

CITY MANAGER'S REMARKS

Common Council Meeting | September 1, 2026

Good evening. I have just a few brief updates from the City Manager's Office tonight.

Tonight's Agenda and 2027 Budget. I want to briefly frame several items before the Council tonight. Reconsideration of the tax-cap override is a procedural step that preserves the Council's ability to adopt a balanced 2027 budget; it does not establish the final tax rate or adopt the budget itself. That work remains underway, with a focus on controlling recurring costs, reviewing staffing and vacancies, protecting essential services, and reducing reliance on fund balance.

Cost and Service Management. The Council will also consider a lower-cost Medicare renewal option for eligible retirees, the scheduled replacement of three patrol vehicles nearing the end of their lease terms, and targeted Water and Sewer Fund adjustments. The patrol-vehicle agreements apply \$37,000 in value from the outgoing units toward the replacements. The Water Fund action returns \$100,000 from the Lake Street Pump Station authorization and uses \$22,000 for projected overtime, restoring a net \$78,000 to fund balance.

Engineering Transition. City Engineer Jeff Rowe will be leaving us, effective September 30. I thank Jeff for his service to the City. We are preparing a detailed transition of active projects, deadlines, and regulatory responsibilities while evaluating the most cost-effective long-term structure that will preserve the professional engineering coverage the City needs.

Fuel Conservation. Across the first two verified conservation weeks, the City saved 662.1 gallons of gasoline compared with our baseline. The current diesel report shows a reduction of 147 gallons used by DPW and Wastewater. Based on these reports, taxpayers have saved approximately \$3,250 to date.

Community Engagement. The City is launching its Name the Snow Plow Contest for our five snow plows and one sidewalk plow. Two winning entries will be reserved for residents age 17 and younger, and the selected names will appear on the plows through March 1, 2027.

Haunted House. The City and Greater Oneida Chamber of Commerce are working together on a Haunted House inside the Kallet Theater, along with our annual Trunk or Treat in the rear parking lot. I thank the planning committee, Parks and Rec staff, and all of the current sponsors for helping create a fun community event while supporting the Chamber's work. Additional event and participation details can be found on our city website and in our forthcoming October newsletter.

Employee Recognition. Finally, I want to thank our department heads and employees for their cooperation with the City's fuel-conservation measures and for their work throughout an exceptionally busy summer. Their professionalism and willingness to adapt are helping us protect services while strengthening the City's operations and finances.

Thank you.