

**MINUTES OF THE COMMON COUNCIL  
MAY 24, 2017**

A special meeting of the Common Council of the City of Oneida, NY was held on the twenty-fourth day of May, 2017 at 5:30 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 Al Cohen, Michael Bowe, Erwin Smith,  
Helen Acker, James Chamberlain and Thomas Simchik

ABSENT: Mayor Leo Matzke

ALSO PRESENT: City Clerk Susan Pulverenti  
Recreation Director Luke Griff  
Supervisor Joe Magliocca  
Scott Ingmire, Director Mad. Co. Planning  
Jamie Kowalczk, Asst. Director Mad. Co. Planning

**ONEIDA RAIL TRAIL PROJECT – CHANGES TO ONEIDA STREET EAST/WEST**

Deputy Mayor Chamberlain said this meeting will be about one hour. He said the Rail Trail Committee will speak first, then Mark Arner from C & S Engineers, and then the Council and public can comment.

Recreation Director Luke Griff said that the Oneida Rail Trail's favored option for Oneida Street east is C2 (SK-5) in the packet, which addresses everyone's concerns. He said this option includes a curbed pedestrian plaza that is 54.3 feet wide with a grassy area and pavers in the center. He said that this option will also allow for fire truck access, and the parking would include two new handicap spaces. There are two spaces located behind Gary Taylor's building and four parking spaces included behind the laundromat. He said that future parallel parking is included on the back side of Oneida Street, which would add another 13 spaces bringing the total to 77 spaces. He said that this total includes the three spaces on James Street. Supervisor Joe Magliocca said option C2 (SK-5) was a cooperative effort to come up with a compromise to serve all the purposes. Councilor Bowe said that 90% of the parking spaces are there, noting the two behind Taylor's building and four behind Cordell's building. Councilor Smith asked if another option for placing the plaza on the west side was looked at, and Director Griff said Option C2 (SK5) was the option the Rail Trail Committee favored.

Mark Arner, C & S Engineers said that he is with the design engineering company for the entire Rail Trail project. Mr. Arner presented a slide show of the various options designed by the City Engineer. He said there are currently 78 existing parking spaces on Oneida Street east. He said that Option A (SK2) uses James Street and is without a pedestrian plaza. He said the traffic pattern remains unchanged. This option has a 10 ft. multi use trail in Clinch Park. Option B (SK3) introduces the pedestrian plaza with no curbing and is outlined with moveable planters. There are five additional parking spaces added close to Main Street. He said Oneida Street is closed with parking access from Williams Street onto Oneida Street and circles around going back to Williams Street. Option C (SK4) is basically the same as C2 (SK5), but the pedestrian plaza is uncurbed with moveable planters. Mr. Arner said that Option C2 (SK5) is the one that the Recreation Director spoke of. Option D (SK6) has no curbing around the pedestrian plaza area, shifts the cut through and eliminates the four spots by James Street. The final option is Option E (SK7), which puts the pedestrian plaza next to City Hall on the west side of Oneida Street. Mr. Arner restated that these designs were all prepared by the City Engineer Jon Rauscher.

Councilors Cohen and Acker said that they like Option C2 (SK5), which is visually appealing. Councilor Cohen said he likes using curbing, rather than the moveable planters. Councilor Bowe said that there is funding currently earmarked for this project, and if we do something temporary and later decide that we want something permanent, it will cost more later than it would now. He said it makes sense to make it

permanent as opposed to temporary. Councilor Cohen said there is a possibility of 13 more spaces to be added in the future on the east side.

Bob Britton, Oneida, said that using Option A and Option E make the most sense. He said the parking would remain the same, and the Rail Trail would still get their pedestrian plaza. He expressed concerns about those who would be hanging out in the plaza if it is located on the east side.

Gary Taylor, Oneida, thanked the Council and Rail Trail for considering their concerns with parking on the east side of Oneida Street. He said that in general they are happy with a permanent barrier to stop the traffic where there are three streets coming together. He requested that the four parking spots behind the laundromat have signs allowing for two hour parking, so people don't park there all day long. Mr. Taylor also said that they would like to see a kiosk or some type of landmark on the corner of Main Street that shows the entire Rail Trail through Oneida. He said there is a concern about folks hanging out downtown, however, it seems to have gotten better during the last six or eight months.

Mr. Taylor said that all downtowns struggle, and there is always empty spaces in all downtowns. He said our downtown has three banks, a major insurance company, City Hall, Police Department, a civic center, four restaurants, and multiple professional offices, but the problem is with people's perception. He said we need to change the perception, and said that he believes the City is on the right track. He said that since October, he has seen a lot of progress, and he is very optimistic. He said that the City has to step it up with the loitering problem and make people move along to another place. He asked that the two picnic tables in Clinch Park be moved apart from each other, so that the entire park is used. He requested, as did Mrs. Cordell, that the two hour parking on the streets be enforced and asked that the car tires be chalked. Deputy Mayor Chamberlain said the property across from City Hall is being repainted with a decorative canopy roof being added along the front middle of the building.

Councilor Bowe said he has spent numerous hours working on this workable solution, adding that the Council has listened to what the business owners want. Councilor Acker agreed and thanked everyone for the good work. She said that everyone has compromised to come up with a good solution. In response to a question, Supervisor Magliocca said there is a \$15K difference in the cost between granite and concrete curbing. Councilor Cohen thanked everyone for their input. Sandra Cordell questioned if furniture delivery trucks would be able to get down the street, and the Deputy Mayor said they would come down Freighthouse Alley to get to Thompson's Appliance. Councilor Bowe said that Main Street is the truck route. Mrs. Cordell asked that the Council allow for 2 hour parking in the four spots behind her building and to enforce the 2 hour parking already in place in all of downtown. Joe Pomerleau inquired if the trail will be maintained in the winter, and Supervisor Magliocca said no; the trail is non-motorized. The Common Council, with the exception of Councilor Smith, agreed that the Option C2 (SK-5) is the best option for Oneida Street east. The Councilors agree with Mr. Taylor's suggestions.

Discussion turned to Oneida Street west. Deputy Mayor Chamberlain said Option A calls for pedestrian bump outs to shorten the streets and a two feet overhang buffer for sidewalk compliance with the ADA. Joe Stabb, a representative from the Owls Club, said this a great idea because everyone hits the curbs with their tires and overhangs on the sidewalk. Councilor Smith said there shouldn't be an issue with tractor trailers making deliveries on Oneida Street west. The Council agreed this was the best option. Deputy Mayor Chamberlain said this will come back to the Council for final approval and financing.

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Acker

The regular meeting is hereby adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

CITY OF ONEIDA, NEW YORK

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Susan Pulverenti, City Clerk