

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

April 23, 2007

Page 59

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

PRESENT: Mayor Nelson, Councillors Ericksen, Hannan,
LaRose and Morley

ABSENT: Councillors Flynn and LaMacchia*

Mayor Nelson stated that Councillor Flynn was attending OCP and Councillor LaMacchia will be late.

PERSONAL APPEARANCE

1. Robert Flavin, 116 Ogden Street, addressed Council regarding the St. Lawrence River and the walleye program. Mr. Flavin gave Council a copy of an article featured in a national magazine regarding his group's effects to restock walleye in the St. Lawrence River. Mr. Flavin also requested that Council prohibit fishing along the Oswegatchie River, from the dam to the north side of the twin bridges, from March 15 until Father's Day. Mr. Flavin stated Council needs to make a request to DEC. Mr. Flavin also requested that snow dumping along this waterway be prohibited.

* Councillor LaMacchia arrived during Mr. Flavin's appearance.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. City Clerk Kathleen Bouchard read a letter from VFW Commander Scott Compo, regarding Councillor Morley and veteran tax credits.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

April 23, 2007

Page 60

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Nelson moved that the claims as enumerated in Warrant #8-2007 in the amount of \$1,318,142.09, and Library Warrant #8-2007 in the amount of \$47,838.34 and CD Block Grant Warrant #8-2007 in the amount of \$11,397.00 and Capital Projects Warrant #8-2007 in the amount of \$356,321.50 as audited, be and the same are ordered paid and Councillor LaRose seconded the motion.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

APPOINTMENTS

1. Mayor Nelson moved to appoint Barbara Barlow to fill the unexpired term of Sandy Plimpton on the Pride & Beautification Commission, term to expire on May 12, 2009, and Councillor Hannan seconded the motion.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

2. Mayor Nelson moved to appoint Mary Michaels to serve on the Pride & Beautification Commission to replace Tim Belile whose term expires May 31, 2007, her term to expire on May 31, 2010, and Councillor Hannan seconded the motion.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

April 23, 2007

Page 61

At this point in the meeting, Mayor Nelson introduced Christopher Kalwara, Johnson Controls Group.

Mr. Kalwara made a presentation of the results of his firm's preliminary assessment for an Energy Savings Performance Contract of City facilities. Mr. Kalwar presented Council with a summarized assessment report. (A copy of the assessment follows these minutes.)

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

1. Councillor Morley moved a resolution authorizing the City Comptroller to transfer monies in the amount of \$5,000.00 from the Contingency Fund, A1990.498, to the Police Department Investigations line item, and Councillor seconded to wit:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY COMPTROLLER TO
TRANSFER MONIES FROM THE CONTINGENCY FUND TO THE
POLICE DEPARTMENT INVESTIGATIONS LINE ITEM**

WHEREAS, the Police Department Investigations line item A3120.560 was budgeted for fiscal year 2007 in the amount of \$3,000.00, and

WHEREAS, the budgeted monies are almost expended, and

WHEREAS, the Police Department is in need of an additional appropriation to continue on-going investigations,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Comptroller is hereby authorized to transfer monies in the amount of \$5,000.00 from the Contingency Fund, A1990.498, to the Police Department Investigations line item A3120.560.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

April 23, 2007

Page 62

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

2. Councillor LaRose moved a resolution authorizing the City Manager to temporarily increase the number of sworn police officers in the 2007 Budget to allow for the early hire of replacement officers, and Councillor LaMacchia seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO
TEMPORARILY INCREASE THE NUMBER OF SWORN POLICE
OFFICERS IN THE 2007 BUDGET TO ALLOW FOR EARLY HIRING
OF REPLACEMENT OFFICERS

WHEREAS, the Ogdensburg Police Department will be experiencing a shortage of sworn personnel in 2007, and

WHEREAS, there has been one service retirement to date, with more vacancies anticipated, and

WHEREAS, there is an opportunity to replace some of the departing personnel with individuals that have already received the necessary training, and

WHEREAS, by hiring these individuals ahead of the actual vacancies, the City of Ogdensburg will save money in training expenses and expedite the Field Training process,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Manager is hereby authorized to increase the number of sworn police officers in the 2007 Budget to three to allow for the early hire of replacement officers, and

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

April 23, 2007

Page 63

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if additional funding is necessary, further hiring will be delayed until the funds are available to replace departing personnel.

Police Chief Andrew Wells stated that two new officers were sworn in 4/5/07; one has been given a conditional offer of employment and is expected to be sworn in by June; and he expects to have another officer transferred in by July 1. Police Chief Wells explained the DCJS and NYSCS recruitment and transfer process.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

3. Councillor LaMacchia moved a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with LVI Environmental Services, Inc. for the Lake Street Demolition Project, Asbestos Abatement and Building Demolition of the Montgomery and Clickner Buildings, and Councillor Morley seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF CONTRACT
FOR THE LAKE STREET DEMOLITION PROJECT

WHEREAS, bids have been solicited and received for the Lake Street Demolition Project, Asbestos Abatement and Building Demolition of the Montgomery and Clickner Buildings; and

WHEREAS, City staff have evaluated the bids and recommended the contract be awarded to the responsible low bidder;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Arthur J. Sciorra, City Manager, is authorized to enter into the following contract, for a sum not to exceed \$135,784.00, on behalf of the City:

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

April 23, 2007

Page 64

CONTRACTOR	BID AMOUNT	CONTINGENCY
LVI Environmental Services, Inc. 36 Park Avenue Massena, NY 13662	\$123,440.00	\$12,344.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the funds to pay for this work shall be derived from monies received from the Empire State Development Corporation Restore NY Community Initiative (\$212,355).

