

TOWN BOARD  
Special Meeting  
September 30, 2020

A special meeting of the Oneonta, Town Board was held on September 30, 2020 via ZOOM with the following members present:

Councilman: Brett Holleran  
Councilwoman: Patricia Jacob  
Councilman: Randy Mowers  
Councilwoman: Patricia Riddell Kent  
Supervisor: Robert Wood  
Town Clerk: Sara Robinson

Others Present; Rob Panasci Town Attorney, Andrea Lister, Prue Stelling, Jon Anderson, Greg Klein, Michael Stolzer, Rachel Soper

**SPECIAL MEETING ON FACE MASK LOCAL LAW**

Supervisor Wood stated that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss Local Law # 2. concerning an ordinance to require the use of face masks in the town of Oneonta, a public hearing was held on September 16th. No substantial changes were made to the law. Wording concerning residential use and enforcement of the law were the minor changes.

Supervisor Wood asked if there were any petitioners;

Michael Stolzer stated that he is in favor of passing the law.

Katherine O'Donnell stated that she is a Town Of Oneonta resident and supports the proposed law. It is a health and economic issue for our community. It is important for us to be vigilant given what happened at SUNY Oneonta and the continuing emergence of cases.

Andrea Lister stated that she is in favor. The cases in the US are on the rise. We need the mask mandate. It is only a small inconvenience to put a mask on. It will keep others safe.

Reggie McGuinness thanked the board for coming up with this law and keeping our residents safe.

Supervisor Wood stated that he didn't get to speak with as much management as he would have liked. However, the ones that he did speak with welcomed the law. It takes the heat off of them. While it is controversial, Supervisor Wood hopes this law will help ensure more compliance.

Councilwoman Riddell Kent added that she thinks it will help us move forward safely with re-opening businesses and having us move forward and doing it in a safe way for all.

Rachel Soper stated she hopes that we do pass this law. She has done a lot of research. She has looked at Science. Where we have been so far, we have done well besides the college outbreak. Where we are going could be different. She believes this will be good for business.

Supervisor Wood recognized the board and asked if they had anything to say;

Councilman Holleran stated he made the motion to table this. He whole heartedly supports mask wearing in public and social distancing. Being a school teacher he understand the importance. He also has ill parents. We were unable to change the part that he believes is an over reach of government. That is people's homes and the number of people that they could have at their homes. While, he does support mask wearing 100%. He does not support the law as written. He just wants to make it clear he supports everyone's health and our community. However, there is a point where government over reaches and he believes this is one of those cases.

Supervisor Wood entertained a motion to approve local law number 2- wearing masks in the Town of Oneonta.

Jacob made a motion to approve Local Law #2. Riddell Kent Seconded.

Robert T. Wood	<u>Aye</u>
Patricia Jacob	<u>Aye</u>
Randall Mowers	<u>Nay</u>
Patricia Riddell Kent	<u>Aye</u>
Brett Holleran	<u>Nay</u>

VOTE: AYES 3    NAYS 2    MOTION CARRIED

Meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm