



CITY OF ONEIDA COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date:	April 7, 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> : _____
Councilor Pagano	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> : 6:36pm
Councilor Simchik	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> : _____

Also Present

City Attorney Bell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Supervisor: Mary Cavanagh	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Attorney (Other)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Supervisor: Brandee Henderson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fire Chief Jones	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Police Chief Lowell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

PROCLAMATION:

Bikers Against Child Abuse (Steve Vonderweidt/Members of B.A.C.A)

CITY OF ONEIDA PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Bikers Against Child Abuse® (B.A.C.A.) is an international nonprofit organization dedicated to creating a safer environment for abused children and empowering them to feel stronger, safer, and less afraid of the world in which they live; and

WHEREAS, members of the Bikers Against Child Abuse® Syracuse Chapter proudly serve communities throughout Central New York, including the City of Oneida and Madison County, by supporting children who have experienced abuse and standing beside them so they know they are not alone; and

WHEREAS, B.A.C.A. volunteers work in cooperation with families, law enforcement, social services, and the judicial system to help abused children regain confidence, courage, and a sense of safety while navigating difficult circumstances; and

WHEREAS, April is recognized nationally as Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time to raise awareness about the prevention of child abuse and to strengthen community efforts to ensure that every child grows up in a safe and supportive environment; and

WHEREAS, the dedication, compassion, and service of Bikers Against Child Abuse® members help raise awareness and provide support for vulnerable children in our region;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Rossi, Mayor of the City of Oneida, do hereby proclaim **April 7, 2026**, as

BIKERS AGAINST CHILD ABUSE® AWARENESS DAY

in the City of Oneida and I encourage all residents to recognize the importance of protecting children, supporting victims of abuse, and working together to ensure that every child in our community grows up safe, valued, and supported.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affix the official seal of the City of Oneida on this 7th day of April 2026.

RICK ROSSI, MAYOR

PUBLIC HEARING: 2025 Assessment Roll-Sidewalk Replacement Program

**OPEN PUBLIC HEARING
2025 ASSESSMENT ROLL-SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT PROGRAM**

RESOLUTION 26-54

Moved by Councilor Jones
Seconded by Councilor Cimpi

RESOLVED, that the Public Hearing for the 2025 Assessment Roll-Sidewalk Replacement Program is hereby opened at 6:34pm.

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0
Absent: 2 (McHugh/Pagano)
MOTION RESULT: Passed Failed

APPEARANCES

KEN ENDEMANN-531 TILDEN

Mr. Endemann addressed the Council to request reconsideration of his sidewalk assessment, citing a longstanding issue involving a tree located on City property. He explained that in 2014, the tree caused damage to his property and sidewalk, at which time a City representative inspected the site and indicated that the tree would be removed and approximately eleven sidewalk sections would be replaced. Mr. Endemann stated that while the tree was eventually addressed, the majority of the sidewalk work discussed at that time was not completed. He noted that he had followed up on the matter over several years, including contact with City staff, and that the work was only recently completed. Based on the history of the situation and prior assurances, he requested reconsideration of the charges.

**CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING
2025 ASSESSMENT ROLL-SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT PROGRAM**

RESOLUTION 26-55

Moved by Councilor Simchik
Seconded by Councilor Jones

RESOLVED, that the Public Hearing for the 2025 Assessment Roll-Sidewalk Replacement Program is hereby closed at 6:39pm.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 (McHugh)

MOTION RESULT: Passed Failed

PUBLIC COMMENT

JIM COULTHART-544 BROADWAY

Mr. Jim Coulthart addressed the Council and expressed appreciation to the Mayor, Council, and those present. Speaking in his capacity as Vice Chair of the After Burner Committee, he shared that efforts are underway to bring a decommissioned F-16 aircraft to Veterans Memorial Field. He noted that the initiative is entirely voluntary and may potentially align with broader Veterans Memorial Park area improvements. He further mentioned that the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Dan Caine, is a former F-16 pilot from the Syracuse Air National Guard, and the committee is hopeful to make contact regarding the possibility of securing an aircraft for display.

