

APPROVED  
CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS  
01/05/2026

The Onida City Council met on Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at the City Office with Mayor LaJena R. Gruis presiding. Present at Roll Call. Marla Mosiman, Caleb Shepherd, JR Rausch, Mike Wiley, and Teri Carter. Also present: Tim Gruis, Bill Stahl, Clark Jordre, Hayden Handcock, Dustin Maier, and Sheila Ring.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Gruis opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MINUTES:** Motion by Shepherd seconded by Wiley to approve the minutes from the December 1<sup>st</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> 2025 City Council meetings. All ayes. Motion carried.

**REPORTS:** Superintendent Gruis's report was a short synopsis of what was completed and not completed in 2025 and the plans for 2026 including patching, paving, and surface sealing on planned streets and he has been working with Brosz Engineers regarding the street projects. He stated that David Price has started his employment and that they are looking forward a new work flow and dynamics between the three guys. He also stated that they would be working on addressing needed equipment upgrades and putting together a surplus equipment list. Rausch brought up several street lights that need attention.

**Sherriff Dept.:** Stahl remarked on a quiet holiday season. He did question the use of the city's dumpsters noting that he has noticed people from outside the city limits using the dumpsters. Hiller stated that we have several outsiders that pay to use our dumpsters and that she will make sure that he gets a copy of this list.

**HEALTH INSURANCE:** Dustin Maier from BankWest Insurance was present to discuss the employee's health insurance. He stated that our present policy is the "Cadillac" of policies and it is going up in price by just over 6%. He had several other options we could go with if we are interested. We have until February to give him our decision and he will be available to meet with employees.

**2026 WAGES and HEALTH INSURANCE:** During the 2026 budget process, Hiller allocated a three percent increase for all full-time employees. Motion by Shepherd seconded by Rausch to approve the three percent increase for all full-time employees beginning with the current pay period. Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carried. Absent: Olivier. This information is published separately.

**EMPLOYEE HOLIDAYS:** Hiller was asked to bring in a list of observed holidays that the city, the county, and the state follow. Following discussion motion by Shepherd seconded by Wiley to change our holiday policy to follow that of the State of South Dakota. Roll Call: Ayes: Mosiman, Shepherd, Rausch, and Wiley. Nay: Carter. Motion carried. Absent: Olivier.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Hayden Handcock and Clark Jordre of American Bank and Trust were present to explain the current banking situation. They were asked to explain just what exactly the ICS account is and how it works. Handcock stated that Onida's main account has a \$100,000 limit with the rest of the money in an ICS account. If our main account needs more money, it is automatically "swept" out of the ICS account and put into our main account and vise-versa, if our main account goes over our limit the money is automatically "swept" from the main account and put into the ICS account. They also clarified that when the city transferred our funds over to AB & T that not all of the money that was transferred to them actually came from the local banks. Approximately \$1.7 million dollars was never in an Onida bank but rather an out of state bank

which was not FDIC insured. Hancock stated that with the move of funds to AB & T, our city increased our revenue by \$60,000 over the last year. Both Hancock and Jordre stated that AB & T is dedicated to our community and have made several donations and will continue to make donations in the community. Hancock asked council if they will continue to ask for yearly quotes on our banking and they were told yes as this will keep any banks from becoming complacent with us.

**ELECTION 2026:** June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026 has been set as the next municipal election date for the City of Onida. This election will be held in conjunction with the ABO School district and Sully County.

**COMBINED ELECTION AGREEMENT:** Hiller presented an Agreement for Combined Elections with Sully County with Hiller stating that she had shared the agreement with our attorney and he has approved it. Motion by Carter seconded by Mosiman to approve the agreement. Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carried. Absent: Olivier.

**VIDEOING COUNCIL MEETINGS:** Hiller presented a quote of \$8133.98 from Comm Tech so that we can begin videoing our meetings with Shepherd stating that he thought this was a great idea. Motion by Shepherd seconded by Rausch to approve the quote. Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carried. Absent: Olivier.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Motion by Shepherd seconded by Mosiman to go into Executive Session at 7:48 p.m. pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(1). All ayes. Motion carried. Motion by Wiley seconded by Carter to come out of Executive Session at 7:54 p.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

**BILLS:** The following bills were presented for payment: Office 1126.48, Streets 3041.20, Water 953.26, Electric 1296.54, Sewer 712.49, Garbage 652.38. Sully County Treasurer law enforcement 6275.34, Wellmark health insurance 3568.98, S. D. Treasurer taxes 4865.98, Mid-Dakota Rural Water supplier 9767.33, River Bottom Sanitation garbage 10674.00, Nye Lumber supplies 2388.38, Marco supplies 248.27, Oahe Electric repairs and fees 1744.41, Delta Dental insurance 333.70, SD Retirement contributions 2667.64, E.F.T.P.S taxes 2130.10, Lamb Chevy repairs 1981.00, One Call locating 1.05, May, Adam, Gerdes and Thompson legals 5971.20, Badger Meters supplies 132.61, SD Unemployment contributions 3.40. Public Health Lab testing 40.00, AFLAC insurance 1553.94, Lamb's Discount supplies 378.86, Post Office postage 270.23, Brett's S[ray Service airport 85.00, Paxton Repairs 210.44, Helms and Asso airport 5394.75, City of Onida deposit refunds 40.00, Kimball Midwest supplies 110.00, SDML dues 658.00, Clark Powersports supplies 369.74, SD DANR fees 250.00, Lamb Motor supplies 181.23, American Red Cross supplies 200.00, Time Equipment supplies 515.00, Onida Electric supplies 250.00, SD Street Maintenance dues 35.00, SDFOA dues 50.00, SD Airport Management dues 50.00. Motion by Carter seconded by Wiley to pay all bills. Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carried. Absent: Olivier.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** Motion by Wiley seconded by Carter to adjourn at 7:57 p.m. The next regular City Council meeting will be February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

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LaJena R. Gruis, Mayor

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Rondha Hiller, Finance Officer

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