

Ward 4 Councilor Janet Jones: Budget Process

As we are still new to the City Manager/Council form of government, I'd like to share this very brief summary from the Charter of the roles and responsibilities so we can proceed with clarity.

At this stage of the process, the Council does not have an official role in developing the budget, but with the help of the Comptroller and Department Heads, the City Manager prepares and submits a proposed budget, budget message, and capital program to the Council by October 30.

Once the proposed budget is submitted, it becomes a public record and a public hearing is scheduled within four weeks. At the public hearing, any person or party of interest shall be given an opportunity to be heard as it is relevant to the budget process.

The Council's responsibility is then to review the proposal, ask questions, request information, and decide whether to approve, increase, decrease, or eliminate budget items, except where required by law.

Most importantly, the Council decides how the dollars that belong to the taxpayers will be spent, and we have a duty to spend those dollars wisely.

I hope this budget process is open, transparent, and built on good communication so we can make informed decisions on behalf of the people we serve.

City of Oneida, NY The Charter, Chapter C, Article V BUDGET AND FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

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