Mr. Coulthart also commended the City on several recent improvements. He expressed appreciation for the reinstallation of the stop sign at the intersection of Summit and Broadway, noting it improves safety, particularly for student drivers. He further acknowledged the City's repair of damage caused by sidewalk plowing, stating it was both unexpected and appreciated, and extended thanks to the Department of Public Works.

Lastly, Mr. Coulthart stated his interest in the proposed Route 5 development project, expressing support for efforts to utilize currently vacant land and noting he looks forward to seeing how the project progresses.

ROBERT BRITTON-ONEIDA

Mr. Robert Britton addressed the Council regarding a property maintenance concern on Madison Street that he had previously raised. He stated that he had been requesting action on the issue for approximately two years, including during prior administration, and had more recently brought the matter to the attention of City Manager Kyle Lovell. He noted that the property was addressed within a short period of time thereafter and expressed appreciation, stating that the condition of the property had significantly improved. He thanked the City and its staff for their efforts.

Mr. Britton also spoke about a recent tragic incident that occurred on Sunday involving a local family. He shared that the mother had lost a daughter three years ago and, on the same date this year, lost her son. He expressed sympathy for the family and commended the City's Police Department for their response, specifically recognizing Officer Hunter West and Investigator Christopher Bailey for their compassion and professionalism. He stated that the officers demonstrated care, understanding, and support for the family during a very difficult time, and noted that the family was appreciative of their actions.

Mr. Britton further expressed pride in the City's Police Department, stating that the department has shown significant improvement in recent years under the leadership of the Police Chief, and commended their professionalism and dedication to the community.

CASSANDRA OLUGHER-322 SAYLES ST.

Ms. Cassandra Olugher addressed the Council regarding ongoing issues at a neighboring property located at 607 Stone Street, adjacent to her residence at 322 Sayles Street. She stated that for approximately two and a half to three years, she has submitted code complaints, contacted law enforcement, and reached out to City officials regarding persistent nuisance conditions, including trespassing, suspected drug activity, and individuals congregating on or near her property.

Ms. Olugher expressed frustration that, despite repeated complaints and intermittent cleanup efforts, the conditions continue to recur. She noted that individuals have been found on her property and nearby properties even after enforcement actions were taken, and that she has taken additional measures, including installing a makeshift barrier, to deter trespassing. She emphasized concerns for safety, particularly for her family and neighborhood children, and stated that the ongoing activity has negatively impacted her quality of life.

She further indicated that she has attempted to communicate with City staff, including emailing and requesting meetings, but feels that a long-term solution has not been achieved. Ms. Olugher expressed concern regarding the management and condition of the neighboring property, including individuals occupying structures such as sheds and tents, and the recurring accumulation of debris.

Ms. Olugher urged the City to take a more coordinated and proactive approach involving multiple departments to address the situation and prevent it from continuing. She stated that the burden of resolving the issue should not fall on neighboring residents and emphasized the need for a sustainable solution to ensure neighborhood safety and stability.

Ms. Cassandra Olugher continued her remarks, stating that the opposite side of Stone Street is a safe and desirable area, which is why many families choose to purchase homes there. She expressed concern that residents should not have to deal with ongoing nuisance conditions, particularly given the presence of children in the neighborhood.

Ms. Olugher questioned whether the individuals occupying the neighboring property were in violation of any City codes or laws. In response, City officials acknowledged that both Police and Codes Enforcement have responded to the property numerous times and confirmed that the

situation is ongoing and recurring. It was noted that while cleanup and enforcement actions have been taken, the conditions often return shortly thereafter.

City officials further explained that a recent coordinated effort involved multiple departments, along with Madison County Social Services, to address the situation. This included outreach to a family member of the property owner who is currently pursuing guardianship. Officials indicated that, if granted, guardianship may provide a more effective long-term solution by allowing greater control over the property and enabling enforcement actions such as removal of unauthorized individuals.

