

## ***For Immediate Release***

February 24, 2021

### **Drnek, 8<sup>th</sup> Ward Councilman, to Run for Oneonta Mayor**

With Tuesday's statement by Mayor Gary Herzig that he would not seek another term, Democrat Mark Drnek, 8<sup>th</sup> Ward Councilman is announcing his intention to campaign for mayor.

Drnek, a longtime community activist and advocate for local business, has had a busy first 14 months in his council position. With Community Development Director Judy Pangman, he co-chaired the City's award winning "***Survive, Then Thrive***" effort; with Al Rubin, Interim-CEO of the Otsego County Chamber and dozens of community volunteers, he could be seen every Saturday this past summer in production of the popular Main Street Dining events; and currently, as co-chair with Melissa Marietta of SUNY Oneonta he is engaged in the creation of a "***Town-Gown Taskforce***" which already has added more than 50 representatives of the colleges and the community as committee members.

"Working with so many creative and energetic supporters of Oneonta has been a dream," he says. "As has my time working with Council. There are so many passionate, committed people on that team."

It's because the Council is so strong, and the City staff is so professional that he feels he might assume a different role and use that position to accomplish even more.

"I can't begin to replicate the depth of knowledge regarding City governance that Mayor Herzig carries, but I have always succeeded when I've been surrounded by smart people; and these are very smart people."

Drnek promises to begin laying out the details of his vision in the next several weeks.

In the meantime, he asks that anyone with questions contact him through his web page: [8<sup>th</sup>WardOneonta.com](http://8thWardOneonta.com)