



CITY OF ONEIDA COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date:	February 3, 2026	Presiding:	Rick Rossi, Mayor
Time:	6:30pm	Clerk:	Sandy LaPera, City Clerk
Location:	Common Council Chambers	Meeting Type:	Regular <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Special <input type="checkbox"/>

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> : _____
City Manager Lovell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> : _____
Councilor McHugh	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> : _____
Councilor Cimpi	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> : _____
Councilor Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> : _____
Councilor Jones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> : _____
Councilor Pagano	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> : _____
Councilor Simchik	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> : _____

Also Present

City Attorney Bell	<input type="checkbox"/>	Supervisor: Matt Roberts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Attorney Stacy Marris	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Supervisor: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire Chief Jones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HR Manager Jessica Kaiser	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Police Chief Lowell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

PROCLAMATION: Reverend Doctor Jack Fucci Day (Rescheduled to 2/17/26)

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

OLD BUSINESS:

Councilor McHugh asked Attorney Stacy Marris if there were any updates on the investigation. Attorney Marris advised that her office continues to work on the matter and that there are no updates at this time.

Councilor Dave Cimpi asked City Manager Lovell for an update on the DRI projects, noting the importance of staying focused to ensure deadlines are met and residents remain informed.

CITY MANAGER'S REMARKS

City Manager Lovell advised that City staff spoke with Department of State representatives, who indicated they are willing to work with the City regarding revised project dates. He stated DOS has been flexible and has not indicated there will be a "hard stop" or that the City would be cut off from DRI funding.

City Manager Lovell provided the following DRI project updates:

- **Hotel Oneida:** The project remains on track. A progress meeting was held the prior day with Mr. Riley. Mr. Riley is scheduled to appear at the next Planning Board meeting (Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.) to request a permanent extension of the project timeline. The project is nearing the end of the initial two-year period and is requesting an additional two years. The PCZBA has requested additional clarification regarding the proposed plans, and staff will attend the meeting to assist with any concerns.
- **Downtown Streetscape:** The project was originally budgeted at approximately \$1,050,000. Following receipt of the 30% design, the cost estimate is now approximately \$10 million. City staff is working with C & S and other partners to address scope and cost concerns and is preparing a TAP grant application for approximately \$7 million, expected to be submitted within the next few months. If submitted within the next 30 days, a response may be anticipated by year-end.
- **AYSO Fields:** Three design options have been proposed and are under review. The project has funding shortfalls, and proposed building elements (pavilions/bathrooms) are driving costs significantly beyond the overall project scope of \$760,000. Staff indicated the field design is favorable but directed that costs must be reduced, including removing unaffordable building components.
- **Splash Pad:** The project has not progressed over the winter and remains in 30% design.
- **Memorial / Events Park Upgrade:** A 30% design is complete. Staff is coordinating to ensure the design can accommodate the proposed F-16 aircraft display in the future without additional immediate cost, with the expectation that the aircraft project may be 5–6 years out while DRI projects will be completed within 1–2 years.

- **Downtown Business Assistance Fund:** C & S is developing the program and will return a proposal within 2–3 weeks for formal review.

City Manager Lovell advised that all DRI-supported development projects must comply with City codes and standard review procedures, including Planning Board review where applicable.

Additional updates provided:

- **Veterans Memorial / Aircraft:** The Oneida Afterburner Committee has submitted the City's application to the National Museum of the United States Air Force. The City received acknowledgement that the application will undergo full review, with additional details expected in the next couple of weeks. City Manager Lovell thanked the committee and former Mayor Helen Acker for her significant assistance.
- **Comprehensive Plan:** City Manager Lovell thanked Council members for assisting with board outreach and committee recommendations. A committee of ten residents, representing all wards and a range of demographics, has been formed. He stated the Comprehensive Plan update will guide the City's long-term vision and support DRI planning efforts.
- **Public Safety Reminder:** City Manager Lovell asked residents to assist by clearing snow from fire hydrants, maintaining approximately three feet of clearance.
- **OCWA Final Bill:** City Manager Lovell reported receipt of a final bill/settlement from OCWA of approximately \$90,000 in unplanned revenue and stated the City has completed pumping water to other municipalities. He thanked Water Department staff for their work.