Ms. Olugher emphasized that prior coordinated efforts were initiated following her direct outreach to City officials and reiterated her frustration with the lack of a lasting resolution. She urged the City to take a more proactive and unified approach moving forward.

Additionally, Ms. Olugher suggested improvements to the City's website, noting that she has been unable to upload photos when submitting complaints. She stated that enhancing this feature would allow residents to provide real-time documentation to better support enforcement efforts.

OLD BUSINESS: None

CITY MANAGER'S REMARKS: See Attachment A

MAYOR'S REMARKS: Mayor Rossi yielded his time to Mr. Kerr

PRESENTATION

Arthur Kerr-Route 5 Development Project

City Manager Lovell introduced a presentation on the Route 5 Development Project, expressing enthusiasm and noting that the project has been in preliminary discussion for approximately six months. He explained that initial conversations with the developer, Arthur Kerr, have been high-level in nature, involving several meetings, revisions to conceptual drawings, and input from the City, including considerations related to the public market.

City Manager Lovell described the project as potentially transformative for the City and indicated that, while there is strong excitement surrounding the proposal, it remains in the very early stages. He emphasized that detailed design work, including site plans and formal development components, has not yet been completed and will occur in future phases.

He invited Arthur, along with the project Engineer, to provide a general overview of the proposed project, noting that the purpose of the presentation was to offer a broad, "10,000-foot" perspective, gather initial feedback from the Council, and address any preliminary questions.

Mayor Rossi advised that this is the old Moose Lodge area on Route 5.

A presentation was provided regarding the proposed Route 5 Development Project. Representatives for the development team, including one partner present and another participating remotely due to a recent medical procedure, along with Julian Clark, P.E., outlined a conceptual plan for a 41-acre parcel located on the south side of Genesee Street between Deerfield Drive and Fultz Drive.

The proposal includes a mixed-use development consisting of approximately 20 single-family homes, 40 duplex lots (totaling 80 units), and two apartment buildings with 36 units each. In addition, three commercial parcels of approximately one acre each are proposed along the Genesee Street frontage. The plan also incorporates the extension of public roads and utilities into the site, which would be constructed by the developer and subsequently turned over to the City upon completion and acceptance. A question was posed to the developers regarding whether the project would include a homeowner's association (HOA).

They confirmed that it would. The developers noted that the project is in its preliminary stages and that rezoning will be required, as the property is currently zoned commercial. The proposal includes rezoning a majority of the parcel to a residential classification to accommodate the housing components. Plans also include the incorporation of public amenities such as green space, a park area, and a pedestrian path system.

During Council discussion, members expressed general support for the conceptual layout, noting that the proposed arrangement appropriately aligns single-family homes adjacent to existing single-family neighborhoods and places higher-density housing near existing apartment developments. It was acknowledged that the materials presented were conceptual in nature, and that additional design work, site planning, and formal approvals will be required as the project progresses. The discussion was then opened to questions.

The development team emphasized that the project remains flexible and community-driven, with openness to feedback on housing layout and design. They expressed a desire to collaborate with the City and residents rather than finalize plans prematurely.

Discussion included potential involvement of the Comprehensive Plan Committee, exploration of grant funding and financing options, and coordination with agencies such as the IDA. The project is intended to align with existing zone patterns while incorporating housing variety and community amenities like green space and recreation areas.

It was also noted that infrastructure improvements will be necessary, including water and sewer upgrades, and may involve some City cost. Overall, there was strong interest in advancing the project, with recognition of housing as a key priority and optimism about available funding opportunities.

City Attorney Nadine Bell suggested consideration of a Planned Development District (PDD) as an alternative to traditional R3 rezoning. She explained that a PDD allows for greater flexibility in site design, including the ability to cluster housing and preserve additional green space.

Attorney Bell noted that a PDD requires a rezoning through the local law process that is tied to a specific development plan, and any future modifications would require a formal amendment. She

advised that this approach is often well-suited for projects involving a mix of housing types and encouraged the development team to explore this option with City staff.

