

## CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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

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

ABSENT: Councillor Davis

Mayor Ashley said Councillor Davis was unable to be present for the meeting because of a death in his family. There was a consensus of Council to excuse Councillor Davis. Mayor Ashley called for a moment of silence in honor of Councillor Davis' mother.

Mayor Ashley announced that the presentation scheduled by Ogdensburg Bridge & Port Authority Executive Director Wade Davis will be rescheduled because Mr. Davis is sick.

### PUBLIC HEARING

1. A public hearing regarding a proposed ordinance to lease municipal property at 330 Ford Street (basement) for the Satellite Office of Senator Patricia Ritchie was held. No one being present to speak, the hearing was declared closed.

### CORRESPONDENCE

1. Deputy City Clerk Cathy Jock read a letter from Deb Sullivan, Pat and Judy Pearson, Deb Hollis, Peg Langley, Julie DeLarge, Jeff and Kelly Ward, Linda Woods and Christine Comeau requesting two pickleball courts at the current skateboard park. (A copy of the letter follows these minutes.)

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### CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Ashley moved that the claims as enumerated in General Fund Warrant #08-2017 in the amount of \$2,015,093.20 and Library Fund Warrant #08-2017 in the amount of \$512,517.27 and Capital Fund Warrant #08-2017 in the amount of \$1,503,242.41 and Community Development Fund Warrant #08-2017 in the amount of \$117,695.30 and Community Renewal Fund Warrant #08-2017 in the amount of \$32,266.00 as audited, be and the same are ordered paid and Councillor Price seconded the motion.

Councillor Morley asked for an explanation of the Community Development Fund Warrant. City Comptroller Timothy Johnson explained those disbursements represent interfund transfers for 2016 reimbursements to the Planning Department under a previously issued grant.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

### APPOINTMENTS

1. Mayor Ashley moved to appoint Rhonda Roethel to the Historic Commission, and Councillor Skamperle seconded the motion.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

1. Councillor Morley moved an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to enter into the necessary agreements to lease approximately 1,190 square feet of office space located at 330 Ford Street (basement) for the Satellite Office of Senator Patricia Ritchie, and Councillor Skamperle seconded to wit:

ORDINANCE #8 OF 2017  
AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE A LEASE OF MUNICIPAL PROPERTY

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
OGDENSBURG, NEW YORK, AS FOLLOWS:

ITEM ONE: An ordinance to authorize a lease of municipal property at 330 Ford Street (Basement) for the Satellite Office of Senator Patricia Ritchie.

ITEM TWO: The City Manager has presented the attached proposed agreement to lease space at 330 Ford Street. The lease term shall be from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2018, with an option to renew, unless either party provides prior written notice to the other of its intention not to renew.

ITEM THREE: The City Manager is hereby authorized to execute the attached lease agreement, hereby made part of this ordinance.

ITEM FOUR: Passage of this ordinance shall be by a vote of three-fourths (3/4) of all members of the City Council.

ITEM FIVE: This ordinance shall become effective after public notice has been published at least once each week for three weeks in the official City newspaper.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL  
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2. Councillor Stevenson moved a resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for FY2017 NBRC infrastructure funds, and Councillor Skamperle seconded to wit:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT  
A NORTHERN BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION 2017 APPLICATION**

WHEREAS, the Northern Border Regional Commission, managed by the New York State Department of State is accepting applications for Northern Border Regional Commission Funding; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ogdensburg, located in St. Lawrence County recognized as an eligible entity to apply for funding up to the maximum award \$500,000 for Basic Public Infrastructure projects; and,

WHEREAS, 2017 NBRC Economic and Infrastructure funds for Basic Public Infrastructure include water and wastewater facilities presumed to have a useful life of 20 years or more; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ogdensburg is pursuing a public facilities improvement project for the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) that conform to these requirements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Ogdensburg that it hereby authorizes the filing of a FY2017 Northern Border Regional Commission Grant Application to secure funding to undertake construction associated with the WWTP project.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City Manager, or her designee, is hereby authorized to submit the application and, if awarded, to administer the program, including executing all necessary documents relating to the application and/or administration of program funding.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

3. Mayor Ashley moved a resolution supporting the St. Lawrence County Legislature's Tobacco 21 Policy, which will raise the legal sales age for tobacco and vapor products from 18 to 21, and Councillor Stevenson seconded to wit:

