

**MINUTES OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 20, 2016**

A regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Oneida, NY was held on the twentieth day of September, 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

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Mayor Matzke called for a moment of silence to honor the many heroes in each of their own lives, and an additional moment of silence to honor Francis Borasky.

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

ALSO PRESENT: City Attorney Nadine Bell
City Clerk Susan Pulverenti
City Engineer Jon Rauscher
Fire Chief Kevin Salerno
Director of Parks and Recreation Luke Griff
Supervisor Joseph Magliocca
Supervisor John Reinhardt

OLD BUSINESS

None

SUPERVISORS REPORT

Supervisor John Reinhardt said that the County has commenced the collection of Real Property Taxes for the Town of Lincoln with payments by debit/credit card, internet payments (electronic check), or in person by cash or checks. He said the County has received two small grants for mental and public health. Supervisor Reinhardt said the County is replacing the Hamilton Road Bridge and paving 19 miles of highway in the County.

Supervisor Reinhardt said they will be undertaking a \$20M project to renovate the 100 year old courthouse to meet the new ADA (American with Disabilities Act) requirements, noting that currently there are no elevators in the building on several levels that are currently only accessible by stairs. Councilor Chamberlain asked if it would be more cost effective to build a new court house and use the current court building for another purpose. Supervisor Magliocca said that any use of the building by the public or employees would require ADA compliance by the County; it is not just the court that is triggering this project. Supervisor Magliocca added that the Court House is a landmark for the County, and this is a terrific investment.

Supervisor Reinhardt said sales tax in the County is up 1.7% from last year.

Supervisor Reinhardt said the landfill is acquiring a "monster" shredder, which is large enough to shred and compact lumber making a more efficient use of the landfill while extending the life of the landfill, which is a win/win for the County. He said when the City begins the demolitions for the homes in the Buyout Program, the shredder will be utilized.

Councilor Cohen inquired if the County has seen an increase in individuals using credit cards and electronic transfers/payments. Supervisor Reinhardt said the use the credit cards has become more and more of an accommodation. He said he is unsure of the use of electronic transfers, but will follow up with the Treasurer's office and advise the Council.

Moved by Councilor Smith
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the regular meeting of September 6, 2016 are hereby approved as presented.

Ayes: 6
Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Councilor Acker
Seconded by Councilor Smith

RESOLVED, that Warrant No. 18, checks and ACH payments in the amount of \$382,134.68, 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

AGREEMENT - HONEYWELL INTERNATIONAL INC.

RESOLUTION 16-173

Moved by Councilor Smith
Seconded by Councilor Cohen

RESOLVED, to authorize the Mayor to sign the agreements with Honeywell International Inc., 14 Columbia Circle Drive, Albany NY 12203 for Capital Project 16-08 Recreation Center Boiler in the amount of \$69,586.00 for replacement of the boiler at the Recreation Center.

Ayes: 6
Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

AGREEMENT – HUMANA MEDICARE ADVANTAGE EMPLOYER PLAN

RESOLUTION 16-174

Moved by Councilor Chamberlain
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

RESOLVED, to authorize the Mayor to sign the Humana Medicare Advantage Employer Plan Renewal – Passive LPPO 079 066 with RX127 and Passive Waiver 079 066 with Rx127 effective January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017.

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0
Abstain: 1 (Smith)
MOTION CARRIED

Civil Service Officer Tammy Burkhardt said the renewal for retirees came in with no increase in the rates.

MONTHLY REPORTS

RESOLUTION 16-175

Moved by Councilor Cohen
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

RESOLVED, that the monthly reports from the Chamberlain, City Clerk, Director of Planning and Development, Fire Department, Police Department and Recreation Department be hereby received and placed on file.

Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
MOTION CARRIED

2017 HEALTH & DENTAL PLAN RENEWALS

RESOLUTION 16-176

Moved by Councilor Chamberlain
Seconded by Councilor Smith

RESOLVED, that the Mayor be authorized to sign the health insurance renewal plans for 2017 with Excellus BluePPO Option I. Signature Deductible 3 and the dental plan renewal for 2017 with Excellus Dental Blue Options.

Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
MOTION CARRIED

Civil Service Officer Tammy Burkhardt said the medical renewal came in at a 5.46% increase, and the dental renewal is at a 4% increase. The Mayor said he had been expecting an increase of 10%, so this was a good deal. Councilor Acker asked if quotes from other insurance carriers were looked at, and the Mayor said that can be done every other year. The City Clerk said insurance would be a negotiation issue with the unions. Mayor Matzke said that CSEA employees and Police employees pay a percentage, and they will be beginning negotiations with Fire at the end of the year.

BUDGET TRANSFER

RESOLUTION 16-177

Moved by Councilor Simchik
Seconded by Councilor Cohen

RESOLVED, to approve the following budget transfer:

<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
\$3,685.00	001.1990.0400 Contingency	001.1355.0403 Assessor Contracts

(To transfer funds for Assessment certioraris)

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed Solar Project – Hubbard Place

Mayor Matzke said that he met with groSolar representatives today, who provided him with a project update relative to the proposed project at the new location on Hubbard Place. He said that the City and groSolar have been working in partnership to seek alternate locations, and Hubbard Place was identified as a potential site. The Mayor said there are four separate parcels, including a critical parcel that is privately owned, which was secured to accommodate the planned project. The Mayor said the revised project would provide 1.5 megawatts when completed, which is a 25% reduction in size from the original plan, because National Grid would not approve a larger project. He said the City's savings are being projected at \$75K rather than \$100K. Mayor Matzke said the site will be included as part of the Rail Trail project. Signage will be placed along the trail route so that people passing by can learn about the project, the importance of renewable solar energy, and its positive impacts on the environment. The Mayor said agreements, etc., will need to be put in place, and he would be traveling to Albany to seek approval to extend the grant. The Mayor said he hopes that the solar array installation will be underway by April.

Energy Lighting Project

City Engineer Jon Rauscher said the street lights are a costly portion of the budget with roughly \$170K in energy charges annually. National Grid has come out with the tariff for LED's and buyback options. The City is looking at the economics of the municipality buying back the street lights and converting to LED's as an energy project in 2018. He said the City would save on things that they have been paying National Grid for many, many years. Councilor Cohen said once the Climate Smart Certification is finalized, the City will be eligible for some State grants, which will relieve some of the burden of putting in the LED's and saving the City more money. The Mayor said that regretfully some of the downtown improvement/beautification projects planned for 2017 will need to be moved to 2018 because of the delay in the lighting project.

Communication – Chipper Use

The Mayor presented a packet of communication information to Council members to provide to their constituents. The Mayor said there is a new, much more efficient plan in place for residents to call the DPW for the chipper where the location information is put into a GPS system for pickup. However, the crews will also stop when they see any additional brush along the way to the call already in the system.

NYS DOT Lenox Avenue Project

Mayor Matzke said NYS's project on Lenox Avenue (Rt. 365A) will not be finished this year. City Engineer Jon Rauscher said resurfacing of the roadway will be next year, as the curb ramps must be

designed and completed for ADA compliance first. The proposed sidewalk extension up Lenox Avenue to Wal-Mart will also be completed in 2017.

Downtown Flowers

MaryAnn Petrie, Oneida, commended the City on how nice the flowers look downtown. Mayor Matzke said there is a scarecrow contest starting October 1st and said that anyone is welcome to be involved.

NYS Citizen Preparedness Corps Training Program

Fire Chief Kevin Salerno said that on Wednesday, October 12, 2016 at 7:00 pm. at the Kallet Civic Center there will be a NYS Citizen Preparedness Corps Training Program, which is intended for citizens to have the proper resources to prepare for any type of disaster and respond/recover accordingly. Chief Salerno said residents must register in advance, noting there is a link on the City website for residents to access. Councilor Cohen suggested that the information on this training program be provided to the school, and Chief Salerno said he would take care of doing so. Councilor Acker said she attended a similar program a few years ago, which was very well attended, so she hopes our community is responsive.

Flushing the Water Mains

Councilor Bowe said the Water Department will begin its fall flushing program on Monday, September 26, 2016. He said the schedule will be noticed in the newspaper, on Facebook and the City's website. If you have a question about your scheduled date, you can call the Water Department at 363-1490.

Acting Police Chief Lt. Paul Thompson

Councilor Smith commended Acting Police Chief Lt. Paul Thompson and the entire Police Department for their response to the tragedy that happened a few days ago.

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Bowe

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

City of Oneida

Susan Pulverenti, City Clerk