Discussion included support for the proposed rent-to-own housing model, noting it could help connect residents to homeownership while addressing local housing needs. The project was described as a strong opportunity for the City, particularly given existing assets such as the nearby hospital and overall community growth.

Concerns were raised regarding traffic impacts, with acknowledgment that a traffic study will be required. It was noted that the New York State Department of Transportation will determine any necessary improvements, such as traffic signals or turning lanes, due to the project's location on Route 5. The project will also require County review through the 239 processes.

City Attorney Nadine Bell outlined the approval process, explaining that the Council would receive the application and refer it to the Planning Commission/ZBA for recommendation. A public hearing would be required, and the Council would act as lead agency under SEQR, with input from the Planning Commission on environmental considerations.

Discussion continued regarding project timing, phasing, and development approach. The developer indicated that a timeline for construction is not yet established and will depend on further planning, approvals, and economic factors.

Phasing of the project was discussed, with the developer noting that, in an ideal scenario, development may begin with the commercial frontage along Genesee Street, followed by residential components. However, it was acknowledged that phasing will ultimately be driven by market conditions and infrastructure requirements. It was also suggested that starting with single-family homes may be beneficial, though this remains flexible.

The developer shared prior experience with similar housing projects, including townhouse and multi-family developments, and indicated familiarity with managing projects of this nature. It was noted that additional market analysis will be conducted to ensure the project aligns with local housing demand and is financially feasible.

Questions were raised regarding long-term ownership of the apartment buildings, including whether they would be retained or sold. The developer indicated that this has not yet been determined and will be evaluated as the project progresses.

Questions were raised regarding potential involvement of the County in portions of the housing development; however, it was noted that such arrangements are generally not financially favorable for new projects.

Concerns were also expressed about traffic impacts, particularly along Sayles Street, including safety issues near daycare and existing traffic conditions. In response, it was reiterated that a Traffic Impact Study (TIS) will be required and reviewed by the New York State Department of Transportation. The study will evaluate level of service (LOS) and determine necessary mitigation measures, which could include traffic signals, turning lanes, or other improvements. It was noted that such measures may ultimately improve overall traffic flow in the area.

The development team also indicated that roadway design within the project has been adjusted to improve traffic circulation, including the addition of multiple access points. Sidewalk connectivity was discussed as an existing concern in the area and something that may be addressed as part of the project.

Additionally, environmental considerations were noted, including the need to evaluate wetlands on the property. It was explained that current New York State Department of Environmental Conservation regulations require on-site delineation and impose development buffers, which may impact the final layout depending on findings.

Resident Jill Christian Lynch addressed the Council and expressed support for the proposed Route 5 Development Project. She commended the developer's thoughtful approach and acknowledged the need for additional housing in the community.

Ms. Lynch also encouraged careful consideration as the project moves forward, particularly with respect to infrastructure costs, traffic impacts, and ensuring clarity on project ownership and long-term responsibility. She emphasized the importance of being deliberate in the approval process to ensure the project is successfully completed and beneficial to the City.

City Attorney Nadine Bell advised that the project remains in a very preliminary stage and that additional work is required before it can formally proceed. She noted that key items, including determination of the appropriate zoning approach (R3 versus Planned Development District), submission of a complete application, and preparation of required documentation such as environmental assessment materials, must be addressed first.

Attorney Bell explained that a referral to the Planning Commission would not be appropriate at this time, as there is not yet a formal proposal or application for the Council to act upon. She emphasized that any future referral must be based on a defined proposal, rather than a conceptual discussion, and that the City should first determine its preferred zoning framework before advancing the project.

The City Manager acknowledged that a formal referral to the Planning Commission is not appropriate at this time and confirmed that staff will continue working with the development team to ensure all necessary requirements are completed before moving forward. He noted that discussions with the developer have been ongoing and that the City is committed to guiding the project through the proper process.

He emphasized the strong need for housing and expressed optimism about the project's potential, noting that it could support regional growth and demand. At the same time, he stressed the importance of proceeding carefully and intentionally, including thorough review through the SEQR process and consideration of all planning, zoning, and infrastructure factors.