MAYOR'S REMARKS

Mayor Rossi encouraged residents to take advantage of City services, specifically noting the Recreation Center as a popular facility. He shared that his daughter recently had a birthday party at the Recreation Center and stated it is a great venue for parties and activities (including bounce houses). He also advised that the Recreation Center is open four days per week from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for free resident "tot time," and encouraged families to bring their children and make use of the facility.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilor McHugh

Seconded by Councilor Cimpi

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on January 20, 2026, are approved as presented.

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0
Absent: 2 (Jones/Pagano)
MOTION RESULT: ☒ Passed ☐ Failed

APPROVAL OF WARRANT

Motion by Councilor McHugh
Seconded by Councilor Cimpi

RESOLVED, that Warrant No. 3, including checks and ACH payments totaling \$780,385.62, as audited by the Voucher Committee, is hereby approved for payment.

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0
Absent: 2 (Jones/Pagano)
MOTION RESULT: ☒ Passed ☐ Failed

SPECIAL EVENT-FALL FEST 2026

RESOLUTION 26-24

Moved by Councilor Simchik
Seconded by Councilor McHugh

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 9-11 of the Oneida City Code, the possession or consumption of alcohol is permitted on City-owned property if properly authorized by the City of Oneida Common Council; **and**

WHEREAS, the John R. Deschamps Sr., Police Benevolent Association, and employee organization representing the full-time, permanent police officers of the Oneida Police Department, and the Oneida City Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring a "Fall Fest" to be held on October 3, 2026, during the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., on property owned by the City of Oneida located at Mott Street; **and**

WHEREAS, the Fall Fest is intended to provide a celebration that is recreational in nature for City residents and serves to improve the quality of life for residents; **and**

WHEREAS, as part of the Fall Fest activities, wines and alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase by the public; **and**

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Common Council to promote public interest and participation in community events and to allow such sales by vendors; **now, therefore be it**

RESOLVED, that the City of Oneida Common Council does hereby authorize the distribution and consumption of wine and alcoholic beverages in a restricted area of Mott Street during the hours of the Fall Fest on October 3, 2026; **and be it further**

RESOLVED, that the City of Oneida Common Council does permit such distribution and sales of wine and alcoholic beverages by private vendors upon application to the City of Oneida Clerk and submission of proof of a general liability insurance policy in the amount of \$1,000,000, with the City of Oneida named as an additional insured, no less than 30 days prior to the event.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Absent: 2 (Jones/Pagano)

MOTION RESULT: ☒ Passed ☐ Failed

**A LOCAL LAW AMENDING THE ONEIDA CITY CHARTER AND THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ONEIDA
TO ABOLISH THE POSITION OF THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSFER THE
RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO THE CITY MANAGER
SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING**

RESOLUTION 26-25

Moved by Councilor Simchik
Seconded by Councilor Cimpi

WHEREAS, the City of Oneida Common Council introduces this Local Law to revise the Oneida City Charter and the Code of the City of Oneida to abolish the position of the Commissioner of Public Safety and transfer such duties and responsibilities of the Commissioner to the City Manager; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Local Law has been introduced and will be considered for enactment pursuant to the provisions of the Municipal Home Rule Law; and

WHEREAS, no other agency has the legal authority or jurisdiction to approve or directly undertake the enactment of a local law in the City of Oneida, such that there are no other involved agencies within the meaning of the New York State Environmental Quality

Review Act (SEQRA) with respect to the proposed enactment of said Local Law, with the result that the Common Council shall act as lead agency in this matter; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of said Local Law is an unlisted action for purposes of environmental review under SEQRA and the Common Council has determined that a short environmental assessment form (EAF) shall be required in connection with this matter; and

WHEREAS, said EAF has been prepared and has been reviewed by the Common Council; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council has considered the adoption of said Local Law, has considered the criteria contained in 6 N.Y.C.R.R. Part 617.7 and has compared the impacts which may be reasonably expected to result from the adoption of said Local Law against said criteria.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is

