

## CITY COUNCIL MEETING

March 23, 2009

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

PRESENT: Mayor Nelson, Councillors Flynn, Hannan,  
Morley, Powers, Sholette and Vaugh

ABSENT: None

### PROCLAMATION

1. Mayor Nelson signed and read a proclamation recognizing Coach William Merna for his outstanding service to our community as a teacher, mentor and basketball coach, and congratulated him as he is being inducted into the New York State Basketball Hall of Fame. (A copy of the Proclamation follows these minutes.)

### PUBLIC HEARING

1. A public hearing regarding the submission of a grant application to the NYS Office of Community Renewal was held. No one being present to speak, the hearing was declared closed.

### PRESENTATION

1. Justin Woods Director of Planning and Development made a presentation to Council regarding the design of the Visitor's Center panel exhibits. (A copy of the presentation follows these minutes.)

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Nelson moved that the claims as enumerated in General Fund Warrant #6-2009 in the amount of \$432,831.17 and Library Fund Warrant #6-2009 in the amount of \$23,575.94, Capital Fund Warrant #6-2009 in the amount of \$61,330.96 and Community Development Fund Warrant #6-2009 in the amount of \$4,875.40 and Community Renewal Fund Warrant #6-2009 in the amount of \$11,095.50 and HOME Fund Warrant #6-2009 in the amount of \$122.17 and AHC Funds Warrant #6-2009 in the amount of \$10,200.00, as audited, be and the same are ordered paid and Councillor Powers seconded the motion.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

APPOINTMENTS

1. Mayor Nelson moved the appointment of Katherine Wears to the Museum Board of Trustees, term to expire 12/31/12, and Councillor Flynn seconded the motion.

The vote was:

AYES: Mayor Nelson, Councillors Flynn,  
Morley, Powers, Sholette and Vaugh

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Councillor Hannan

APPROVED, 6 TO 0

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ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

1. Councillor Powers moved a resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit an application for funding under the Affordable Housing Corporation Program in the amount of \$500,000.00, and Councillor Morley seconded to wit:

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT  
AN APPLICATION TO THE NEW YORK STATE AFFORDABLE HOUSING  
CORPORATION HOME OWNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the City of Ogdensburg is a past recipient of a NYS Affordable Housing Corporation grant for the rehabilitation of owner-occupied housing in the City; and

WHEREAS, the NYS Affordable Housing Corporation Home Ownership Development Program can result in benefits to the City in general and to low/moderate income persons in particular throughout the City;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Ogdensburg City Council hereby authorizes the City Manager to submit an application for funding under the 2009 - 2010 NYS Affordable Housing Corporation Home Ownership Development Program in the amount of \$500,000.00 and, upon approval of said request, to enter into and execute a project agreement with the NYS Affordable Housing Corporation for such financial assistance to the City of Ogdensburg for the Home Ownership Development Program.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

2. Councillor Vaugh moved a resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit an application for \$400,000.00 to the NYS Housing Trust Fund Office of Community Renewal for the Program Year 2009, and Councillor Morley seconded to wit:

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RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER  
TO SUBMIT A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT  
APPLICATION TO THE NYS HOUSING TRUST FUND  
CORPORATION OFFICE OF COMMUNITY RENEWAL

WHEREAS, the City Council has participated in NYS Housing Trust Fund Corporation Office of Community Renewal Program for many years, and

WHEREAS, the City is committed to the improvement of housing stock of the City, and

WHEREAS, the City is committed to the elimination of blighting influences in the City, and

WHEREAS, the Community Development Block Grant Program can result in benefits to the City in general and to low/moderate income persons in particular, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Ogdensburg City Council hereby authorizes the City Manager to submit to the NYS Housing Trust Fund Corporation Office of Community Renewal an application for funding in an amount not to exceed \$400,000.00 for the 2009 Community Development Program and, upon approval of said request, to enter into and execute a project agreement with the NYS Housing Trust Fund Corporation Office of Community Renewal for such financial assistance to the City of Ogdensburg for the 2009 Community Development Program.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

3. Councillor Morley moved a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with the firm of Stearns and Wheler for professional services to update the 1970 Judson Street Combined Sewer Separation Project plans, and Councillor Powers seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City is in the process of applying for funds under The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, and

WHEREAS, one of the projects that we are applying for funds is the Judson Street Combined Sewer Separation Project, and

WHEREAS, the plans for this project were originally completed in May of 1970 by Stearns and Wheler, and

WHEREAS, in order to have these plans brought up to current standards we will need to have additional engineering work done, and

WHEREAS, the City has received a proposal from Stearns and Wheler to provide the necessary updated plans, for a price of \$19,300.00,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the City Manager is authorized to enter into a contract with Stearns and Wheler to perform the needed work, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the funds to cover the additional cost, \$19,300.00, will be transferred from the fund balance in the Sewer Fund.

