

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

August 11, 2008

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Mayor Nelson called the meeting to order and asked the Clerk to call the roll:

PRESENT: Mayor Nelson, Councillors Hannan,
Morley, Powers, Sholette and Vaugh

ABSENT: Councillor Flynn

PRESENTATION

1. Kathy Wade of the Ogdensburg Garden Club, presented the 2008 Maple Leaf Awards to the following:

- Leo & Cathy Spriggs, 920 Hasbrouck Street
- Bruce & Martha Aldrich, 414 Pleasant Avenue
- Agarwal Renal Center, workers Pat Nelson & Brad Pero
- Ogdensburg Cemetery Association, Glory Martel
- Mike Marek, assisted with City Flower Beds

Mayor Nelson thanked Mrs. Wade and the Garden Club for all their hard work beautifying the City.

2. Mayor Nelson presented NYCOM Public Service Certificates to the following City employees and thanked them for their years of dedicated service to the City:

- Katherine Hannan Wears, 25 years of service
- Richard J. Polniak, Jr., 25 years of service
- Kathryn K. Bateman for 35 years of service

PERSONAL APPEARANCE

1. Harry Moore presented the Mayor and Council with a Gideon Bible as a way to support our public leaders. Mayor Nelson thanked Mr. Moore for the bibles.

2. Joseph Basta, a member of the Lions Club, advised Council that the Lions Club would like to replace the oldest tree on the Crescent that fell in a recent storm and also donate ten lilac trees to the Recreation Department. Mayor Nelson thanked Mr. Basta and the Lions Club members.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Nelson moved that the claims as enumerated in Warrant #14-2008 in the amount of \$940,906.22, and Library Warrant #14-2008 in the amount of \$48,513.44 and Community Development Fund Warrant #14-2008 in the amount of \$61,252.37, as audited, be and the same are ordered paid and Councillor Vaugh seconded the motion.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

1. Councillor Powers moved a resolution opposing the proposed changes to the Public Health Law which would consolidate Local Registrars of Vital Statistics' duties to the County level and increase the fee per certified record from \$10.00 to \$30.00, and Councillor Sholette seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION
OPPOSING THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH LAW,
CONSOLIDATING LOCAL REGISTRARS OF VITAL STATISTICS

WHEREAS, The New York State Local Government Commission on Efficiency and Competitiveness has made certain recommendations to the Governor which affects the operation of local governments, and

WHEREAS, one of the recommendations of the Commission was to move all Registrar of Vital Statistics duties to the County level under the direction of the New York State Health Commissioner, and

WHEREAS, the NYS Department of Health has developed a program bill that would allow the Commissioner to consolidate the function of the local registrars of vital statistics, and

WHEREAS, New York State Department of Health has inappropriately attached these proposed changes in the structure of the Registrar of Vital Statistics duties to the "Pandemic Flu and Public Health Emergency Preparedness Law", and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner could consolidate these services without county legislative approval, and

WHEREAS, the local city, town and village Clerks have provided this service professionally and efficiently over the years, and

WHEREAS, losing this business would have a financial impact on the local governments, and

WHEREAS, many citizens are under financial stress due to high fuel costs, and

WHEREAS, the County's geography would increase this burden since services would be located further from the residents,

WHEREAS, the local Registrars presently charge \$10.00 per certified copy and the State proposes that the County will charge \$30.00 per certified copy, and

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that in the interest of good government, the Ogdensburg City Council opposes the consolidation of the function of local registrars of vital statistics, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to our Governor and State Elected Officials to encourage their support.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

2. Councillor Sholette moved a resolution to authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement for subsurface investigation for the Lake Street Bridge project, and Councillor Morley seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO
AGREEMENT FOR SUBSURFACE INVESTIGATION FOR
THE LAKE STREET BRIDGE PROJECT

WHEREAS, the City of Ogdensburg has received proposals for subsurface exploration for the Lake Street Pedestrian Bridge Project; and

WHEREAS, Tisdell Associates has reviewed the three proposals received and has recommended the firm of Northern Technical Services, Inc. of Bangor, NY;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Manager is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Northern Technical Services for a sum not to exceed \$7,784., for subsurface investigation for the Lake Street Bridge Project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City funding shall be provided from capital account H866601.518.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

