



CITY OF ONEIDA

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date:	September 15, 2026	Presiding:	Rick Rossi, Mayor
Time:	6:30pm	Clerk:	Sandy LaPera, City Clerk
Location:	Common Council Chambers	Meeting Type:	Regular ☒ Special ☐

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Rick Rossi, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call.

Attendees

	Present	Absent	Arrived Late
Mayor Rossi	☒	☐	☐ : _____
City Manager Lovell	☒	☐	☐ : _____
Councilor McHugh	☐	☒	☐ : _____
Councilor Cimpi	☒	☐	☐ : _____
Councilor Smith	☒	☐	☐ : _____
Councilor Jones	☐	☒	☐ : _____
Councilor Pagano	☐	☐	☒ : 6:33pm
Councilor Simchik	☒	☐	☐ : _____

Also Present

City Attorney Bell	☒	Supervisor: _____	☐
Attorney (Other)	☐	Supervisor: _____	☐
Fire Chief Jones	☒	Other: _____	☐
Police Chief Lowell	☒	Other: _____	☐

PROCLAMATION: Childhood Cancer Awareness Day

Proclamation

City of Oneida - Office of the Mayor

WHEREAS, September is recognized as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, a time to raise awareness, support children and families affected by cancer, honor survivors, and remember those we have lost; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oneida recognizes the courage and strength of children battling cancer and honors the caregivers, healthcare professionals, researchers, and advocates working toward a cure; and

WHEREAS, more than 15,000 children and adolescents in the United States are diagnosed with cancer each year, making childhood cancer a critical cause deserving of our continued attention and support; and

WHEREAS, International Childhood Cancer Day, observed annually on February 15, reminds us of the importance of supporting children with cancer and their families while continuing the fight for better treatments and, ultimately, a cure; and

NOW THEREFORE, I, **Rick Rossi**, Mayor of the City of Oneida do hereby proclaim the month of September as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and September 16th as

Childhood Cancer Awareness Day

I encourage all citizens to support children and families affected by cancer, honor those we have lost, celebrate survivors, and help raise awareness and hope for a future without childhood cancer.

Let us come together as a community to spread awareness, show compassion, and give hope to every child and family facing childhood cancer. Go Gold for Childhood Cancer!

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have
hereunto set my hand and affix the
official seal of the City of Oneida on this
15th day of September 2026.

Mayor Rick Rossi

PUBLIC COMMENT:

DAVID STIRPE-ONEIDA

David Stirpe addressed the Council regarding the City's permitting and inspection process for commercial projects. He stated that he was not appearing to complain or request any specific action but wanted to bring attention to what he believes is a lack of coordination and clarity in the process.

Stirpe discussed his experience completing commercial projects in Oneida and other municipalities, including Rome, Syracuse, Cicero and Vernon. He explained that, in other municipalities, he has been able to meet with the appropriate officials before beginning a project, determine the permits and requirements that apply, complete the required work, and then schedule inspections.

He emphasized that he has had positive experiences with the City of Oneida Codes Department and praised its staff. His concern, he said, is with the overall process rather than any particular employee or department. Stirpe explained that a business owner may consult with the Codes Department, obtain permits and complete work according to the instructions provided, only to later have the Fire Department conduct an inspection and identify additional permits or requirements that the applicant was not previously aware of.

Stirpe said this can be confusing for someone attempting to comply with City requirements, particularly when an applicant does not know in advance that another department will have separate requirements or inspections. He noted that he recently met with Fire Chief Scott Jones regarding his situation and praised the Chief for how the matter was handled.

He also expressed concern with the inspection scheduling process, stating that applicants may receive notice of a predetermined inspection date and time rather than being contacted to arrange a mutually convenient appointment. He said this can create unnecessary difficulties and potentially result in enforcement or court proceedings over matters that could otherwise be resolved through better communication.

Stirpe encouraged the City to establish a clearer, coordinated process for businesses undertaking projects, so applicants understand from the beginning which departments are involved, what permits and inspections are required, and whom they need to contact. He reiterated that he was not seeking anything from the Council regarding his particular situation, but wanted to raise the issue for consideration as the City continues to encourage business development.

OLD BUSINESS: None

SUPERVISOR'S REMARKS: None

MAYOR'S REMARKS: With fall upon us and the leaves beginning to come down, residents are reminded to properly prepare leaves for collection. Please do not place leaves in plastic bags or bins. Leaves should

be placed in paper lawn and leaf bags, which are available at local retailers such as Walmart and Lowe's.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: See Attached

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilor Simchik
Seconded by Councilor Smith

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on September 1, 2026, are approved as presented.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Absent: 2 (McHugh/Jones)

MOTION RESULT: ☒ Passed ☐ Failed

APPROVAL OF WARRANT

Motion by Councilor Pagano
Seconded by Councilor Smith

RESOLVED, that Warrant No. 18, including checks and ACH payments totaling \$188,067.25, as audited by the Voucher Committee, is hereby approved for payment in the usual manner at the discretion of the Comptroller.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Absent: 2 (McHugh/Jones)

MOTION RESULT: ☒ Passed ☐ Failed

RECEIVE/FILE MONTHLY REPORTS

RESOLUTION 26-137

Moved by Councilor Simchik
Seconded by Councilor Pagano

RESOLVED, to receive and place on file the Monthly Reports from the City Department Heads.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Absent: 2 (McHugh/Jones)

MOTION RESULT: ☒ Passed ☐ Failed

BUDGET TRANSFERS AND AMENDMENTS

RESOLUTION 26-138

Moved by Councilor Smith

Seconded by Councilor Simchik

RESOLVED, to approve the budget transfers and amendments as outlined by the Comptroller or a third party duly retained by the City of Oneida to perform such services.

Budget Adjustment #1

Amount	To	From
\$40,000.00	001.1680.0403.0000 IT Contracts	001.0025.3089.0000 State Aid Revenue

Purpose: To re-allocate funds received from NYS Temporary Municipal Assistance to cover IT expenses expected through 2026.

Budget Adjustment #2

Amount	To	From
\$30,025.80	001.1315.0101.0000 Comptroller's Office Salaries	001.0025.3089.0000 State Aid Revenue

Purpose: To re-allocate funds received from NYS Temporary Municipal Assistance to cover Senior Account Clerk Salary expenses. Original budget was exhausted with former account clerk's retirement.

Budget Adjustment #3

Amount	To	From
\$1,186.80	001.5010.0403.0000 DPW Admin Contracts	001.5010.0101.0000 DPW Admin Salary

Purpose: To re-allocate funds to cover tuition reimbursement for approved education reimbursement.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Absent: 2 (McHugh/Jones)

MOTION RESULT: ☒ Passed ☐ Failed

NEW BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Pagano
Seconded by Councilor Cimpi

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Absent: 2 (McHugh/Jones)

MOTION RESULT: ☒ Passed ☐ Failed

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

CITY OF ONEIDA

Sandra LaPera, City Clerk