

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

March 28, 2011

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

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Morley, Councillors Cilley,
Powers, Sholette, Skamperle and Vaugh

ABSENT: Mayor Nelson

PUBLIC HEARING

1. A public hearing regarding a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding application was held.

The following spoke:

James O'Neil, C. W. Augustine, explained the Community Development Block Grant program.

Christine J. Tupper, Deputy City Clerk, read a letter from William O'Brien, 1416 Jay Street, who has unsuccessfully applied for Community Development Block Grant funds. Mr. O'Brien requested that this grant not target just one area of the City, but open grants to all residents throughout the community. (A copy of this letter follows these minutes.)

No one else being present to speak, the hearing was declared closed.

PERSONAL APPEARANCE

1. Matthew Flynn, 1124 Washington Street, spoke in favor of bringing Senator Patricia Ritchie's office to City Hall.

2. Wade Davis, Executive Director, Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority, updated Council on the transfer of 120 Chimney Point Drive from BreaconRidge, Inc. to the OBPA.

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Mr. Davis also stated he received a Freedom of Information request from City Assessor, Kathryn Bateman. Mr. Davis stated the OBPA is trying to honor the spirit of the request and will speak with their legal counsel. City Manager, Arthur Sciorra stated he will schedule a meeting with Mr. Davis, Mrs. Bateman and himself, to work through the FOIL request.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Deputy Mayor Morley stated the City Clerk's office received a letter to be read tonight, however the letter is insulting to City staff and will not be read.

CONSENT AGENDA

Deputy Mayor Morley moved that the claims as enumerated in General Fund Warrant #6-2011 in the amount of \$523,129.82 and Library Fund Warrant #6-2011 in the amount of \$22,726.90 and Capital Fund Warrant #6-2011 in the amount of \$232,211.08 and Community Development Fund Warrant #6-2011 in the amount of \$3,861.51 and Community Renewal Fund Warrant #6-2011 in the amount of \$3,070.53 and HOME Fund Warrant #6-2011 in the amount of \$0.00 and AHC Funds Warrant #6-2011 in the amount of \$0.00, RESTORE Program Warrant #6-2011 in the amount of \$0.00 and NSP Funds Warrant #6-2011 in the amount of \$17,781.50 and NY Main St. Program Warrant #6-2011 in the amount of 0.00 as audited, be and the same are ordered paid and Councillor Powers seconded the motion.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

There was a consensus of Council to amend the agenda and move the Executive Session to this point in the meeting to discuss a personnel matter and a lease agreement.

Deputy Mayor Morley moved to adjourn to Executive Session, and Councillor Powers seconded the motion.

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The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

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

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

1. Deputy Mayor Morley introduced a resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit a 2011 Community Development Block Grant application, and Councillor Vaugh seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT A 2011
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION

WHEREAS, the City of Ogdensburg Strategic Management Plan makes it an organizational goal of the City to revitalize aging neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ogdensburg values an improved housing stock; and

WHEREAS, the Ogdensburg City Council adopted the City's Abbreviated Consolidated Plan which, among other things, sets Housing Rehabilitation as one of the City's primary housing priorities; and

WHEREAS, New York State Homes & Community Renewal is accepting applications for the 2011 Community Development Block Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Community Development Block Grant Program is to provide support for low and- moderate-income residents to perform housing rehabilitation to eliminate unsafe and unhealthy conditions;

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Ogdensburg that it hereby authorizes the filing of a 2011 Community Development Block Grant application to secure funding to undertake rehabilitation of the homes of low- and moderate-income City residents; and

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

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

2. Councillor Skamperle moved a resolution requesting NYS Department of Transportation to install directional signs that say “Downtown District” at ten intersections, and Councillor Sholette seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION REQUESTING NYS DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
INSTALL “DOWNTOWN DISTRICT” DIRECTIONAL SIGNS

WHEREAS, the City of Ogdensburg Strategic Management Plan Makes it an organizational goal of the City to Revitalize Aging Neighborhoods & Commercial Area; and

WHEREAS, in support of this goal the City initiated a “Main Street” Revitalization Plan and a “Main Street” Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the Draft “Main Street” Revitalization Plan recommends installing community way-finding signs; and

WHEREAS, the City has worked with the Greater Ogdensburg Chamber of Commerce, NYS Dept. of Transportation, and City Dept. of Public Works to identify recommended language and locations for signs that direct motorists to downtown Ogdensburg;

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Ogdensburg City Council hereby authorizes the City Manager to request the New York State Department of Transportation to install directional signs that say "Downtown District" at the following 10 intersections (as shown on the attached map):