RESOLVED AND DETERMINED, that there are no other involved agencies, that the Common Council shall act as lead agency and that the enactment of the proposed Local Law is an unlisted action for purposes of SEQRA review; and it is further

RESOLVED AND DETERMINED, that the Common Council has determined this action shall have no significant adverse impact on the environment; that, accordingly, an environmental impact statement (EIS) shall not be required; and that this resolution shall constitute a negative declaration under SEQRA; and it is further

RESOLVED AND DETERMINED, that the Common Council shall conduct a public hearing as to the enactment of the proposed Local Law at the Oneida City Hall located at 109 North Main Street, Oneida, New York on February 17, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, at which time all persons interested in the subject shall be heard; and it is further

RESOLVED, that notice of said public hearing shall be provided at least five (5) days prior to the date of said public hearing in a newspaper of general circulation within the City of Oneida.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Absent: 2 (Jones/Pagano)

MOTION RESULT: ☒ Passed ☐ Failed

DISCUSSION: In discussion regarding the proposed Charter amendments, Councilor Smith inquired whether the City Manager would oversee the Department of Public Safety or if a

Department Head would be hired. City Manager Lovell explained that the Public Safety Commissioner currently oversees both the Police and Fire Departments.

City Manager Lovell clarified that the proposed amendments would abolish the position of Commissioner of Public Safety and transfer those responsibilities to the City Manager, and that no additional department head would be hired for Public Safety. The City Manager advised this would include authority over hiring, firing, and disciplinary actions for both department chiefs, the grievance process, and oversight of collective bargaining agreements and union negotiations, which he noted he has largely already been performing.

Councilor McHugh stated this change would improve efficiency and streamline operations, particularly as the Commissioner of Public Safety role is part-time and certain decisions require timely action. Mayor Rossi emphasized that the amendment is primarily intended to align the Charter with the City's current form of government and serve as a starting point for broader Charter cleanup. He also noted the Chamberlain position remains one of the few of its kind among New York State cities.

CITY OF ONEIDA

A LOCAL LAW AMENDING THE ONEIDA CITY CHARTER AND THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ONEIDA TO ABOLISH THE POSITION OF THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSFER THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO THE CITY MANAGER

Be it enacted by the Common Council of the City of Oneida as follows:

Section 1. AUTHORITY.

This local law is enacted pursuant to the New York State Constitution and New York Municipal Home Rule Law §10.

Section 2. PURPOSE.

The City Manager serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the City and is charged with the administration of public services, managing departments and overseeing daily operations. The Common Council has determined that it is appropriate to abolish the position of the Commissioner of Public Safety and transfer the duties and responsibilities of the Commissioner to be handled by the City Manager.

Section 3. AMENDMENT OF THE ONEIDA CITY CHARTER SECTION 10.1

So that the position of Commissioner of Public Safety is hereby abolished and the Department of Public Safety shall be headed by the Oneida City Manager, such that Section 10.1 of the Oneida City Charter, titled "Department of Public Safety," is hereby amended such that the reference to "Commissioner of Public Safety" is to be replaced with the term "City Manager."

Section 4. AMENDMENT OF THE ONEIDA CITY CHARTER SECTION 10.2

So that Section 10.2 of the Oneida City Charter, titled "Bureau of Police," is hereby amended such that references to "Commissioner of Public Safety", and "Commissioner" are replaced with the term "City Manager."

Section 5. AMENDMENT OF THE ONEIDA CITY CHARTER SECTION 10.3

So that Section 10.3 of the Oneida City Charter, titled "Chief of Police," is hereby amended such that references to "Commissioner of Public Safety", and "Commissioner" are replaced with the term "City Manager."

Section 6. AMENDMENT OF THE ONEIDA CITY CHARTER SECTION 10.4

So that Section 10.4 of the Oneida City Charter, titled "Appointment of members of the Bureau of Police," is hereby amended such that the reference to "Commissioner of Public Safety" is to be replaced with the term "City Manager."