There was much discussion among Council regarding the need for allocating such monies without knowing when and if stimulus funds will be available.

The vote was:

AYES: Mayor Nelson, Councillors Hannan,  
Morley, Powers, Sholette and Vaugh

NAYS: Councillor Flynn

APPROVED, 6 TO 1

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### OLD BUSINESS

1. Councillor Vaugh requested a resolution or a letter be drafted with copies sent to the State Comptroller and Attorney General requesting Exxon-Mobile honor their agreement with the Fort La Presentation Association. There was a consensus of Council to direct staff to request an update from the Fort La Presentation Association regarding their legal proceedings with Exxon-Mobile.

2. Councillor Vaugh asked for an update on a possible location to house the Ogdensburg Chamber of Commerce on Route 37. The Council discussed various location possibilities for the Chamber, and City Manager Arthur Sciorra stated he will discuss this with Economic Development Program Manager Kim DesChamp as she is the City's representative on the Chamber board.

3. Councillor Morley stated he would like to address the Lockwood Arena marketing plan under Items For Discussion at the next Council meeting . Mr. Sciorra stated he would furnish Council with a five-year trend report for that discussion.

4. Councillor Hannan requested an update from City Manager Arthur Sciorra on the Park Plaza legal proceedings, where the City plans to be in the spring-summer season with this project and any applications made to help the owners of the property with the cost of demolition for the next City Council meeting.

5. Councillor Powers stated he would like to discuss the St. Lawrence River Redevelopment Agency tabled resolution at the next City Council meeting. There was a consensus of Council to have a presentation made by both the River Redevelopment Agency and the Industrial Development Agency at the next Council meeting.

6. Councillor Sholette requested an update from Mr. Sciorra regarding the contract with the Ogdensburg Volunteer Rescue Squad. Mr. Sciorra stated that the City submitted a draft, the rescue squad sent it back to us and the City has sent it back with a few changes.

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### NEW BUSINESS

1. Mayor Nelson reminded everyone that the Ogdensburg Boys and Girls' Club EXPO will be March 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Nelson welcomed Council to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony at 3:30 p.m. Friday the 27<sup>th</sup>.

2. Mayor Nelson stated that he would like to send a letter on the behalf of the City to Governor Paterson, Empire State Development Corporation and our other elected officials opposing the 20:1 investment to zone benefit ratio set by the State for the Empire Zones as the proposed changes would have a negative impact on the Curran Renewable Energy project in Massena and it would also hinder other economic development activity for new businesses.

3. Councillor Hannan stated he was not clear on the regulations and laws regarding appointments approved by Council. City Manager Arthur Sciorra stated he would provide a copy of these regulations.

4. Councillor Hannan stated he will be away for spring break and unable to attend the next City Council meeting scheduled for April 13<sup>th</sup>. There was a consensus of Council to not hold the River Redevelopment Agency and the Industrial Development Agency presentations and the discussion regarding the Lockwood Arena until the following meeting when all members of Council will be present.

5. Councillor Hannan asked if Mr. Sciorra had an update from Mr. Douglas regarding the Riverbank Power project. Mr. Sciorra reported that he has not heard back from Mr. Douglas.

6. Councillor Vaugh stated Governor Paterson and the Senate Democrats recently took \$5,000,000.00 from the NYPA fund balance and NYPA is now implementing a tax hike of 12.1%, which will include bonuses for employees. Councillor Vaugh stated that in these tough economic times there should not be tax rate increases.

7. Councillor Vaugh stated that the Ogdensburg Police Department's Narcotic Unit made nine arrests this morning and acknowledged the good job they are doing to control this issue.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Councillor Hannan stated that he would like to discuss the recent year end report provided by City Comptroller Philip Cosmo at the April 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Mayor Nelson moved to adjourn to Executive Session and Councillor Morley seconded the motion. Mayor Nelson stated there may be Council action following this session regarding negotiations.

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

Councillor Sholette moved a resolution to ratify a labor contract with the CSEA Hourly Unit for 2009, and Councillor Flynn seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION TO RATIFY  
LABOR CONTRACT WITH THE CSEA  
SALARIED UNIT FOR 2009

WHEREAS, on February 18, 2009 the City Manager executed the attached Tentative Labor Agreement for 2009 with the CSEA Salaried Unit; and

WHEREAS, said Tentative Agreement was ratified by membership vote of the CSEA Salaried Unit on March 19, 2009; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ogdensburg City Council hereby ratifies the terms of said Tentative Agreement and authorizes the City Manager to execute a new labor contract with the CSEA Salaried Unit for 2009; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Comptroller is authorized to transfer \$30,200.00 from the Contingency Account A1990 to fulfill the terms of the Labor Agreement for 2009.



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The vote was:

AYES: Mayor Nelson, Councillors Flynn,  
Morley, Powers, Sholette and Vaugh

NAYS: Councillor Hannan

APPROVED, 6 TO 1

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