

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

January 10, 2011

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

PRESENT: Mayor Nelson, Councillors Cilley, Morley,
Powers, Skamperle and Vaugh

ABSENT: Councillor Sholette

Councillor Skamperle stated Councillor Sholette requested to be excused tonight due to a family illness. There was a consensus of Council to excuse Councillor Sholette.

Mayor Nelson asked everyone to join him for a moment of silence to honor former Ogdensburg School Superintendent Maurice Hal Barry, who passed away Sunday; and also for Congresswoman Giffords, a federal judge and some other innocent bystanders who were involved in an Arizona shooting.

PERSONAL APPEARANCE

1. Bob Flavin, Chairman of the Vietnam Memorial Wall Committee, read a letter to Council regarding the Moving Wall that will be coming to Ogdensburg in June and asked for their support. (A copy of the letter follows these minutes.)

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Nelson moved that the claims as enumerated in General Fund Warrant #1-2011 in the amount of \$1,103,473.27 and Library Fund Warrant #1-2011 in the amount of \$43,189.40 and Capital Fund Warrant #1-2011 in the amount of \$1,656.13 and Community Development Fund Warrant #1-2011 in the amount of \$9,277.11 and Community Renewal Fund Warrant #1-2011 in the amount of \$93,624.50 and HOME Fund Warrant #1-2011 in the amount of \$0.00 and AHC Funds Warrant #1-2011 in the amount of \$23,654.89, RESTORE Program Warrant #1-2011 in the amount of \$0.00 and NSP Funds Warrant #1-2011 in the amount of \$32,845.50 as audited, be and the same are ordered paid and Councillor Vaugh seconded the motion.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

APPOINTMENTS

1. Mayor Nelson moved to re-appoint Lynn Widrick to a five-year term on the Library Board of Trustees, term to begin on January 1, 2011 and end on December 31, 2015, and Councillor Skamperle seconded the motion.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

2. Mayor Nelson moved to appoint Matthew Duprey and Mary Margaret Small to five-year terms on the Library Board of Trustees, term beginning January 1, 2011 and ending December 31, 2015, and Councillor Vaugh seconded the motion.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

1. Mayor Nelson moved a resolution to request that National Grid install a street light at the middle section of the 900 block of Jefferson Avenue, and Councillor Morley seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE INSTALLATION OF A STREET LIGHT
ON THE 900 BLOCK OF JEFFERSON AVENUE

WHEREAS, there have been concerns over the safety of residents at night in the 900 block of Jefferson Avenue; and

WHEREAS, one of the primary functions of local and state government is to serve and to protect its citizens' lives and property from injury; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Ogdensburg hereby requests the National Grid Company to install and maintain a lighting device in the 900 block, of Jefferson Avenue.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the National Grid Company.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

2. Mayor Nelson moved a resolution to request that National Grid install a street light on pole #NG3/LI59 at 35 Pine Street, and Councillor Skamperle seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE INSTALLATION OF A STREET LIGHT POLE
#NG3/LI59 AT 35 PINE STREET

WHEREAS, there have been concerns over the safety of residents at night near 35 Pine Street; and

WHEREAS, one of the primary functions of local and state government is to serve and to protect its citizens' lives and property from injury; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Ogdensburg hereby requests the National Grid Company to install and maintain a lighting device on Pole #NG3/LI59 at 35 Pine Street.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the National Grid Company.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

3. Councillor Morley moved a resolution to establish a vision, mission and goals statement in the furtherance of the development of a 2011 Strategic Management Plan, and Councillor Powers seconded to wit:

A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A VISION, MISSION AND GOALS STATEMENT
IN FURTHERANCE OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF A
2011 STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT PLAN

WHEREAS the City of Ogdensburg desires to ensure quality services to citizens and visitors; and

WHEREAS the City is looking to continually improve the operations, capital improvement and delivery of services; and