Section 7. AMENDMENT OF THE ONEIDA CITY CHARTER SECTION 10.5

So that Section 10.5 of the Oneida City Charter, titled "Bureau of Fire," is hereby amended such that references to "Commissioner of Public Safety" are replaced with the term "City Manager."

Section 8. AMENDMENT OF THE ONEIDA CITY CHARTER SECTION 10.6

So that Section 10.6 of the Oneida City Charter, titled "Fire Chief," is hereby amended such that references to "Commissioner of Public Safety" and "Commissioner" are replaced with the term "City Manager."

Section 9. AMENDMENT OF THE ONEIDA CITY CHARTER SECTION 10.7

So that Section 10.7 of the Oneida City Charter, titled "Appointment of members of the Bureau of Fire," is hereby amended such that the reference to "Commissioner of Public Safety" is to be replaced with the term "City Manager."

Section 10. AMENDMENT OF CODE OF THE CITY OF ONEIDA CHAPTER 5

So that Chapter 5 of the Code of the City of Oneida, titled "Alarms," is hereby amended such that the references to "Commissioner of Public Safety" are to be replaced with the term "City Manager."

Section 11. AMENDMENT OF CODE OF THE CITY OF ONEIDA CHAPTER 33

So that Chapter 33 of the Code of the City of Oneida, titled "Building Code Administration and Enforcement," is hereby amended such that the references to "Commissioner of Public Safety" are to be replaced with the term "City Manager."

Section 12. AMENDMENT OF CODE OF THE CITY OF ONEIDA CHAPTER 61

So that Chapter 61 of the Code of the City of Oneida, titled "Fire Prevention," is hereby amended such that the references to "Commissioner of Public Safety" are to be replaced with the term "City Manager."

Section 13. AMENDMENT OF CODE OF THE CITY OF ONEIDA CHAPTER 85

So that Chapter 85 of the Code of the City of Oneida, titled "Junkyards," is hereby amended such that the references to "Commissioner of Public Safety" are to be replaced with the term "City Manager."

Section 14. AMENDMENT OF CODE OF THE CITY OF ONEIDA CHAPTER 110

So that Chapter 110 of the Code of the City of Oneida, titled "Parades," is hereby amended such that the references to "Commissioner of Public Safety" are to be replaced with the term "City Manager."

Section 15. AMENDMENT OF CODE OF THE CITY OF ONEIDA CHAPTER 112

So that Chapter 112 of the Code of the City of Oneida, titled "Special Events," is hereby amended such that the references to "Commissioner of Public Safety" are to be replaced with the term "City Manager."

Section 16. AMENDMENT OF CODE OF THE CITY OF ONEIDA CHAPTER 169

So that Chapter 169 of the Code of the City of Oneida, titled "Taxicabs," is hereby amended such that the references to "Commissioner of Public Safety" are to be replaced with the term "City Manager."

Section 17. AMENDMENT OF CODE OF THE CITY OF ONEIDA CHAPTER 172

So that Chapter 172 of the Code of the City of Oneida, titled "Traffic Safety Board," is hereby amended such that the references to "Public Safety Commissioner" is to be replaced with the term "City Manager."

Section 18. AMENDMENT OF CODE OF THE CITY OF ONEIDA CHAPTER 180

So that Chapter 180 of the Code of the City of Oneida, titled "Vehicles and Traffic," is hereby amended such that the references to "Commissioner of Public Safety" are to be replaced with the term "City Manager."

Section 19. CONFLICT WITH THE ONEIDA CITY CHARTER OR CODE OF THE CITY OF ONEIDA.

- A. To the extent the Oneida City Charter or Code of the City of Oneida are inconsistent with or conflict with any of the provisions of this Local Law, the terms of this Local Law shall control.
- B. Wherever the terms "Commissioner of Public Safety," "Public Safety Commissioner" or "Commissioner", appear in the Oneida City Charter or Code of

the City of Oneida, said terms shall hereafter mean and refer to the City Manager as established by this Local Law.

Section 20. SEVERABILITY.

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this Local Law shall be adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part thereof directly involved in the controversy.

Section 21. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State in accordance with the provisions of the New York State Municipal Home Rule Law.

ON-PREMISES ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE

RESOLUTION 26-26

Moved by Councilor Smith
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

RESOLVED, to receive and place on file the 30-Day Advance Notice to a Local Municipality or Community Board for a new On-Premises Alcoholic Beverage License for Dunn's Irish Grill, 137 Phelps Street (Say I Do Events, LLC).

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Absent: 2 (Jones/Pagano)

MOTION RESULT: ☒ Passed ☐ Failed

DISCUSSION: Mayor Rossi stated he is looking forward to the project and noted it is being pursued by the same developer/owner as the Blind Squirrel and Jadie and June's. He added it may become another bar or restaurant and would be a positive addition to the City.

BUDGET TRANSFERS/AMENDMENTS

RESOLUTION 26-27

Moved by Councilor McHugh
Seconded by Councilor Simchik

RESOLVED, to approve the 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		
\$ 11,250.00	001.1680.0403.0000 IT Contracts	001.9011.0807.0000 Police Retirement
<i>To re-allocate funds to cover the IT expenses incurred in December 2025</i>		
\$ 13,500.00	001.1315.0403.0000 Comptroller Contracts	001.9011.0807.0000 Police Retirement
<i>To re-allocate funds to cover 2025 contractual Comptroller services</i>		
\$ 25,000.00	001.1315.0403.0000 Comptroller Contracts	001.1315.0101.0000 Comptroller Salaries
<i>To re-allocate funds to cover the expense of the 2025 Audit</i>		

2026 Budget Adjustments		
\$ 78,000.00	001.5142.0315.0000 Salt & Sand	001.0001.0912.0000 General Fund Balance
<i>To allocate funds to cover the road salt expenses for 2026</i>		

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Absent: 2 (Jones/Pagano)

MOTION RESULT: ☒ Passed ☐ Failed

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND CHAPTER 132 OF THE CITY CODE OF THE CITY OF ONEIDA, NEW YORK (REVENUE RECOVERY FEES), TO UPDATE THE FEE SCHEDULE

RESOLUTION 26-28

Moved by Councilor Simchik

Seconded by Councilor Smith

WHEREAS, Chapter 132 of the City Code of the City of Oneida, entitled “Revenue Recovery Fees,” was adopted by the Common Council in October 2000 and has not been comprehensively updated since that time; and

WHEREAS, since adoption, the cost of providing services has increased significantly due to inflation, changes in regulatory requirements, staffing costs, and administrative expenses; and

WHEREAS, as a result, the current fees no longer reflect the actual cost of service delivery; and

WHEREAS, the proposed fee schedule update is intended to better align fees with current operational costs, promote equitable cost recovery, and ensure the continued delivery of high-quality services; and

WHEREAS, updating the fee schedule will help recover an appropriate portion of costs while maintaining service quality and minimizing the need to subsidize fee-supported services with general funds; and

WHEREAS, the proposed changes were developed by reviewing current operational expenses and comparable fee structures from similar agencies or jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the update does not represent a new service or expanded scope, but instead clarifies services provided and makes necessary adjustments to reflect current economic conditions and service demands since the original fee schedule was adopted in 2000;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Oneida, New York, as follows:

Section 1. Amendment of Chapter 132 – Revenue Recovery Fees

Chapter 132 of the City Code of the City of Oneida, New York, is hereby amended to revise the existing Revenue Recovery Fee schedule and replace it with the updated fee schedule set forth herein.

Section 2. Updated Fee Schedule (Per Incident)

All fees are per incident unless otherwise noted. Additional hourly rates apply where resources exceed the first hour. Charges may be cumulative.

