

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
May 26, 2016
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Mayor Ashley called the meeting to order and asked the Clerk to call the roll:

PRESENT: Mayor Ashley, Councillors Davis, Mitchell,
Morley, Price, Skamperle and Stevenson

ABSENT: None

PRESENTATION

1. Mayor Ashley read a proclamation declaring June 3, 2016 “Phil Cosmo Day” in the City. (A copy of the proclamation follows these minutes.) City Comptroller Philip Cosmo thanked the Mayor and Council for the great honor. Mr. Cosmo recognized the individuals he has worked with during his career and said he wishes people would be more appreciative of what our excellent City staff members do every day.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Ashley moved that the claims as enumerated in General Fund Warrant #10-216 in the amount of \$864,678.97 and Library Fund Warrant #10-216 in the amount of \$48,216.82 and Capital Fund Warrant #10-216 in the amount of \$13,127.14 and Community Development Fund Warrant #10-216 in the amount of \$4,225.69 and Community Renewal Fund Warrant #10-216 in the amount of \$41,733.84 as audited, be and the same are ordered paid and Councillor Skamperle seconded the motion.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

APPOINTMENTS

1. Mayor Ashley moved to appoint Nancy Skiff to a three-year term on the Tree Commission, term to expire 12/31/2018, and Councillor Stevenson seconded the motion.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

1. Councillor Skamperle moved a resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit an application to the North Country Regional Economic Development Council for consideration as the Regional downtown nominee for the state's Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) funding, and Councillor Price seconded to wit:

**RESOLUTION PROVIDING COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR THE
SUBMISSION OF A DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION INITIATIVE (DRI)
APPLICATION AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT
SAID DRI APPLICATION**

WHEREAS, on May 2nd Governor Cuomo announced the 2016 Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) intended to provide 10 communities, ripe for development, each with \$10 million "*to transform them into vibrant communities where tomorrow's workforce will want to live, work and raise families*"; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ogdensburg desires to be considered by the North Country Regional Economic Development Council as an applicant for this DRI through the submission of an application; and

WHEREAS, the Ogdensburg City Council hereby establishes the 330-acre downtown waterfront area as the target area for DRI investment; and

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WHEREAS, the Ogdensburg City Council offers its full and unified support of this DRI application and our commitment to building and implementing a strategic investment plan for our City's downtown waterfront.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Ogdensburg City Council that it hereby authorizes the City Manager to submit an application for DRI consideration to the North Country Regional Economic Development Council for the downtown waterfront area and if awarded to administer the DRI program, including executing all necessary documents relating to the project or administration of the program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ogdensburg City Council, in accordance with the DRI application requirements, identify City Manager Sarah Purdy, as our *initial local lead* for the program who will work with outside experts to convene a local DRI Planning Committee to oversee the plan.

Councillor Skamperle asked if a plan must be developed to apply for this funding. City Manager Sarah Purdy said it has now been confirmed that a plan is not necessary just to apply. Councillor Skamperle asked if the funding can be used for infrastructure. Ms. Purdy said yes and explained part of the funding must be used for planning. Ms. Purdy explained we currently have a \$300,000 gap in the funding needed to complete the Shade Roller remediation and make the waterfront ready for development. Councillor Morley asked if this funding could be applied to both publicly and privately owned property. Director of Planning and Development Andrea Smith said she is not aware of any restrictions, but the State will develop more specific guidelines as the grant process progresses. Councillor Morley asked if the City will use the funding to target the Shade Roller property. Ms. Purdy said the entire waterfront will be evaluated, including the Maple City Trail and a connection to the Blue Way Trail. Ms. Purdy explained we are the only city in St. Lawrence County, and we have vital waterfront. Ms. Purdy said even if we are not successful, we could qualify for alternate funding and receive feedback on what we can do better. Ms. Purdy explained the plan is to tie the City's past work into this application. Ms. Purdy said the City has been dedicated to the waterfront development plan for a long time.

Councillor Morley suggested the City examine all waterfront parcels, and Ms. Purdy agreed. Councillor Skamperle questioned the transportation equipment cluster of the application. Ms. Purdy explained the rail line and airport expansion address that focus.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

2. Councillor Price moved a resolution introducing a public hearing and public notice regarding a commercial license agreement for municipal property at the Dobisky Visitors' Center to Richard P. Wright, and Councillor Mitchell seconded to wit:

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A PUBLIC NOTICE AND PUBLIC
HEARING REGARDING
A COMMERCIAL LICENSE AGREEMENT REGARDING
CITY-OWNED PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF OGDENSBURG

WHEREAS, the City of Ogdensburg requested proposals from qualified vendors to operate a seasonal food and beverage concession at the Dobisky Community Center

