

MINUTES OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
DECEMBER 31, 2025

A meeting of the Common Council of the City of Oneida, NY was held on the thirty first day of December 2025 at 9:17am at the City of Oneida Common Council Chambers, 109 N. Main Street, Oneida NY 13421.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Rick Rossi.

<u>Attendees</u>	Present	Absent	Arrived Late
Mayor Rossi	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Kyle Lovell, CM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Councilor Szczerba	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Councilor Laureti	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Councilor Hitchings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Councilor Winchell	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Councilor Pagano	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 9:17am
Councilor Simchik	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> _____

Also Present

City Attorney Nadine Bell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public Safety Comm. Dave Jones	<input type="checkbox"/>
City Clerk Sandy LaPera	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Councilor-Elect Lynne McHugh	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fire Chief Scott Jones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Councilor-Elect Janet Jones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Police Chief Steve Lowell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

Mayor Rossi thanked those in attendance and specifically acknowledged Councilor Pagano for attending despite illness to maintain a quorum. He stated his disappointment regarding the absence of three councilors and emphasized the significance of the close-out meeting.

City Manager Lovell received a letter from Councilor-Elect for Ward 1, Lynne McHugh that he asked to be included with the minutes, as attached.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Councilor Hitchings
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the regular meeting of December 16, 2025, are hereby approved as presented.

Ayes: 4
Nays: 0
Absent: 3 (Szczerba/Laureti/Winchell)
MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF WARRANT

Moved by Councilor Simchik
Seconded by Councilor Pagano

RESOLVED, that Warrant No. 25, checks and ACH payments in the amount of \$1,244,501.92 as audited by the Voucher Committee are hereby approved for payment in the usual manner at the discretion of the Comptroller or a third party duly retained by the City of Oneida to perform such services.

Ayes: 4
Nays: 0
Absent: 3 (Szczerba/Laureti/Winchell)
MOTION CARRIED

2026 TAX WARRANT

RESOLUTION 25-244

Moved by Councilor Hitchings
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

RESOLVED, that the tax warrant for the year 2026 herewith in all respects is hereby approved and issued, and the office of the City Chamberlain is hereby authorized to proceed with the collection of taxes for the year 2026, **and be it further**

RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 5.8 of the City Charter, there shall be levied and raised on the taxable real estate property of the entire City, in manner from and to the extent heretofore

authorized and directed by the Common Council, the necessary sums of money for the estimates and disbursements for the year 2026, constituting the budget for the City of Oneida, as the same has been heretofore adopted and approved, and the tax of the several amounts for the different funds of the City, constituting said budget, to be computed at the ratios and upon the different property in said budget and levy set forth.

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

Absent: 3 (Szczerba/Laureti/Winchell)

MOTION CARRIED

BUDGET TRANSFERS/AMENDMENTS

RESOLUTION 25-245

Motion to approve the budget transfers and amendments as revised by Councilor Hitchings
Seconded by Councilor Pagano

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

	<u>To</u>	<u>From</u>
2025 Budget Adjustments		
\$ 9,134.15	001.1640.0403.0001 Police Vehicle Repairs	001.0022.2680.0000 Insurance Recovery
<i>To re-allocate insurance funds received to repair the vehicle involved in the incident</i>		
\$ 20,000.00	001.7140.0101.0000 Parks & Rec Salaries	001.1620.0401.0000 General Fund Electric
\$ 4,000.00	001.7140.0102.0000 Parks & Rec Overtime	001.1620.0401.0000 General Fund Electric
<i>To re-allocate funds to cover payouts on sick and vacation time</i>		
\$ 3,300.00	001.1355.0403.0000 Assessor Contracts	001.1620.0401.0000 General Fund Electric
<i>To allocate funds for the December expenses associated with Assessor Administration</i>		
2026 Budget Adjustments		

\$ 1,820.00

001.1430.0101.0000

001.0001.0912.0000

Civil Service Salaries

General Fund Balance

To allocate funds to cover the cost of Administrative Assistance to the Human Resource Manager

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

Absent: 3 (Szczerba/Laureti/Winchell)

MOTION CARRIED

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING-NADINE C. BELL

RESOLUTION 25-246

Moved by Councilor Hitchings

Seconded by Councilor Pagano

RESOLVED, to authorize the City Manager to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Nadine C. Bell for service and compensation as City Attorney for the period of January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2027.