WHEREAS the City, from time to time, has sought the input of citizens through surveys, and consultation with committees, commissions, boards and similar advisory bodies; and

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WHEREAS the City Council and the administration of the City of Ogdensburg seeks to identify clear and broad sweeping organizational goals to ensure that the operations and services are provided efficiently, effectively and creatively to meet the present and future needs of the City of Ogdensburg; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the strategic plan shall be implemented, adopted and reflect:

- ◆ accountability to the community
- ◆ a participatory process by which the City Council and administration assume shared ownership
- ◆ a shared, value-based vision
- ◆ open, candid consideration and review of the status quo
- ◆ a recognition that a strategic plan is a key part of effective management
- ◆ quality data and input; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Ogdensburg establishes the vision statement as:

The City of Ogdensburg is a vibrant and vital commerce center in the St. Lawrence Region, with clean, safe and beautiful neighborhoods, streets and parks.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Ogdensburg establishes the mission statement as:

The mission of the City of Ogdensburg will provide quality public services and facilities to promote and protect the health, safety and welfare of its residents, businesses and visitors in a cost-effective manner. In so doing, the City will promote and integrate the resources of its unique location, historic character and heritage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Ogdensburg adopts the following as a statement of values:

Ogdensburg is a place with strong values, traditions and heritage where people choose to live, work, socialize and recreate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the goals of the City of Ogdensburg are to establish a:

- ◆ financially secure city government
- ◆ safe and secure community
- ◆ balanced, sustainable local economy
- ◆ revitalized neighborhoods and commercial areas
- ◆ beautiful City of Ogdensburg

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager of the City of Ogdensburg as a part of developing a Strategic Management Plan is directed to establish objectives to: further the vision, mission and goals; to help the organization do a better job; to focus its energy, to ensure that members of the organization are working toward the same goals; and to assess and adjust the organization's direction in response to a changing environment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said 2011 objectives shall support and further the following core priorities:

- ◆ Waterfront development and revitalization, including the grounds of the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center to achieve a mixed public and private use as well as recognition of the benefits of international use and access.
- ◆ Expansion of the tax base.
- ◆ Economic development with emphasis on the port, downtown revitalization, vacant land and job creation.
- ◆ Growth, development and improvement of infrastructure.
- ◆ Technological expansion and creation.
- ◆ Improvement of housing stock.

Development of tourism by expansion of cultural and recreational opportunities and promotion of 4-lane highway access.

Councillor Vaugh suggested changing the Department of Planning & Development goals regarding the Maple City Trail extension and instead set a goal to extend the trail through our City-owned properties (Diamond, Shade Roller and Fort properties) on the St. Lawrence River waterfront. There was no consensus.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

4. Mayor Nelson moved a resolution calling for a public hearing regarding the Community Development Block Grant Program, and Councillor Morley seconded to wit:

**RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the City of Ogdensburg is considering an application for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding, and

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WHEREAS, the CDBG program provides funds to local governments for housing, economic development, and public facilities, with the principal beneficiaries being persons with low or moderate incomes, and

WHEREAS, the projects may also aid in eliminating slums and blight and in the meeting of community needs of a particular urgency, and

WHEREAS, the City may apply for up to \$400,000 to perform a single activity or up to \$600,000 to perform water/sewer infrastructure activities; and

WHEREAS, the Housing and Community Development Act of 1977, as amended, requires that the City hold a public hearing to provide information about and allow for participation in the development of the grant application;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that in order to provide residents with an opportunity to participate in the development of the application, the City Council shall hold a public hearing in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, Ogdensburg, New York, on the 24th day of January, 2011, at 7:00 p.m.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk give notice of such public hearings 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 dates setting forth the time and place.