WHEREAS, the City has received a proposal from Richard P. Wright to operate a profitable business; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wright has submitted a food and soft drink menu to meet the needs of families with children, seniors, downtown office workers, boaters and fishermen; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wright has demonstrated the experience and expertise to support this type of food service; and

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WHEREAS, the City Council hereby accepts the proposal of Mr. Wright to operate a concession located in the Dobisky Visitors' Center, subject to approval of the commercial license agreement;

WHEREAS, the City Charter mandates that a License Agreement be finalized only after giving public notice in a local newspaper and conducting a public hearing;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council shall hold a public hearing on the 13th day of June, 2016 at 7:00 p.m., at the Council Chambers in the City of Ogdensburg, New York, regarding this proposed License of City-owned property; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk give notice of such public hearing by publication in the newspaper so designated by the City Council of the City of Ogdensburg for legal and public notices at least seven (7) days before the hearing date of a notice setting forth the time and place and describing the proposed ordinance in summary form.

Councillor Mitchell asked who will be responsible for the gas and electric bills under this license agreement. Recreation Director Matthew Curatolo explained the electric bill will remain in the City's name with monthly invoicing to the licensee, but the licensee will set up his own account for the gas bill. Mayor Ashley said this is a wonderful opportunity and recommended Council approve the request. Councillor Stevenson asked for the average electric bill amount. City Comptroller Philip Cosmo said it usually runs about \$500-600 per season.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

3. Mayor Ashley moved a resolution introducing an ordinance and providing for public notice and public hearing with regard to the sale of City-owned property located at 815 Jefferson Avenue, and Councillor Price seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION OF CITY COUNCIL INTRODUCING AN ORDINANCE
AND PROVIDING FOR PUBLIC NOTICE
AND PUBLIC HEARING

BE IT RESOLVED, that Ordinance No. entitled "An Ordinance to Offer for Sale at Public Auction City-Owned Property " be and it hereby is introduced before the City Council of the City of Ogdensburg, New York, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council shall hold a public hearing in the matter of the adoption of the aforesaid ordinance to be held at the Council Chambers in the City of Ogdensburg, New York, on the 13th day of June, 2016, at 7:00 p.m., and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk give notice of such public hearing by publication in the official newspaper at least seven (7) days before the hearing date of a notice setting forth the time and place and describing the proposed ordinance in summary form.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

OLD BUSINESS

1. Councillor Stevenson asked how close we are to finalizing the Paterson Street project. Councillor Stevenson explained a number of the trees have not survived the winter, and there is not much grass growing in some areas. City Manager Sarah Purdy said she will ask Public Works Director Scott Thornhill to address this issue in his update to Council. Councillor Stevenson said there are also sidewalks in that area that need repair, and we must address all issues before we close out the project.

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NEW BUSINESS

1. Mayor Ashley thanked Police Chief Andrew Kennedy and the Ogdensburg Police Department for their efforts and hard work with the recent drug bust. Chief Kennedy said it was a successful, safe operation, and his department was assisted by many other agencies.

2. Councillor Price asked for an update on the Park Street fire damaged parcel. City Manager Sarah Purdy said the owner is under Court order to demolish the structure. Ms. Purdy explained if the owner does not demolish the structure and cleanup the parcel, the City will do the work and charge all costs back to the owner. Ms. Purdy said it is not the City's preference to do the work because it is costly. Ms. Purdy explained the property owner is motivated to complete the demolition to avoid a lien on all of his properties. Ms. Purdy said although the owner may not be moving forward as quickly as we would like to see, he is in fact progressing and lining up contractors. Ms. Purdy said she will contact the owner again next week and provide Council with an update. Councillor Morley suggested changes to the Municipal Code to prevent delays with cleaning up fire damaged parcels. Ms. Purdy said she will look at how other communities handle this issue. Councillor Morley suggested the City demolish a fire damaged structure after sixty days, but Ms. Purdy reminded Council that could get very expensive.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. City Manager Sarah Purdy discussed planning for the 2017 Fiscal Year and the City's financial outlook. (A copy of her presentation material follows these minutes.) Councillor Skamperle suggested the City review 12 hour shifts for some department as well as shared services and equipment between departments. Councillor Stevenson requested site visits to all facilities so Council can see the condition of buildings and equipment. Councillor Skamperle suggested the Planning Department explore a decrease in setback requirements to promote development

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and increase the tax base. Director of Planning and Development said that topic is under review. Councillor Morley suggested the City sell its excess water to increase revenue. Mayor Ashley thanked Ms. Purdy for an excellent presentation.

Mayor Ashley said there was a need for Executive Session but expected no action, and Councillor Morley seconded the motion.

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