The presentation was described as a preliminary, high-level overview intended to introduce the concept to the Council and public. The next steps will involve further development of the proposal, including zoning determination and formal application submission, before advancing in the approval process.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilor Jones
Seconded by Councilor Cimpi

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on March 17, 2026, are approved as presented.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 (McHugh)

MOTION RESULT: Passed Failed

APPROVAL OF WARRANT

Motion by Councilor Pagano
Seconded by Councilor Cimpi

RESOLVED, that Warrant No. 7, including checks and ACH payments totaling \$697,772.57, as audited by the Voucher Committee, is hereby approved for payment in the usual manner at the discretion of the Comptroller.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 (McHugh)

MOTION RESULT: Passed Failed

2025 SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT PROGRAM ASSESSMENT ROLL

RESOLUTION 26-PULLED

Moved by Councilor
Seconded by Councilor

WHEREAS, on or about March 17, 2026, the City of Oneida Common Council received and placed on file the Assessment Roll that has been prepared for the 2025 Sidewalk Replacement Program; **and**

WHEREAS, on or about March 18, 2026, due notice of the completion of said Assessment Roll and of the filing of same with the City Clerk, and of the time and place when and where this Council would meet to hear and consider any objections to the said Assessment Roll, and for the purpose of receiving, correcting, or amending the same, was

duly provided to each property owner on said Assessment Roll, as was publication of a notice thereof in the official newspaper; **and**

WHEREAS, the Council duly met at the time and place specified in said notice, to wit; in Council Chambers, Oneida Municipal Building, 109 N. Main St., Oneida, NY on the seventh day of April 2026 at 6:30 p.m. and a hearing was duly held upon said assessment roll; **now therefore be it**

RESOLVED, that in accordance with Article VI of the Oneida City Charter, titled "Assessments for Local Improvements," Section 6.5, the sidewalk replacement program having been completed, the Common Council does hereby assess the cost and expense incidental thereto; **and be it further**

RESOLVED, that in furtherance of such assessment, the Common Council does hereby confirm the Assessment Roll for the 2025 Sidewalk Replacement Program as amended, corrected, or altered by this Council, and does further deem the report of assessment to be final and correct; **and be it further**

RESOLVED, that the Common Council does hereby authorize the City Manager and the City Clerk to sign said Assessment Roll and file same with the City Chamberlain for collection. The amount assessed against each parcel of real property shall become and be a first lien upon such parcel of real property until fully paid.

Councilor McHugh _____
Councilor Cimpi _____
Councilor Smith _____
Councilor Jones _____
Councilor Pagano _____
Councilor Simchik _____

MOTION RESULT: Passed Failed

DISCUSSION: The City Clerk explained the current status of the sidewalk assessment process for Mr. Endemann. She noted that the assessment roll was received and placed on file at the previous meeting, with a slight delay due to final calculations being completed.

The City Clerk explained that the current meeting serves as the public hearing, with the next meeting intended for any revisions and formal approval of the assessment roll; however, the item was also placed on this meeting's agenda in the event that, if no changes were necessary, it could have been approved at this time. She noted that a subsequent meeting would then establish the terms and interest rate for payment.

The City Clerk further explained that the notice received reflected the assessment roll and upcoming hearing. Due to concerns raised by Mr. Endemann, she advised that the item would be pulled from the agenda and presented at the next meeting to allow him the opportunity to address his concerns with the Assistant City Engineer. City Manager Lovell added that staff would

work directly with Mr. Endemann to review his situation before the item returns for consideration.

BUDGET TRANSFERS AND AMENDMENTS

RESOLUTION 26-56

Moved by Councilor Simchik
Seconded by Councilor Smith

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.