Councillor Morley asked when the work will begin. City Manager Arthur Sciorra stated that he is still waiting for the final RESTORE NY contract. Mr. Sciorra stated this resolution is to preserve this bid amount.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

4. Councillor LaMacchia moved a resolution authorizing the City Comptroller to transfer \$50,000 from A1440.110 to A1440.515 for professional engineering services, and Councilor Morley seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of Ogdensburg at times is in need of engineering services; and

WHEREAS, the City no longer has an engineer on staff; and

WHEREAS, there are sufficient funds remaining in the 2007 salary line in the engineering budget to cover anticipated expenditures,

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

April 23, 2007

Page 65

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Comptroller is authorized to transfer \$50,000 from A1440.110 to A1440.515.

City Manager Arthur Sciorra stated that this is housekeeping to move funds to expend on small engineering services.

Councillor Hannan stated that he questioned in January if a RFP (Request for Proposals) had been completed for engineering services. Mr. Sciorra stated that we can expend funds for professional services without a RFP. Councillor Hannan stated that a RFP is needed to abide by the City Charter. City Attorney Katherine Wears said that the current Charter requires a City Engineer. Mr. Sciorra stated that he is the head of the Department of Engineering.

Councillor Hannan said he would like an assessment for the number of hours department heads are spending on City Engineering tasks. Mr. Sciorra said he doesn't have that information, but noted when he needs engineering services he purchases them from an engineering firm. Mr. Sciorra added that some of the services performed by the previous engineer were not engineering duties.

The vote was:

AYES: Mayor Nelson, Councillors Ericksen, LaMacchia, LaRose and Morley

NAYS: Councillor Hannan

APPROVED, 5 TO 1

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

April 23, 2007

Page 66

OLD BUSINESS

1. Councillor Morley said that Council received information on the number of accidents at the New York Avenue traffic light. Councillor Morley stated that he requested additional information from City Manager Art Sciorra when he spoke to him on Friday, and it put on the next agenda under Items for Discussion.

Police Chief Andy Wells advised there have only been three or four accidents at this intersection.

Public Works Director Kit Smith passed out a copy of the last traffic survey conducted at this intersection by the St. Lawrence County Highway Department in 2000. Mr. Smith said another survey will be conducted at this intersection in a few weeks.

2. Councillor Morley stated that he supports Bob Flavin's request that Council prohibit fishing from the dam to Twin Bridges, from March 16 until Father's Day, but is not sure of the DEC process. Mayor Nelson requested Mr. Sciorra contact DEC for their recommendation regarding prohibiting fishing in this area, and find out what steps Council needs to take.

3. Councillor Ericksen asked if the company who provided energy savings programs to the hospital and school was contacted. City Manager Arthur Sciorra said two firms responded. Councillor Ericksen requested that the City Manager contact the Sempra Company. Councillor Hannan stated that the Johnson Controls Group made a presentation tonight after already doing the legwork, and questioned if contacting this other firm should have already been done.

4. Councillor Ericksen stated that the General Curtis statue in the Greenbelt looks like it's in a cramped space and questioned if it's moveable.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

April 23, 2007

Page 67

Public Works Director Kit Smith stated that he spoke with the parties who moved the statue to this location who have advised that it might not endure another move and could cost thousands of dollars.

5. Councillor LaMacchia questioned if a white line could be painted on the roadway by the stop sign at Route 68 and Canton Street. Public Works Director Kit Smith said this is NYSDOT signage but he will request a white line be painted on the pavement next to the stop sign.

6. Councillor LaRose questioned if filling retiring Police Dispatcher positions with Police Officers would be more efficient and cost effective. Police Chief Andy Wells stated that he believes civilian dispatchers are most cost effective. Councillor LaRose stated that at budget time Council wanted more Police on staff and this would combine services with one person. Councillor LaRose requested Council and staff review this proposal.

7. Mayor Nelson said the Dobisky Community Center Stabilization Repair costs are just under \$200,000. Mayor Nelson stated that based on those figures the building needs to be demolished. Councillors Hannan and Morley agreed. Councillor LaRose added that those figures don't include the annual maintenance cost for this building. Councillor Ericksen said the two buildings make the area look congested. Councillor LaMacchia urged Council to keep this building for a possible use later on. After much discussion among Council, there was a consensus of Council to tear down the Dobisky Community Center. Mayor Nelson directed City Manager Arthur Sciorra to solicit bids to remove the asbestos from the building and tear it down this summer.

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