1. Southbound on the Bridge Approach Road directing drivers to turn right on NY 37;
2. East and Westbound on NY 37 directing drivers westerly on Ford Street Extension;
3. East and Westbound on NY 37 directing drivers to take the Off Ramps for State Street and at the bottom of both ramps directing drivers to State Street and downtown;
4. Eastbound on NY 37 directing drivers on NY 68 to Downtown Arterial; and
5. Northbound on NY 812 directing drivers straight on State Street; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the New York State Department of Transportation Regional Office and the Greater Ogdensburg Chamber of Commerce.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

3. Councillor Skamperle moved a resolution authorizing award of a contract for the Beaver Brook Stormwater Improvements project, and Councillor Vaughn seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF CONTRACT
FOR THE BEAVER BROOK STORMWATER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

WHEREAS, bids have been solicited and received for the Beaver Brook Stormwater Improvements Project; and

WHEREAS, the City's consulting engineer and City staff have evaluated the bids and recommended the contract be awarded to the responsible low bidder;

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Arthur J. Sciorra, City Manager, is authorized to enter into the following contract, for a sum not to exceed \$106,500.00, on behalf of the City; and

CONTRACTOR	BID AMOUNT	CONTINGENCY
Fiacco & Riley Construction, Inc. P.O. Box 240, 283 CR 48 Norwood, NY 13668	Base Bid Alt. #1	\$96,000.00 \$9,700 \$800.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the funds to pay for this work shall be derived from Capital Account H812003.518.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

Deputy Mayor Morley moved to bring Bill #17 back off the table for discussion, and Councillor Powers seconded the motion.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

ORDINANCE # 1 OF 2011

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 March 15, 2011 through December 31, 2012, with an option to renew, unless either party provides prior written notice to the other of its intention not to renew.

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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 take effect ten (10) days after publication of notice that shall give the title and describe same in summary form.

After much discussion amongst Council, Councillor Powers moved to amend the ordinance by changing the beginning date of the lease from March 15th to March 29th, and Councillor Cilley seconded the motion.

The vote to amend the resolution was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

The resolution as amended now read:

ORDINANCE # 1 OF 2011

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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 take effect ten (10) days after publication of notice that shall give the title and describe same in summary form.

(History of Bill #17: This ordinance was originally introduced for discussion on 03/14/11 by Mayor Nelson and seconded by Councillor Powers. After much discussion, Councillor Morley moved to table the ordinance, and Councillor Powers seconded the motion. The resolution was tabled.)

The vote on the ordinance as amended was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

OLD BUSINESS

1. Councillor Sholette stated last week he attended a Planning Board meeting, and the board questioned how the required number of parking spaces for new and existing businesses is determined. Councillor Sholette noted the rules seem to vary and used the example of the building Center for Sight is remodeling. Councillor Sholette stated the Planning Board wanted the whole parking lot sold to the doctor considering the downtown location of the building. Director of Planning and Development, Justin Woods stated the Planning Board did not understand parking space requirements. Mr. Woods added that the process was explained in a memo to the board, which he will also provide to Council.

2. Councillor Sholette requested an update on the Diamond site development. Mr. Woods stated a title search and the property research necessary to put together the conservation easements, are being completed along with the management plan associated with the environmental restoration program which paid for the cleanup. Mr. Woods also stated a preliminary marketing strategy has been put together which includes showcasing the property at the National Brownfields Conference to experienced Brownfield developers as well as a documentary showing the City's properties that are available for development. Mr. Woods noted he will be meeting with a couple of New York-based developers who have experience in Brownfields and waterfront development.

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Councillor Powers stated the City's booth at the EXPO was very impressive and noted three interested individuals came to the booth and the City Manager was there to answer their questions.

Councillor Skamperle asked if the property was open to fishing at this time. Mr. Woods stated he was not sure if the gate was open but would check into it.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Councillor Skamperle stated over the weekend he saw fishermen along the river and would like to remind the public that they cannot fish between the Twin Bridges and the damn until the opening day of walleye season. Councillor Skamperle stated it is his understanding that it is illegal to fish from shore on our waterfront. City Manager, Arthur Sciorra stated the river may be fished from any point on shore except in the marina. Councillor Skamperle also asked if the Augsbury property is open for fishing access. Mr. Sciorra stated the City does not have title to that property, but will contact the Kiwanis Club.

2. Councillor Cilley stated three Councillors will not be present at the April 11th meeting, and asked if it should be rescheduled. Deputy Mayor Morley stated four Councillors will be present at April 11th meeting, which is a quorum.

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