

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

April 2, 2007

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

PRESENT: Mayor Nelson, Councillors Ericksen, Flynn, Hannan,
LaMacchia and LaRose

ABSENT: Councillor Morley*

PERSONAL APPEARANCE

1. Richard Fisher stated that due to the censorship of the local newspaper editor, an editorial he wrote for Sunday's newspaper was not printed and this is his only venue to provide STAR information to the public.

* Councillor Morley enters meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Nelson moved that the claims as enumerated in Warrant #7-2007 in the amount of \$136,509.35, and Library Warrant #7-2007 in the amount of \$1,337.44 and CD Block Grant Warrant #7-2007 in the amount of \$17,757.34 as audited, be and the same are ordered paid and Councillor Flynn seconded the motion.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

APPOINTMENTS

1. Mayor Nelson moved to reappoint Tom Pinkerton to a 7-year term on the Recreation Committee, and Councillor LaRose seconded the motion.

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The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

1. Mayor Nelson moved a resolution to authorize the submission of a grant application for \$400,000 to the NYS Governor's Office for Small Cities for the Program Year 2007, and Councillor Ericksen seconded to wit:

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT
A CDBG SMALL CITIES GRANT APPLICATION TO THE
NEW YORK STATE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE FOR SMALL CITIES**

WHEREAS, the City Council has participated in the NYS Governor's Office for Small Cities for many years, and

WHEREAS, the City is committed to the improvement of housing stock of the City, and

WHEREAS, the Small Cities Program can result in benefits to the City in general and to low/moderate income persons in particular,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Ogdensburg City Council hereby authorizes the City Manager to submit to the NYS Governor's Office for Small Cities an application for funding, in an amount not to exceed \$400,000 for 2007 Community Development Program.

City Manager Art Sciorra explained the funds from this grant will be used to improve the housing stock for low to moderate income persons in the southern second ward area of the City.

Councillor Morley stated that this area of the City is a good choice but complained that he didn't know what area we were looking at until he read it in today's paper.

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Mayor Nelson stated that in previous years, staff has made a Council presentation of the targeted area.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

2. Councillor LaMacchia moved a resolution to authorize the City Manager to execute a \$212,355. State Contract Assistance Agreement with the Empire State Development Corporation for the Montgomery Building Demolition Project, and Councillor Morley seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE \$212,355
STATE CONTRACT ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT WITH EMPIRE STATE
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FOR THE MONTGOMERY BUILDING
DEMOLITION PROJECT

WHEREAS, the City of Ogdensburg has acquired the Montgomery Building through tax sale foreclosure proceedings; and

WHEREAS, this property has been deemed unsuitable for habitation and has created a blighting condition on the neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, the City is desirous of removing this blighting condition to improve the aesthetic quality of the adversely impacted neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, the City has applied for and received funding from the New York State Empire State Development Corporation (NYS ESDC) in the amount of \$212,355 toward the demolition of this structure;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the City Manager is hereby authorized to execute said State Assistance Contract with the NYS ESDC.

City Manager Art Sciorra explained the timeframe of this grant and demolition.

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Councillor LaMacchia stated that the stone from the Clickner Building is a high quality cut and questioned if it will be demolished or saved. Mr. Sciorra stated that we will use it as fill for the building as no provisions were made for the removal of the stone.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

OLD BUSINESS

1. Councillor Morley stated that he has received calls regarding the traffic light at New York Avenue and Spring Street. Councillor Morley suggested that the delay arrow be turned off. Public Works Director Kit Smith said he will do a traffic survey at that traffic light.

2. Councillor LaMacchia stated that he received a phone call from a concerned parent and questioned if there is an ordinance prohibiting kids from playing basketball in the street. Police Chief Andrew Wells stated there is an ordinance prohibiting playing basketball in the street and it is enforced on a complaint basis. Police Chief Wells added that today his department received two complaints regarding the same residence.

3. Mayor Nelson said he was asked to contact the military regarding the development of a new facility at the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center to provide mental health services for returning soldiers. Mayor Nelson stated that he was advised that at this time there is no initiative to open up new military hospitals outside what they presently have. Mayor Nelson reported that to establish those kinds of services is a very long term process. Councillor LaMacchia stated that the Pritchard Building at the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center was once used to provide medical services and suggested it could again.

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Councillor Hannan urged the Mayor to stay in contact with our Federal representatives and communicate that we're receptive to a veteran's facility at the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center. Mayor Nelson stated that the CBO group wants the existing SVP Facility replaced by a veteran's facility. Mayor Nelson added that he will communicate with our representatives that Council supports supplemental use of the St. Lawrence Psychiatric facility with a veteran's facility.

4. Councillor Hannan stated at the last meeting it was questioned whether the quality of care the SVP clients receive is better than the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center patients. Mayor Nelson said that the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center Community Advisory Board met last week and he will contact Mr. Serio and forward any information to Council. Mayor Nelson added that the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center is an accredited facility.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Executive Compensation Committee

Mayor Nelson stated that as per the City's Administrative Regulations, Section 9, an Executive Compensation Board is to be appointed by the Mayor each year to review the salary structure of the non-represented personnel. Mayor Nelson advised that he has appointed Councillors LaRose, Hannan and Morley as the 2007 Executive Compensation Committee. Mayor Nelson thanked the three Councillors for agreeing to serve on this committee.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Mayor Nelson congratulated Lieutenant Richard Polniak as the designee for Police Chief when Police Chief Andrew Wells retires in July.

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