

**MINUTES OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 14, 2017**

A special meeting of the Common Council of the City of Oneida, NY was held on the fourteenth day of November, 2017 at 6:35 o'clock P.M. in the 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 Al Cohen, Michael Bowe, Helen Acker and Thomas Simchik

ABSENT: Councilor Erwin Smith

ALSO PRESENT: City Clerk Susan Pulverenti
Comptroller Lee Ann Wells

DISCUSSION - 2017 MAYORS BUDGET

Deputy Mayor Chamberlain said there will be no questions taken from the audience, as this is a work session for the Council. He asked that no side conversations be held amongst the Council, and he would like the discussion to have no interruptions. Councilor Cohen requested that the Council go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue relating to the Police Department.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

RESOLUTION 17-309

Motioned by Councilor Acker
Seconded by Councilor Cohen

RESOLVED, that the meeting is hereby adjourned to Executive Session at 6:41 p.m. for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter within the Police Department.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 (Smith)

MOTION CARRIED

PRESENT: Mayor, Councilors, City Clerk, Comptroller

Discussion was held regarding a personnel matter.

Motioned by Councilor Acker
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

RESOLVED, that Executive Session is hereby adjourned to the regular meeting at 7:11 p.m.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 (Smith)

MOTION CARRIED

DISCUSSION - 2017 MAYORS BUDGET

Councilor Bowe said that the Mayor, as an advisor and observer of these budget meetings, recommends that the Council return to the discussion of the salaries nearer to the end of all the special meetings, and the Council agreed.

Councilor Bowe questioned if fees were going up, as many of the revenue lines had been bumped up. The Mayor said fees will be increasing, and he will bring those increases to the Council in the winter. The Council reviewed several pages of the revenue portion of the budget questioning some of the projected revenue increases for city clerk fees, certificates of occupancy, police reports, police record checks, rescue vehicle fees, inspections, various recreation programs, public safety services and tribal contract money from the County. The City Clerk said that per the Charter, the Council cannot change the estimate of revenues except to correct omissions or mathematical errors, and the Mayor said that he could change the revenues. The Mayor restated that all the fees would be going up.

Councilor Simchik inquired as to where the CHIPS funding line was located, and the Comptroller said it is in Capital. On page 22, the Council questioned the Mayor's salary line, and it was explained that the Mayor's secretary is also part of that line item. The Council discussed the expense line for the Common Council, and the possible use for training. On page 25, under the Law line, the Council discussed and decided to remove \$10K from contract negotiations, as both the CSEA and Police contracts should be finalized by the end of this year. On page 26, under electric and gas, the Comptroller stated that is based on the actual 2017 figures. The Council also questioned the building maintenance and repair line under buildings having no funds in it, although it was noted that there were no funds in this line for the last few years. It was decided to ask the City Engineer where the funds are located for the building maintenance. On page 27, the Comptroller said she increased the amount for Central Stores, as this year they are almost out of funds to replace toners and the multiple other supplies for all the City departments. The Council determined that the NYCOM membership was a good resource. The City Clerk said she would check to see why Council members do not receive emails from NYCOM.

On page 29, the Council said they would ask the Acting Chief about the significant increase in the police contracts line. Mayor Matzke said that included in his budget are three cars for the police department. Councilor Bowe said that vehicle maintenance was cut for police vehicles. The Mayor said they are trying to get the true costs for each department. The Mayor said he has lowered the amount allotted for the Police Neighborhood Watch line, which he is patterning after Rome's program. The Mayor said that he is looking to have more of a community based police force.

In the traffic section on page 30, the entire salary is allotted to that line, and the Comptroller noted that the change could be due to the contract negotiations and the percentages deducted. The Comptroller said that the City Engineer has allocated some of the funds in his budget differently this year, so there are some fluctuations. Deputy Mayor Chamberlain said that in the traffic equipment line, the sign plotter needs to be replaced, as parts were not available for repair. The Mayor said that the DPW will have two sidewalk plows running this winter, and Councilor Simchik said the City's GPS units help fine tune the areas needing plowing. In the mosquito line on page 34, the employee's title is "Mosquito Control Technician" and his entire salary is listed on that line, even though he is not doing mosquito related work year round. The Mayor said he raised the tree account line. The Mayor said that he cut \$100K out of the budget for slurry seal for street maintenance, which was projected to make streets last ten years and put \$50K of that money in for sidewalks. Councilor Cohen said that there are some compromises going on. The Mayor said that President Trump said that he will be designating funds for water and sewer infrastructure, and he would like to apply for those funds.

On page 38, the Mayor said he slightly increased the amount to be provided to the Oneida Memorial Association for the Memorial Day Parade, as they are short of funds this year. He said that he would like to see the parade even larger this year.

The Deputy Mayor said the next meeting is Thursday at 7:00 p.m. to be held in the Mayor's Conference Room with the Water Superintendent and the Acting Police Chief's budgets to be discussed.

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Acker

The special meeting is hereby adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

CITY OF ONEIDA, NEW YORK

Susan Pulverenti, City Clerk