

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

March 12, 2007

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

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

ABSENT: Councillor Ericksen

PUBLIC HEARING

1. A public hearing for the purpose of obtaining public input into the matter of the on-going community development program was held. No one being present to speak, the hearing was declared closed.

PERSONAL APPEARANCE

1. Eileen Jarrett addressed Council regarding the SVP Unit and presented a list of questions regarding Mayor Nelson's meeting with OMH Commissioner, Dr. Hogan (a copy of the questions follows these minutes).

2. Barbara Ward, 521 New York Avenue, stated the CBO (Citizens for a Better Ogdensburg) would rather see the Office of Mental Health use the Bridgeview Building as a Judge Rotenberg Educational Center for children from New York State, rather than have to travel to Canton, Massachusetts. Mrs. Ward asked Council if they will support the CBO. Mrs. Ward added that the New York State Department of Education, Special Education Unit, advised the CBO that a request must come from the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center leadership, Sam Bastien. Mrs. Ward added that the SLPC Director needs to move quickly as other communities are also looking into this.

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CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Nelson moved that the claims as enumerated in Warrant #5-2007 in the amount of \$476,039.66, and Library Warrant #5-2007 in the amount of \$28,998.10 and CD Block Grant Warrant #5-2007 in the amount of \$50,139.50 and Capital Projects Warrant #5-2007 in the amount of \$27,400.10 as audited, be and the same are ordered paid and Councillor LaMacchia seconded the motion.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

OLD BUSINESS

1. Councillor Hannan stated that a couple of meetings ago Council requested that a letter be sent to the Governor and our legislators urging them to restrict sexually violent predators from being released into our community. Mayor Nelson stated that he drafted a letter, but never sent it as he met with our representatives and the Commissioner of Mental Health at the recent NYCOM conference in Albany.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Mayor Nelson congratulated the OFA Girl's Basketball Team for competing in the Region 2 Semifinals. Mayor Nelson added that the Boy's Basketball Team is in the final four games at Glens Falls, NY this Friday. Mayor Nelson stated both teams have had a great season and make the City very proud.

2. Mayor Nelson stated that the April 9 Council Meeting is scheduled during the Easter vacation. There was a consensus of Council to prepare a resolution for the next meeting rescheduling the April 9, 2007 Council meeting to April 2, 2007.

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3. Councillor Hannan asked Mayor Nelson if any of Eileen Jarrett's questions were answered at the NYCOM conference. Mayor Nelson stated he voiced our communities' concerns and was advised that if the SVP clients are ever released, they would be sent back to the community of commitment. Councillor Flynn said legislation dictating where they will be released is pending.

4. Councillor LaMacchia stated he heard that the Unemployment Offices in Canton, Massena and Ogdensburg might close, and questioned if Council should send a resolution urging them not to close the offices. Mayor Nelson said that he and City Manager Arthur Sciorra are talking to the New York State Department of Labor, with options to offer space in the City.

5. Councillor LaMacchia questioned if the City has the right to investigate waterfront polluted land after a company vacates it. Acting City Manager Philip Cosmo said we could contact DEC to investigate.

6. Councillor Flynn reminded Council that on Saturday, March 17, The Place Restaurant is hosting a Corn Beef and Cabbage Dinner as a Seaway Festival fundraiser. Councillor Flynn urged all to attend and support the Ogdensburg Seaway Festival.

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