Director of Planning and Development, Justin Woods, explained that he is looking for the public's help to develop a Community Development Block Grant application. Mr. Woods stated that the City could apply for \$400,000. to \$600,000. which could be used to help supplement the City's Housing Program or to create a revolving loan fund to help small businesses.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

5. Councillor Powers moved a resolution to authorize an amendment to the 2011 budget to transfer EPA Grant Funds into the General Fund to cover the salaries and benefits of two Planning and Development Program Managers, and Councillor Skamperle seconded to wit:

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2011 BUDGET
TO TRANSFER EPA GRANT FUNDS INTO THE GENERAL FUND
TO COVER THE SALARIES AND BENEFITS OF
TWO PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM MANAGERS

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WHEREAS, the City of Ogdensburg Strategic Management Plan sets the City's Organizational Goals which includes, among others, a Financially Secure City Government, Revitalizing Aging Neighborhoods and Commercial Areas, and developing a Balanced and Sustainable Local Economy; and

WHEREAS, in furtherance of these Goals, the City has received grants from the New York State Department of State to update the Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan and from the Brownfield Opportunity Areas Program to prepare a revitalization plan and implementation strategy for waterfront areas affected by Brownfield sites; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ogdensburg with support from the New York State Department of State Division of Coastal Resources, applied for and received additional funding to support the BOA Program and development of the City's Brownfield Opportunity Area Plan from the United States Environmental Protection Agency; and

WHEREAS, the EPA has awarded the City of Ogdensburg 1 of only 23 Area-Wide Pilot Awards throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, the City Council authorized the acceptance of the EPA grant, which was written to hire additional staff to support the development and implementation of the waterfront and brownfields revitalization programs; and

WHEREAS, the City has interviewed for these positions, made offers that have been accepted conditioned on the availability of grant funds and the City Council's approval of a budget amendment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Comptroller is hereby authorized to amend the 2011 City budget to show \$107,688 from the EPA Area Wide Pilot Grant (Account H809003), as Revenues and Expenses to the Department of Planning and Development, General Fund Account A8020.

Mayor Nelson asked Director of Planning and Development, Justin Woods what is the total grant amount for the two years. Mr. Woods stated the total EPA grant amount is \$145,000. Mayor Nelson questioned if \$107,000. of the grant is being spent the 1st year, how will we fund the 2nd year. Mr. Woods stated funding for the 2nd year balance will come from the BOA program which has a balance of \$355,000.

Mayor Nelson stated at budget time and during the grant application he requested a copy of the BOA and LWRP measurables, deliverables, objectives for the positions, job descriptions and timelines for meeting the deliverables. Mayor Nelson stated he didn't receive this information. Mr. Woods stated he will provide that to Council. Mayor Nelson stated he is concerned that the people will be in positions without objectives. Mayor Nelson also stated he doesn't want to spend the money for these positions without objectives and wants to make sure we are getting the most bang for our buck.

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Mr. Woods stated work plans have been developed and tailored to the two-year grant timeline. Mr. Woods also stated the work plans for both grants lay out deliverables that have to be achieved.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

6. Mayor Nelson moved a resolution to support the recommendations developed and presented by GHD, Inc (formally Stearns & Wheeler) in the Combined Sewer Overflow Long Term Control Plan, and Councillor Morley seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN
THE COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOW LONG TERM CONTROL PLAN

WHEREAS, according to the City of Ogdensburg's State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) Permit (No. 002 9831) the City is required to develop and submit to the New York City Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) a Combined Sewer Overflow Long Term Control Plan (CSO LTCP), and

WHEREAS, the Ogdensburg City Council retained GHD, Inc (formally Stearns & Wheeler) to develop the CSO LTCP, and GHD, Inc has developed and presented the CSO LTCP to the Ogdensburg City Council, and

WHEREAS, the CSO LTCP includes a recommendation for the following three CSO controls with schedule and estimated costs (2010 dollars):

Paterson Street Sewer Separation: years 2011-2012 (\$1.7 million)

Weir Modifications: years 2012-2014 (\$0.4 million)

CSO Storage Facility: years 2014-2018 (\$3.5 million)

