

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

March 2, 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: Councillors Sholette

Mayor Nelson stated Councillor Sholette requested to be excused from tonight's meeting. There was a consensus of Council to excuse Councillor Sholette.

Councillor Vaugh requested that Agenda Bill #16, regarding the National Popular Vote Bill, be removed from Items for Council Action and put under Items for Discussion. There was a consensus of Council to remove Agenda Bill #16 from Items for Council Action and move it to Items for Discussion.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Nelson moved that the claims as enumerated in General Fund Warrant #4-2011 in the amount of \$624,543.30 and Library Fund Warrant #4-2011 in the amount of \$23,492.36 and Capital Fund Warrant #4-2011 in the amount of \$37,696.85 and Community Development Fund Warrant #4-2011 in the amount of \$0.00 and Community Renewal Fund Warrant #4-2011 in the amount of \$6,722.51 and HOME Fund Warrant #4-2011 in the amount of \$6,221.17 and AHC Funds Warrant #4-2011 in the amount of \$16,500.00, RESTORE Program Warrant #4-2011 in the amount of \$0.00 and NSP Funds Warrant #4-2011 in the amount of \$0.00 and NY Main St. Program Warrant #4-2011 in the amount of 0.00 as audited, be and the same are ordered paid and Councillor Vaugh seconded the motion.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

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APPOINTMENTS

1. Mayor Nelson moved to appoint Gary L. Bouchard to a five-year term on the Board of Assessment and Review, term to expire on September 30, 2015, and Councillor Morley seconded the motion.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

1. Councillor Skamperle moved a resolution to amend the 2011 budget to allow for the use of \$89,176. in unexpended 2008 Operation Stonegarden Grant Funds, and Councillor Powers seconded to wit:

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE 2011 GENERAL FUND BUDGET IN
CONNECTION WITH 2008 STONEGARDEN FUNDS

WHEREAS, the City was awarded funds from the Office of Homeland Security, in 2009, from the 2008 Operation Stonegarden Program in the amount of \$280,000.00 and

WHEREAS, not all of the funds have been expended from the grant by the end of 2010 as intended, and

WHEREAS, approval to reallocate the remaining \$89,176.00 has been granted by the Office of Homeland Security to allow for the purchase of a marked, four wheel drive Tahoe and Specialized Equipment to be utilized in the on-going Homeland Security Operations, and

WHEREAS, the 2011 General Fund Budget did not include any expenditure of the remaining funds from the grant,

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NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council amends the 2011 budget to allow for the expenditure of 2008 Operation Stonegarden Program grant funds, along with the reimbursement from the above reference grant, in the amount of \$89,176.00 to be appropriated in the following manner;

\$33,652.00 to the Capital Equipment Line – A3120.310

\$35,848.00 to the Specialized Equipment Line – A3120.240

\$19,000.00 to the Overtime/Fringe Line – A3120.120

\$676.00 to the Gasoline Line – A3120.480

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2008 Operation Stonegarden Program revenue account A4093 be amended in the 2011 budget to reflect the \$89,176.00 in anticipated revenue.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

2. Councillor Powers moved a resolution to amend the 2011 budget to allow for the use of \$168,502. from the 2009 Operation Stonegarden Grant funds, and Councillor Cilley seconded to wit:

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE 2011 GENERAL FUND BUDGET IN CONNECTION WITH 2009 STONEGARDEN FUNDS

WHEREAS, the City was awarded funds from the Office of Homeland Security, in 2010, for the 2009 Operation Stonegarden Program, and

WHEREAS, the final contract for the award was received after approval of the 2011 Budget and

WHEREAS, as a result of the late arrival of the contract, funds from the grant were not included in the 2011 budget,

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NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council amends the 2011 budget to allow for the expenditure of the 2009 Operation Stonegarden Program grant funds, in the amount of \$168,502.00, to be appropriated as follows;

\$22,175.00 to the Capital Equipment Line – A3120.310

\$107,122.00 to the Overtime/Fringe Line – A3120.120

\$31,929.00 to the Gasoline Line – A3120.480

\$7,276.00 to the Equipment Maintenance Line – A3120.440

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a 2009 Operation Stonegarden Program revenue account be established in the 2011 budget as follows;

\$168,502.00 to the 2009 Operation Stonegarden Program revenue line – A4094.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

3. Councillor Skamperle moved to amend the 2011 budget to allow for the use of \$24,576 in grant funds in connection with a Buffer Zone Protection Program grant, and Councillor Morley seconded to wit:

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE 2011 GENERAL FUND BUDGET IN
CONNECTION WITH 2008 BUFFER ZONE GRANT

