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PRESS RELEASE

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Oneonta Common Council Approves Prohibiting Smoking and Use of Tobacco Products in City Parks

At their December 5, 2017 meeting, the City of Oneonta Common Council approved the prohibition of smoking and tobacco use in all city parks and Muller Plaza.

This prohibition was submitted to the Council as a recommendation from the City's Parks and Recreation Commission in September, 2017 after reviewing similar policies in other communities in New York State. The proposed prohibition was discussed through the Council's Legislative Committee and a presentation from Advancing Tobacco Free Communities of Delaware, Otsego, and Schoharie Counties was heard by the entire Council on November 7.

Upon the Council's unanimous vote of approval, City of Oneonta Mayor Gary Herzig stated, "Today's action will be looked back upon as a significant step towards making Oneonta a healthier and cleaner place to live. Anything we can do to discourage tobacco use is good for the future of our community." The Mayor also indicated that City Police will have considerable discretion in how they react to those still found using tobacco in City Parks. "This is part of a larger cultural shift away from tobacco exposure and our initial focus should be on awareness."

Following required City policy, the Mayor will hold a public hearing on the ordinance at the December 19th Council Meeting before it can be signed into law.