A. Motor Vehicle Collisions (MVC)

Service Category	Description	Fee (\$)
Minor MVC	Single vehicle or low-impact collision; no extrication	\$300
Major MVC	Multi-vehicle or high-impact collision; extrication or advanced operations	\$500

B. Rescue Services

Service Category	Description	Fee (\$)
Light Rescue	Non-complex rescue (lift assist, minor entrapment, basic stabilization)	\$350
Heavy Rescue	Complex rescue (extrication, trench, confined space, technical rope, prolonged operations)	\$600

C. Fire Incidents

Service Category	Description	Fee (\$)
Light Motor Vehicle Fire	Fire involving passenger vehicles, vans, pickup trucks and SUVs	\$300
Heavy Motor Vehicle Fire	Fire involving commercial vehicles, over the road trucks, mobile homes and buses	\$500

D. Hazardous Materials

Service Category	Description	Fee (\$)
Minor Hazardous Material Response	Mitigation, containment, or cleanup without outside help or cleanup contractors	\$300
Major Hazardous Material Response	Multi-agency response including State or Federal agencies	\$900

E. Equipment Damage or Loss

Service Category	Description	Fee (\$)
Destroyed Equipment	Replacement cost for equipment damaged beyond repair during an incident	TBD
Contaminated Equipment	Cleaning, decontamination, or replacement of gear contaminated by biohazards, chemicals, or fuel	TBD

Section 3. Department Hourly Rates

Hourly rates may apply where incidents exceed the first hour or when additional resources are required.

Service Category	Description	Fee (\$)
Engine	Class 1 fire engine	\$250 plus staffing
BLS Standby	Two EMT's	\$150 plus materials
ALS Standby	One EMT and one Paramedic	\$200 plus materials
Deputy Chief	Personnel	\$120
Lieutenant	Personnel	\$100
FF/Paramedic	Personnel	\$95
FF/EMT	Personnel	\$85

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Absent: 2 (Jones/Pagano)

MOTION RESULT: ☒ Passed ☐ Failed

DISCUSSION: Councilor McHugh expressed appreciation to Fire Chief Scott Jones, stating that this is a positive first step toward updating schedules that have not been revised in a long time. She noted that these updates help ensure City permits, budgets, and services remain feasible and sustainable, and thanked Chief Jones for his work on the matter.

The Mayor requested a motion to waive the rules to add an additional agenda item. The City Clerk noted that Council members had received an email prior to the meeting explaining the item.

WAIVE RULE TO ACCEPT AGENDA ITEMS

RESOLUTION 26-29

Moved by Councilor Simchik

Seconded by Councilor Cimpi

RESOLVED, that per Resolution 08-180 adopted by the Common Council on August 19, 2008, the provisions of the procedure to accept agenda items are hereby waived.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Absent: 2 (Jones/Pagano)

MOTION RESULT: ☒ Passed ☐ Failed

**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE CITY OF ONEIDA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMITTEE,
DEFINING ITS PURPOSE, AND APPOINTING MEMBERS**

RESOLUTION 26-30

Moved by Councilor Simchik

Seconded by Councilor Cimpi

WHEREAS, the City of Oneida is undertaking the preparation of a Comprehensive Plan as part of the City’s Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI); and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Plan is being prepared by Barton & Loguidice, in coordination with City staff, and will establish a long-term framework to guide future growth, land use, housing, economic development, and quality-of-life initiatives; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the City to establish an advisory committee to assist City staff and the consultant team with local insight, review of draft materials, discussion, and public engagement during the Comprehensive Plan process; and

WHEREAS, City staff has completed outreach, vetting, and individual conversations to assemble a proposed Comprehensive Plan Committee that reflects a broad range of perspectives, backgrounds, and lived experiences, consistent with New York State Department of State (DOS) program preferences and consultant guidance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Common Council of the City of Oneida, Madison County, New York, as follows:

1. Establishment.

The Common Council hereby creates and establishes the City of Oneida Comprehensive Plan Committee (“Committee”).

2. Purpose and Role.

The Committee shall serve as an advisory body to support the development of the City’s Comprehensive Plan as part of the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI). The Committee’s role shall include:

- providing local and community-based insight;
- reviewing planning materials and draft documents;
- participating in discussions and meetings throughout the planning process; and

- assisting with public engagement efforts to help ensure the Comprehensive Plan reflects community needs, Smart Growth principles, and the City's long-term goals while aligning with DRI objectives.