WHEREAS, the City was awarded funds from the 2008 Buffer Zone Protection Grant Program in the amount of \$24,576.00, and

WHEREAS, the final contract for this award was received after approval of the 2011 Budget and

WHEREAS, funds from the 2008 Buffer Zone Protection Program grant have not been included in the 2011 budget,

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NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council amends the 2011 budget to allow for the expenditure of the 2008 Buffer Zone Protection Program grant funds in the amount of \$24,576.00, to be appropriated as follows;

\$24,576.00 to the Specialized Equipment Line – A3120.240

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a 2008 Buffer Zone Protection Program revenue account be established in the 2011 budget as follows;

\$24,576.00 to the 2008 Buffer Zone Protection Program revenue line – A4090.

The vote was:

CARRIED AYES ALL

OLD BUSINESS

1. Councillor Morley requested an update on the Beaver Brook project. City Manager Arthur Sciorra stated the project will be going out to bid this week. Director of Public Works, Kit Smith advised that he received the drawings and specifications today, and the project will go out to bid tomorrow.

2. Councillor Cilley requested an update on the Lake Street Bridge project. City Manager Arthur Sciorra stated the City is waiting on the Army Corps of Engineers and the Coast Guard.

3. Councillor Skamperle requested an update on the Co-Generation Plant. Mr. Sciorra stated Eagle Creek is taking possession of Alliance Energy's three-year purchase agreement. Mr. Sciorra stated when the Eagle Creek representatives come to Ogdensburg for a tour, they also plan to meet with him. Mr. Sciorra added the school, City and County taxes have been paid along with the gas bills for steam over the next three years. Mr. Sciorra advised that they hope to negotiate a new land contract with the Department of Mental Health and move ahead with the funding for the project. Mayor Nelson asked Mr. Sciorra to let Eagle Creek know we're ready to help.

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4. Councillor Skamperle requested an update on the tree inventory survey from Director of Planning and Development, Justin Woods. Councillor Skamperle stated he read in the NYS Conservationist Magazine that the Urban Forestry Grant was being used to beautify communities by using paving stones and would pass the article on to the City Manager. Councillor Skamperle suggested using this grant to tie into future Ford Street projects. Mr. Sciorra said he would provide Council with an update and noted that three rain gardens are being required for the Paterson Street reconstruction along with pervious paving stones.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Mayor Nelson welcomed and congratulated the City's new Recreation Director, Matt Curatolo.

2. Mayor Nelson stated Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority will be taking ownership of the BreconRidge building and asked if the building will be taken off the tax rolls. Mr. Sciorra said that Wade Davis, Chief Executive Officer of the Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority, has advised him that the OBPA was taking ownership of the property, which means it will be taken off the tax rolls. Mayor Nelson asked Mr. Sciorra to inquire about the status of the building, their tax intentions and if the company is continuing to make lease payments. Mr. Sciorra stated he will meet with Mr. Davis next week.

3. Mayor Nelson provided an update from the February NYCOM session. Mayor Nelson outlined the following topics: 2% property tax cap with mandated relief, health insurance costs, retirement costs, 10% cut to State operations and a more difficult budget process this year.

4. Councillor Powers gave kudos to the Police Department for the recent drug-related arrests. Councillor Powers stated he felt the City is getting the most bang for their buck associated with the Stonegarden Grants. Councillor Powers stated the PD has done a good job administrating the grants and thanked the employees on the frontline. Police Chief Richard Polniak stated Lieutenant Andrew Kennedy has been instrumental in completing the grant applications and monitoring their progression.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Councillor Vaugh provided Council with the material and a resolution supporting the National Popular Vote Bill. Councillor Vaugh stated this bill has bipartisan support, and will get more people out to vote. Councillor Skamperle asked if this bill would eliminate the Electoral College, and Councillor Vaugh stated it would not. Councillor Morley asked why the process needed to change, and Councillor Vaugh explained that it empowers each vote to count equally. Councillor Morley stated he would like more information on this bill. Mayor Nelson requested a presentation comparing the present system to the proposed system.

Mayor Nelson stated there was a need for Executive Session. Mayor Nelson moved to adjourn to Executive Session, and Councillor Vaugh seconded the motion.

Upon returning from Executive Session, all members of Council were still present.

Mayor Nelson moved a resolution calling for public hearing and public notice regarding the lease of municipal property, and Councillor Powers seconded to wit:

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that Ordinance No. of 2011, entitled “An Ordinance to Lease 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 14th day of March, 2011, at 7:00 p.m., and

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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.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

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