	<u>To</u>	<u>From</u>
2026 Budget Adjustments		
\$ 25,000.00	001.1620.0403.0001 Contracts MB/FD	001.0001.0912.0000 General Fund Balance
<i>To allocate funds to cover insurance deductible charges involved with an emergency repair</i>		
\$ 50,000.00	002.8300.0302.0000 Water Equipment Maint & Repair	002.8300.0436.0000 Water Contingency

To re-allocate funds from the appropriated contingency line to fund unforeseen water equipment repairs & replacements

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 (McHugh)

MOTION RESULT: Passed Failed

DISCUSSION: Councilor Jones requested clarification regarding the fund transfers and noted concern regarding the general fund balance. She emphasized the importance of closely monitoring it moving forward. While acknowledging that certain items, such as the boiler repair constituted an emergency expense, it was suggested that future transfers from the general fund be clearly identified and communicated.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (OPFA)

RESOLUTION 26-57

Moved by Councilor Simchik
Seconded by Councilor Pagano

RESOLVED, that the City Manager is hereby authorized to execute a Memorandum of Agreement with the Oneida Paid Firefighters Association, Local 2692 (OPFA), providing for compensation to members for all documented paramedic training in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in the agreement.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 (McHugh)

MOTION RESULT: Passed Failed

DISCUSSION: In response to a question regarding the funding, City Manager Lovell clarified that the expense is tied to a New York State grant intended to reimburse firefighter-related costs. While the funding is not fully reimbursable, the City is serving as a pass-through entity, and it was noted that there will be no significant financial impact to the City associated with this grant.

City Manager Lovell shared that the training costs are reimbursed on a one-to-one basis, consistent with how the State calculates eligible training time, regardless of whether the employee is on or off duty. To manage the financial impact, the program is being implemented in phases, with the first group covered from October through January and the second group from February through May. While there is an upfront cash flow component, all eligible expenses are fully reimbursed. Mayor Rossi explained that this investment supports advancing staff to the paramedic level, which is a significant benefit to the City and strengthens overall service capability.

**AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR
CYBERSECURITY SERVICES AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE ALL RELATED
DOCUMENTS**

RESOLUTION 26-PULLED

Moved by Councilor
Seconded by Councilor

WHEREAS, the New York State Office of Information Technology Services (ITS) and the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) have developed an Intergovernmental Agreement to enhance cybersecurity capabilities for participating municipalities through the New York Security Operations Center (NYSOC); and

WHEREAS, said Agreement provides access to Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR) software and related cybersecurity services, including monitoring, threat detection, response support, and training, to improve the protection of municipal systems and critical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oneida is eligible to participate in this program, which includes the provision of EDR software licenses and services at no cost to the City for an initial term of three (3) years; and

WHEREAS, participation requires the City to collaborate with the State by deploying the software, maintaining system compatibility, and sharing certain cybersecurity data to enhance statewide threat detection and response capabilities; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council finds that participation in this program will strengthen the City's cybersecurity posture, improve incident response capabilities, and support the protection of public systems and data;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Oneida hereby authorizes the City to enter into the Intergovernmental Agreement with the New York State Office of Information Technology Services and the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services for the provision of Endpoint Detection and Response cybersecurity services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Intergovernmental Agreement and any and all documents necessary or related thereto.

Ayes: _____

Nays: _____

Absent: _____

MOTION RESULT: Passed Failed

DISCUSSION: City Manager Lovell explained that Item No. 4 is being pulled from the agenda following further evaluation. The City initially reviewed a federal grant opportunity for endpoint detection software; however, after discussions with our IT provider, Total Solutions, it was confirmed that the City already utilizes this type of software. Accordingly, the item is no longer needed.

NEW BUSINESS

In response to a question from Councilor Smith regarding Codes complaints, City Manager Lovell stated that residents are encouraged to report property concerns, such as deteriorating structures or debris, through the City's complaint system rather than informal conversations. All submitted complaints are tracked and reviewed, with Codes staff required to report on actions taken during regular meetings. While there is no fixed turnaround time, responses are prioritized

based on severity, with urgent issues such as structural damage addressed before minor concerns like tall grass. The City aims to respond to complaints within 24 hours whenever possible. With the addition of a new Code Enforcement Officer, who recently completed initial certifications and is conducting inspections, the City anticipates increased capacity and improved response efforts. Utilizing the formal complaint system also allows the City to track data, support staffing decisions, and ensure accountability.