The Committee shall not have final decision-making authority and shall make recommendations only as requested by City staff and/or the consultant team.

3. **Membership.**

The following individuals (all addresses: Oneida, New York) are hereby appointed as members of the City of Oneida Comprehensive Plan Committee:

- Jose Alvarez
- Erin Belanger
- Robin Bienkowski
- Brian Bortree
- Thomas Feola
- Andrea Hitchings
- Dan Jones
- Angel Barahmeh
- Chelsey Lewin
- Brandon Parry

All Committee members are expected to serve for approximately one year, corresponding with the duration of the Comprehensive Plan development process.

4. **Administration.**

The Committee shall work in coordination with City staff and Barton & Loguidice, and meetings shall be scheduled by City staff.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Absent: 2 (Jones/Pagano)

MOTION RESULT: ☒ Passed ☐ Failed

DISCUSSION: City Manager Lovell provided discussion, stating the resolution is part of the Comprehensive Plan update. He explained that the Comprehensive Plan will help determine the City's character, economic development direction, and what residents want to see in the community. He stated the Committee's input will be critical to building the updated Comprehensive Plan, noting the last plan was completed in 2000/2001. He advised the Comprehensive Plan will serve as a blueprint to guide the City over the next 5, 10, and 20 years.

City Manager Lovell explained that the resolution was added to the agenda in order to form the committee within the requested timeframe. He stated the Department of State had requested the committee be formed by the end of the month, and while the City pushed back slightly, DOS

indicated they wanted the process to move forward as the City was already behind schedule. He stated that, due to the DRI timeline, he agreed to place the item on the agenda that evening in an effort to cooperate and remain aligned with Department of State expectations, noting he generally tries to limit the addition of late items.

NEW BUSINESS

Under New Business, Councilor McHugh inquired as to the current cost per ton for salt/sand and whether delivery was included. City Manager Lovell responded that the cost is \$68 per ton, including delivery.

Councilor McHugh stated she had received calls from constituents and had seen discussion on social media regarding snowmobiles traveling on City streets at night. She thanked City staff for enforcing City codes and stated there was uncertainty among residents regarding whether this activity was legal. Councilor McHugh noted that snowmobiles are not permitted on sidewalks and stated there are certain smaller streets where snowmobile travel may be permitted only for the purpose of accessing designated throughways, trails, or paths. She also indicated that penalty schedules related to this matter may warrant future review.

Councilor McHugh further requested clarification regarding executive session confidentiality and the legal implications of a Council member disclosing information discussed in executive session. She requested that the Attorney's Office provides an official written opinion and citations for reference. Attorney Marris advised that her office could provide training regarding executive session procedures and confidentiality, including guidance on what information may or may not be disclosed. Councilor McHugh thanked Attorney Marris.

Mayor Rossi advised that council would be going into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter with no action taken.

EXECUTIVE SESSION RESOLUTION 26-31

Motioned by Councilor Simchik
Seconded by Councilor Cimpi

RESOLVED, to enter into Executive Session at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of:

- ☒ Personnel
- ☐ Litigation (proposed/pending/current)
- ☐ Collective negotiations
- ☐ Real property transaction (value affected by publicity)
- ☐ Medical/financial/credit history (particular person/corp.)
- ☐ Public safety/cybersecurity
- ☐ Other (specify): _____

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Absent: 2 (Jones/Pagano)

MOTION RESULT: ☒ Passed ☐ Failed

Attendees: ☒ Mayor ☒ City Manager ☒ Attorney Stacy Marris ☒ Other: Police Chief Lowell
Councilors: ☒ All ☒ Absent: (Jones/Pagano)

Executive Session adjourned to the regular meeting at: 7:20 p.m. with:

☒ No action taken ☐ Action taken: See motion in open session (Ref. _____)

Motion to adjourn regular meeting by Councilor Smith
Seconded by Councilor: Cimpi

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Absent: 2 (Jones/Pagano)

MOTION RESULT: ☒ Passed ☐ Failed

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the regular meeting adjourned at: 7:21 p.m.

Certified by: Sandra LaPera _____
City Clerk, City of Oneida, New York