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3. Councillor Vaugh moved a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract with River Street Planning and Development to audit Housing Programs, and Councillor Powers seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE
A CONTRACT WITH RIVER STREET PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
TO AUDIT THE CITY'S HOUSING PROGRAMS AND THE DEVELOPMENT
OF AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING ACTION PLAN

WHEREAS, the City of Ogdensburg intends to have an audit and review of its various housing programs (CDBG, HOME, AHC), and

WHEREAS, the City of Ogdensburg is being required to undertake this audit and review by the New York State Office of Community Renewal and the North Country HOME Consortium for their respective housing programs, and

WHEREAS, the City intends to develop an Affordable Housing Action Plan which will include financial and program management strategies and improved operating guidelines and procedures, and

WHEREAS, the City has solicited qualifications from several firms and River Street Planning and Development presented the most qualified project team.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Manager is hereby authorized to enter into a contract with River Street Planning and Development for a sum not to exceed \$50,000 for the tasks as outlined in the scope of work; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, funds to pay for this work shall be derived from Community Development Fund Account.

City Manager Arthur Sciorra explained that HUD is requiring us to conduct a program and systems review of our federal and state subsidized housing programs from 2000 to 2007, using an outside auditing firm.

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The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

1. Councillor Morley asked for an update on the planning of the reconditioning of Montroy field. Philip Clemens, Director of Parks and Recreation, advised he hasn't met with Steve LaRose yet.

2. Councillor Morley asked City Manager Arthur Sciorra if the Community Center roof was finished. Mr. Sciorra stated that most of the work is complete, but they need to finish the ridge cap vents and coring of the vents to unvented eaves. Mr. Sciorra added that the workers don't work in the rain.

3. Councillor Powers said in a recent update Mr. Simao is looking to cooperate with us for a RESTORE NY Grant to tear down Park Plaza.

Councillor Hannan stated this is a conflict as we have already started legal proceedings against Mr. Simao, and questioned the status and timetable of those legal proceedings. City Manager Arthur Sciorra stated that a court date scheduled for September 3 and hopefully a cooperative redevelopment consent agreement will be signed, but if it isn't, he will bring a different course of action before Court in September.

Councillor Hannan stated that he finds this situation very ironic considering that we're working so closely with Mr. Simao whose building is in violation, but were not with the little mom and pops Wimpy's owners that were also in violation but we weren't willing to consider leasing the Community Center concession to them.

4. Councillor Hannan requested an update on the 510 Montgomery Street property. Mr. Sciorra said he believes he already provided that information but will check on it and get back to Council.

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5. Councillor Hannan questioned the status of 800 Ford Street. Mayor Nelson stated that Council received a packet of information on the Jet Gas property in the update. City Manager Arthur Sciorra added this is also in the legal court process.

6. Councillor Hannan stated that Council discussed the City Attorney position at the last meeting which he was unable to attend, and questioned the status of hiring a new city attorney.

City Manager Arthur Sciorra stated that Council directed him to review and make recommendations to change to the City Charter and Administrative Regulations to allow flexibility to this position. Mr. Sciorra added that he has hired an interim attorney and in the absence of the City Attorney, he is the department head.

7. Councillor Sholette questioned if the new heating/air conditioning equipment has been installed at the Fire Department. City Manager Arthur Sciorra stated that the Fire Chief received Council approval for the new equipment. Mr. Sciorra added that he will have Fire Chief Steve Badlam update Council at the next meeting.

8. Councillor Morley stated that the grass at 505 New York Avenue is very high and needs to be cut. Mr. Sciorra advised that he already called this violation in to the DPW.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Councillor Hannan stated that a couple weeks ago after a Council Meeting the City was hit with a large rain/hail storm that brought down trees and limbs around the City. Councillor Hannan thanked and commended the DPW, Recreation, Fire and Police Departments for their assistance that night.

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Councillor Hannan questioned if the fallen trees could be given or sold to interested homeowners who use wood. Mr. Sciorra stated that he will check with Kit Smith.

Mayor Nelson moved to adjourn to Executive Session stating there may be action, and Councillor Vaugh seconded the motion.

Upon returning from Executive session, all members of Council were still present. Mayor Nelson stated there was no action.

On a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.