Police Chief Steve Lowell expressed appreciation for the recognition from Mr. Britton earlier, emphasizing a guiding philosophy of “serving better together,” both internally within the department and externally with the community. He credited the success of the Police Department to a collective team effort and acknowledged the dedication of its members. Clarification was provided regarding a recent case, noting that release decisions at centralized arraignment are made by judges at the county level, not the City Court, and that the referenced release was not determined by Judge Dexter.

Chief Lowell further highlighted ongoing enforcement efforts, including multiple drug-related arrests involving fentanyl, cocaine, and heroin, and noted that while not all activity is publicized, significant work is consistently being done. The department continues to take a structured, collaborative approach to address community concerns, working alongside other agencies and stakeholders to connect individuals with resources. He concluded by announcing a swearing-in ceremony for recent Police and Fire Department promotions, scheduled prior to the next Common Council meeting.

Motion to enter into Executive Session by Councilor Simchik
Seconded by Councilor Cimpi

EXECUTIVE SESSION RESOLUTION 26-58

RESOLVED, to enter into Executive Session at 08:01 p.m. for the purpose of:

- Personnel Matter with no action taken
- 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: 6

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 (McHugh)

MOTION RESULT: Passed Failed

Attendees: Mayor City Manager City Attorney Other: Police Chief Lowell

Councilors: Cimpi, Smith, Jones, Pagano, Simchik

Absent: McHugh

Executive Session adjourned to the regular meeting at: 8:35 p.m. with:

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

Motion to adjourn regular meeting by Councilor Jones

Seconded by Councilor Cimpi

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Absent: 1 (McHugh)

MOTION RESULT: Passed Failed

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the regular meeting adjourned at: 8:36 p.m.

Certified by:

Sandra LaPera _____
City Clerk, City of Oneida, New York

ATTACHMENT A

Good evening everyone,

I want to take a few minutes to walk through where we stand financially as a City through the end of March.

At a high level, the City of Oneida is in a **strong and stable financial position** to start 2026.

Year-to-date, we've brought in approximately **\$7.3 million in revenue** and have incurred about **\$4.8 million in expenses**, which puts us at roughly a **\$2.5 million surplus at this point in the year**.

Now, I do want to emphasize that this is **normal for this time of year**. Municipal finances are not linear. Certain revenues come in later, and some expenses hit earlier, so we always look at trends, not just snapshots.

On the **revenue side**, everything is generally tracking as expected.

Property tax revenue is fully accounted for, and we're beginning to see sales tax come in, which will continue to build throughout the year. We're also seeing solid activity in areas like building permits and code enforcement, which reflects continued investment in our community.

There are also several major revenue lines, including **state aid and interfund transfers**, that have not yet been received. So we do expect additional revenue to strengthen our position as the year progresses.

On the **expense side**, spending remains **well controlled and in line with our budget**.

Our largest cost drivers continue to be:

- Public safety, particularly police and fire salaries
- Employee benefits, especially health insurance
- And contractual and facility-related costs

We are actively monitoring all of these, and at this point, there are **no red flags**.

You'll also see some seasonal impacts, particularly from winter operations like salt and overtime, which occur early in the year. That's expected and built into our budget planning.

I also want to briefly highlight the work of our Finance Department this past month.

They have:

- Successfully **closed out the 2025 fiscal year**
- Begun preparing the **Annual Financial Report**

- Coordinated **bond and BAN issuances**
- And continue to manage daily operations, including payroll, reconciliations, and oversight across all City accounts

That work is critical to maintaining the financial integrity of the City.

Looking ahead, our focus will be on:

- Completing the 2025 audit
- Continuing to strengthen our financial policies
- And closely tracking revenues and expenditures as we move into the second quarter

So in closing, we are **on solid financial footing**, we are operating responsibly, and we will continue to be transparent with both Council and the public as the year progresses.

Thank you, and I'm happy to take any questions.