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A TOBACCO 21 POLICY  
IN ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY

WHEREAS, a Tobacco 21 policy will limit the sale of tobacco products to customers age 21 and older; and

WHEREAS, a Tobacco 21 policy will not punish youth under 21 for possessing, purchasing or attempting to purchase tobacco products, nor does it require sales clerks to be 21 years old to sell tobacco products; and

WHEREAS, national data shows that 95 percent of adult smokers begin smoking before they turn 21, and that the ages of 18 to 21 are a critical period when many smokers move from experimental smoking to regular daily use; and

WHEREAS, the developing brains of young people are particularly susceptible to the addictive properties of nicotine, and tobacco industry documents show that those who start smoking by the age of 18 are twice as likely to become lifetime smokers as those who start after they turn 21; and

WHEREAS, electronic smoking device use among minors has recently tripled; and

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WHEREAS, the annual economic impact of smoking in the U.S. is more than \$300 billion in health care and lost worker productivity costs;

WHEREAS, a 2015 Institute of Medicine report concludes that raising the minimum legal sales age for tobacco products nationwide will reduce tobacco initiation, particularly among adolescents aged 15 to 17, and that it will improve health across the lifespan and save lives;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ogdensburg City Council support and urge the St. Lawrence County Legislature, to pass legislation raising the legal sales age for tobacco and vapor products from 18 to 21.

Councillor Morley said he will not support this resolution because he believes people should have the freedom of choice. Mayor Ashley said although he is aware of the negative effects of smoking on a person's health, he would only support this resolution if it was State law. Councillor Stevenson said she would not support the resolution because she does not agree the language is written well enough to be enforced. Councillor Skamperle said he would not support this resolution even if it was State law because he does not believe it is the government's place to make choices for people. Councillor Price said although he can see the negative, long term impact smoking has on taxpayers paying for health insurance costs, he does not believe the proposed legislative change has enough merit. Councillor Mitchell said he will not support the resolution and doesn't believe it would work in just one County.

The vote was:

DEFEATED, 0 TO 6

4. Councillor Skamperle moved a resolution declaring that the DPW Excess Inventory property (listed in the attachment) is surplus property and authorizes the City Manager to dispose of this surplus property by the informal procedure of sealed bids and/or internet auction, and Councillor Stevenson seconded to wit:

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A RESOLUTION TO DECLARE ITEMS AS SURPLUS PROPERTY

WHEREAS, the City of Ogdensburg owns certain property as described in the attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, the property has become obsolete over time and has been replaced; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Director has recommended that the property be deemed surplus items; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with State Finance Law, the City Council declares the property as described in the attached to be surplus property and directs the City Manager to dispose of the surplus property in accordance with City administrative procedures; and

WHEREAS, the City Council further directs the City Comptroller to delete this surplus property from the inventory of the City once disposed of by the City Manager;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Ogdensburg, hereby authorize the City Manager to dispose of the property listed in the attachment by the informal procedure of sealed bids and/or internet auction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, said surplus items shall be sold in "As Is" condition without any warranty as to condition.

Mayor Ashley asked if the porta potties listed are functional and could be used by the City in the future. Public Works Director Scott Thornhill said the porta potties would need some attention and have been sitting for quite some time. Mr. Thornhill explained there would also be a cost associated with servicing them.

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Councillor Morley asked where this surplus equipment is being stored. Mr. Thornhill said it is currently set up at the landfill and anyone is welcome to view the equipment. Mr. Thornhill said he viewed selling this surplus equipment as an opportunity to generate revenue.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

### OLD BUSINESS

1. Councillor Morley said when his family members went to the Dobisky Center to request entry to the tennis courts they were told all the regular tennis players have their own keys. Councillor Morley asked if we are giving out keys to City property. Recreation Director Matthew Curatolo said he is not aware of anyone having keys to the tennis courts and will speak with his staff.

Mayor Ashley asked when the gates to the Greenbelt area are opened. Mr. Curatolo said the gates are unlocked during the week at 7:30 a.m. and opened by the Police Department on the weekends. Public Works Director Scott Thornhill said the area currently remains locked due to the flooding issues.