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

Absent: 3 (Szczerba/Laureti/Winchell)

MOTION CARRIED

BONADIO CONTRACT-COMPTROLLER SERVICES

RESOLUTION 25-247

Moved by Councilor Hitchings

Seconded by Councilor Pagano

RESOLVED, to authorize the City Manager to sign a contract with Bonadio & Co., LLP, 432 N. Franklin St., #60, Syracuse, NY 13204 for accounting consulting services to be rendered in connection with and the performance of duties of the City Comptroller for a period beginning January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2026.

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

Absent: 3 (Szczerba/Laureti/Winchell)

MOTION CARRIED

CITY ASSESSOR APPOINTMENT-LONNIE STEDMAN

RESOLUTION 25-248

Moved by Councilor Hitchings
Seconded by Councilor Pagano

WHEREAS, pursuant to New York State Real Property Tax Law (“RPTL”) § 310, the City of Oneida appoints a Sole Assessor for a six-year term commencing October 1, 2025, and ending September 30, 2031; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to ensure the continuity, accuracy, and timeliness of assessment administration for the benefit of City taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, Lonnie Stedman is duly qualified to serve as Sole Assessor and meets the minimum qualification standards established by the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance, Office of Real Property Tax Services (ORPTS);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Oneida hereby appoints Lonnie Stedman as the Sole Assessor for the City of Oneida to assume the balance of the term began by his predecessor on October 1, 2025, and continued through September 30, 2031; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the compensation and benefits for the Sole Assessor shall be as provided in the duly adopted City budget and/or agreed upon contract; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Mayor and/or City Manager are authorized to take any and all actions necessary to effectuate this appointment, including execution of the oath of office and submission of any required filings or notices to Madison County and to ORPTS; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

Ayes: 4
Nays: 0
Absent: 3 (Szczerba/Laureti/Winchell)
MOTION CARRIED

DESIGNATE POLLING PLACES (2026)

RESOLUTION 25-249

Moved by Councilor Hitchings
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

RESOLVED, that the polling places in the City of Oneida for 2026 are hereby designated as

follows:

WARD 1-1	St. Paul's United Methodist Church-551 Sayles St.
WARD 2-1	St. Paul's United Methodist Church-551 Sayles St.
WARD 3-1	Kallet Civic Center-159 Main St.
WARD 4-1	Kallet Civic Center-159 Main St.
WARD 5-1	Kallet Civic Center-159 Main St.
WARD 6-1	Kallet Civic Center-159 Main St.

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

Absent: 3 (Szczerba/Laureti/Winchell)

MOTION CARRIED

AMUSEMENT DEVICE LICENSE APPLICATIONS

RESOLUTION 25-250

Moved by Councilor Hitchings

Seconded by Councilor Pagano

RESOLVED, to approve the Amusement Device License Applications from the following vendors for machines located in the establishments noted on the application within the City of Oneida:

- Neils Vending, LLC
6734 Strain Rd.
Munnsville, NY 13409
- Stanton Automatics
2150 Ellis Drive
Auburn, NY 13021

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

Absent: 3 (Szczerba/Laureti/Winchell)

MOTION CARRIED

The Mayor, City Manager, and Council expressed their thanks and appreciation to Councilor Hitchings for her service and dedication.

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Hitchings
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

Absent: 3 (Szczzerba/Laureti/Winchell)

MOTION CARRIED

The regular meeting is hereby adjourned at 9:22a.m.

CITY OF ONEIDA

Sandra LaPera, City Clerk