WHEREAS, approval of the CSO LTCP by the NYSDEC obligates the City of Ogdensburg to implement the three CSO controls (or equal);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ogdensburg City Council hereby supports the recommendations (or equal) in the CSO LTCP, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that GHD, Inc, on behalf of the City of Ogdensburg, submit the CSO LTCP to the NYSDEC.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

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OLD BUSINESS

1. Councillor Powers asked City Manager, Arthur Sciorra about the status of Office of Mental Health and Alliance Energy. Mr. Sciorra stated he cannot answer that until all the new government players are in place and we see Alliance going forward to obtain contract changes. Mr. Sciorra also stated the PSA has just recently approved the plan for the purchase agreement between the PSA and Alliance Energy for steam for the next three years.

2. Councillor Powers welcomed the City's two new Planning and Development Department employees. Mayor Nelson explained that grant funds are paying the salaries and benefits of these new employees and they will be working on our waterfront and Brownfield programs. Councillor Skamperle stated it is great to see an Ogdensburg native return home to help the City.

3. Councillor Morley asked if the Beaver Brook project has been put out to bid. Director of Public Works, Kit Smith stated the survey was finished Friday and mailed to Barton and Loguidice for review today. Mr. Smith stated the project is in design; and the planning will go out to bid in the next two weeks, with a bid by mid February. Councillor Skamperle asked if the cracks in catch basin B have been addressed, and Mr. Smith stated it has been repaired.

4. Councillor Morley asked about the status of the Visitors' Center concession and why the last operator chose to leave. Mr. Sciorra stated an advertisement for the concession was in last Sunday's newspaper, and last season's operator had other full-time jobs.

5. Councillor Vaugh asked for an update on the City's website. Mr. Sciorra stated he would check into this and get back to Council.

NEW BUSINESS

1. 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 Morley, Cilley and Powers as the 2011 Executive Compensation Committee. Mayor Nelson thanked the three Councillors for agreeing to serve on this committee.

2. Councillor Vaugh stated he sent a memo to the City Council, City Manager and City Comptroller regarding a proposal for a Government Efficiency and Reform Committee to look at City Departments and State Mandates.

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Councillor Morley stated in the past he never thought the City needed a committee such as this, but has changed his mind and believes three Councillors should be on the committee instead of two. Councillor Skamperle stated a committee such as this has merit but would also like to see three Councillors on it. Councillor Powers stated he opposes a committee of three or four Councillors pushing through reform. Councillor Cilley stated he felt the committee is a nice idea but is premature until we know what is coming from the state. Mayor Nelson stated the Charter specifically prohibits operational-type things being taken on by a select body as this, and should be left to the City Manager, department heads and staff. Mayor Nelson also stated that if the committee is going to be formed, it should consist of all members of Council, department heads and selected staff. Mayor Nelson stated staff has done a fantastic job addressing budget challenges over the past few years. Mayor Nelson stated last December NYCOM sent out Mayoral Task Force recommendations on Mandate and Property Tax Relief which say you can't cap what you can't control, such as the State's retirement bill. Mayor Nelson added he would rather focus on supporting NYCOM's task force. Councillor Vaugh stated he would like to have a healthy and open discussion on how we can better run City departments. Councillor Vaugh stated he would like to be proactive, aggressive and more outspoken against state mandates. Councillor Skamperle stated he would support a committee whether partial or whole. Mr. Sciorra explained that he has had this discussion with staff on a regular basis and we will respond to any Council task. Mr. Sciorra stated he is happy to hear that the State is talking about right-sizing the state government as the City started right-sizing five years ago. Mr. Sciorra said the NYCOM issues that we have with the State do need to be addressed because we can't keep adjusting locally without looking at the State level. Mayor Nelson stated he will ask NYCOM about the best practices and initiatives used by other municipalities to streamline operations.

3. Councillor Powers congratulated former City Councillor, Steve Larose, on his recent purchase of the Howland Pump Company, along with two of his partners. Councillor Powers wished him well on his new endeavor.

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