manpower needed to meet the demands of the project. Attorney Bell said that because of the vast quantity of appraisals coupled with the short time frame, the search for appraisers had to be broadened.

**RECEIVE AND FILE – BAKER RESERVOIR SITE – PROPOSED SOLAR SITE**

**RESOLUTION 16-62**

Moved by Councilor Acker  
Seconded by Councilor Smith

**RESOLVED**, that a letter and appendices from Jill Christian-Lynch requesting the City abide by US Fish & Wildlife Services' guidelines and delay any tree cutting or construction at Baker Reservoir be hereby received and placed on file.

Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

Councilor Smith said that he toured the potential project site for better than two hours with Mike DeBottis, Jill Christian Lynch, John Reinhardt and Councilor Cohen, noting there are concerns.

**2015 YEAR END REPORTS FOR THE GENERAL FUND**

**RESOLUTION 16-63**

Moved by Councilor Smith  
Seconded by Councilor Bowe

**RESOLVED**, that the 2015 Year End Reports for the General Fund be hereby received and placed on file.

Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

Mayor Matzke said the report to be received in June will give the Council a better idea of where we are at.

**CAPITAL PROJECT 16-04 WWTP DISINFECTION IMPROVMENTS**

**RESOLUTION 16-64**

Moved by Councilor Simchik  
Seconded by Councilor Bowe

**RESOLVED**, that the City Engineer be hereby authorized to proceed with Capital Project 16-04 WWTP Disinfection Improvements, **and be it further**

**RESOLVED**, that the City Engineer be hereby authorized to expend funds up to the programmed amount, **and be it further**

**RESOLVED**, that the Mayor be authorized to sign any and all documents relative to said Capital Project 16-04 WWTP Disinfection Improvements.

Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES PROPOSAL – BUYOUT PROGRAM**  
**DONATO REAL ESTATE APPRAISAL & CONSULTING**

**RESOLUTION 16-65**

Moved by Councilor Acker  
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

**RESOLVED**, to authorize the Mayor to accept and sign the professional services proposal from Donato Real Estate Appraisal & Consulting, 641 James Street, Utica NY 13501 for retrospective Real Estate Appraisals of the Oneida City properties affected by the June 2013 Flood Event.

Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

Councilor Acker said the RFP's were noticed in the newspapers to provide everyone with an opportunity to respond; they were not sent to individual companies. City Attorney Nadine Bell said the appraisals have to be completed in 120 days.

**WAIVE RULE TO ACCEPT AGENDA ITEMS**

## **RESOLUTION 16-66**

Moved by Councilor Bowe  
Seconded by Councilor Smith

**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: 6  
Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **ORDER ON CONSENT – WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT**

### **RESOLUTION 16-67**

Moved by Councilor Smith  
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

**RESOLVED**, to authorize the Mayor to sign an Order on Consent in the Matter of Violation of Article 17 of the Environmental Conservation Law (Monitoring, Reporting and Retention of Records) and Part 750 of Title 6 of NYCRR, and further approve payment in the amount of \$6,000 per said Consent Order.

Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

Mayor Matzke said the consent order is for a 2014 permit violation at the WWTP. Mayor Matzke said this was nothing to do with WWTP operations; it was a paperwork issue. The fee request is a fine due to a 2014 filing omission of the annual storm water reporting. Mayor Matzke said that he met with the City Engineer to discuss this and ensure it will not happen again.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### *Phone Hotline/Comment Line*

Councilor Cohen suggested adding a dedicated hotline or comment line for citizens to leave their comments, concerns, questions, or suggestions to better get the pulse of the community. Mayor Matzke said he doesn't want it happening again where things are forced on a neighborhood without their knowledge or input from the start. The Mayor said we have a lot out there already with social media, the City website, e-mails, iGov, and telephones, but he is looking into a designated comment line. A brief discussion ensued, which included questioning the need, who would monitor a dedicated line, information listed on the City website and the City's rollover phone lines. Councilor Cohen said that sometimes it takes work to get to the information on the website, and he would like to make it easier for people to get to us to share their concerns. Councilor Bowe suggested a water bill "insert" with the phone information that is listed on the City website. Mayor Matzke said that he will continue to look into this.

#### *Fire Department*

Fire Chief Kevin Salerno said an AutoPulse CPR device has been purchased; half with rescue fund monies and half from Vineall ambulance; no City funds were used. He said this is 100% better than regular CPR.

Fire Chief Salerno said he reached out to Senator Valesky for help with the expense of replacing turn-out gear and was promised \$25K to help with the cost.

*Final Four Basketball Game*

Councilor Acker said the women's Syracuse University vs. UConn final basketball game is on tonight.

*Solar Project*

Jill Christian-Lynch, Oneida, thanked the Mayor and Common Council for taking the time to educate themselves thoroughly on the proposed solar project site. She reiterated that several members of the Council have visited the potential site, and she thanked the Mayor and Council for listening to the concerns of the neighborhood.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**RESOLUTION 16-68**

Moved by Councilor Acker  
Seconded by Councilor Bowe

**RESOLVED**, that the meeting is hereby adjourned to Executive Session at 7:05 p.m. for the purpose of discussing a personnel issue within the Fire Department.

Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

PRESENT: Mayor, Councilors, City Attorney, Fire Chief

1. Discussion regarding a personnel issue.

Moved by Councilor Bowe  
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

**RESOLVED**, that Executive Session is hereby adjourned to the regular meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

Mayor Matzke said that after the Executive Session, the Council will meet privately with the City Attorney to seek legal advice relative to the Nuisance Abatement Policy. The Mayor said the Council is being very diligent about cleaning up Madison Street.

Motion by Councilor Acker

The regular meeting is hereby adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

CITY OF ONEIDA

---

Susan Pulverenti, City Clerk