2. Councillor Morley said we have a beautiful crescent area along the Oswegatchie River and suggested floral development of that area to attract visitors. Councillor Stevenson suggested the committee previously established to try to develop that area be resurrected. Councillor Stevenson explained it had been previously discussed that service clubs could adopt certain areas of the crescent. Councillor Morley also suggested flowers all along the Maple City Trail. Councillor Morley said although we wouldn't charge people to view the flowers, vendors could pay the City a fee to set up along the area for visitors. Councillor Stevenson said that type of development would also help keep the brush in that area under control.

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### NEW BUSINESS

1. Mayor Ashley said there is an opening on the Charter Review Commission for someone from District 1. Mayor Ashley asked for volunteers from District 1 to contact City Clerk Kathleen Bouchard.
2. Mayor Ashley read a proclamation declaring May 7, 2017 through May 13, 2017 Municipal Clerk Week. (A copy of the proclamation follows these minutes.)
3. City Manager Sarah Purdy read the statement issued regarding the closing of the City docks, boardwalks and portions of the Maple City Trail due to flooding issues.

### ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Director of Public Works Scott Thornhill updated Council on the City brush pickup. Mr. Thornhill explained his department will continue to pick up brush placed curbside by May 21, 2017. Mr. Thornhill said his department will start their last pass through the City on May 22, 2017. Mr. Thornhill explained residents can simply call and someone will meet them at the landfill within five minutes, but he is trying to stay within his budget for overtime. Mr. Thornhill said residents are cooperating and staff is doing their absolute best. Councillor Morley asked if he can place old rotted firewood with his brush or if he must bring it to the landfill. Mr. Thornhill said either option is acceptable and reminded everyone the landfill is open 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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Councillor Stevenson asked if a Saturday drop-off option will be offered for those who work during the week now that we will no longer offer summer pickup. Mr. Thornhill explained the last time a drop-off location was designated, only two people used it. Mr. Thornhill said he will discuss the option with staff, but he is trying to avoid the overtime cost associated with Saturday landfill hours. Councillor Stevenson asked if Mr. Thornhill would consider extending the pickup time line if the weather remains uncooperative and people are unable to get their yards cleaned up. Mr. Thornhill said he will try to remain flexible if the weather remains uncooperative.

Mayor Ashley asked what will happen if a resident places brush for pickup after the May haul has been completed. Mr. Thornhill explained the property owner will receive a letter asking them to dispose of the brush and providing ample time for them to comply. Mr. Thornhill said if the resident fails to comply, his staff will pick up the brush and the property owner will be billed accordingly. Councillor Skamperle suggested the fire station as a possible Saturday brush drop off location since it is manned 24/7. Mr. Thornhill said he will explore the option with staff.

2. Councillor Skamperle said he does not want to see the skateboard park eliminated. Councillor Skamperle said he was approached by those who use skateboard park and that group has agreed to pay for the cost of cameras to secure the area. Councillor Skamperle said the group supports the idea of moving skateboard park to behind the Lockwood Arena and would hold a fundraiser to raise the money to cover the cost of the security cameras. Councillor Skamperle asked for the Recreation Commission to review the possibility of moving the skateboard park to behind the Lockwood Arena and converting the current skateboard park into pickleball courts. Councillor Morley said he likes that idea. Councillor Stevenson suggested the Recreation Commission also review parking in those areas and said she would like to see the City be able to accommodate both groups. Mayor Ashley asked when the Recreation Commission meets again. Recreation Director Matthew Curatolo said the Recreation Commission has previously discussed moving skateboard park and were not in favor of moving it behind Lockwood Arena because that area is secluded and there were concerns about vandalism.

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Mr. Curatolo said the Recreation Commission will be meeting within the next couple weeks. Councillor Skamperle asked to be advised of the meeting date. Mr. Curatolo asked Councillor Skamperle to have the skateboard group contact him about fundraising for the security cameras.

### CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

1. Doug Loffler, 311 Paddock Street, addressed Council regarding the brush pickup. Mr. Loffler said residents are going to continue to place brush curbside and being billed for a service they already pay for in their taxes will not set well with some people. Mr. Loffler asked for the actual cost of brush pickup services in 2015 and 2016 and said he wonders how much the City is actually saving by eliminating this service. Mr. Loffler added there were people in the past who were interested in developing crescent hill and said he supports that idea.

Mayor Ashley said there was a need for Executive Session to discuss personnel, and Councillor Mitchell seconded the motion.

The vote to adjourn to Executive Session was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

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