

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

March 11, 2013

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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 Ashley, Cilley, Skamperle, Hosmer and Stevenson

ABSENT: Mayor Nelson

There was a consensus of Council to excuse Mayor Nelson because he is out of town at a meeting.

PRESENTATION

1. Library Director Wayne Miller made a presentation to Council regarding the stucco and window repair/replacement. (A copy of the presentation material follows these minutes.) Mr. Miller said the cost was originally estimated at \$52,000, but the required asbestos abatement now brings the total to \$100,000. Mr. Miller explained 43 windows and the stucco on the west side of the building will be repaired while 3 vinyl windows will be replaced.

Deputy Mayor Morley asked if there is asbestos in the glazing and if it will be replaced. Mr. Miller said yes, the glaze is cracked and falling out of the windows. Deputy Mayor Morley said Council learned from the NSP program that it is cheaper to just replace a window. Mr. Miller said the problem is the Library is a historic building, and must meet SHPO requirements. Mr. Miller explained the replacement of the three vinyl windows will cost more than the repair of all of the historical windows. Mr. Miller said the library will realize energy savings with being able to open windows instead of using air conditioning and with the addition of weather stripping. Deputy Mayor Morley asked if Mr. Miller applied for a dormitory grant through Senator Ritchie's office similar to what the City received for the City Hall windows. City Manager John Pinkerton said SHPO did not approve the replacement of the windows at City Hall under that grant. Mr. Miller said he will contact Senator Ritchie's office about a possible grant.

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Mr. Miller explained the library also has an outstanding grant application for repairs to the handicap ramp. Mr. Miller said the stucco repair has been prioritized, and plywood is holding it up to prevent more stucco from falling off and causing further damage. Councillor Hosmer asked if the City bonds for these funds, will the Library be responsible for repayment from their budget. Mr. Pinkerton said yes. Mr. Miller confirmed the library already has the matching funds required for the \$52,000 and \$46,000 grants they have received. Mr. Miller said he has additional grant proposals waiting for responses. Councillor Skamperle asked if the stucco repair will be a permanent repair. Mr. Miller said yes, in the two sections which are the worst areas. Councillor Skamperle asked if the library should look at permanently repairing all of the stucco. Mr. Miller said it could be a half million dollar project because it is a 16,000 square foot building. Mr. Miller said some repairs have been done in the past, but entire sections will be replaced in the large areas being repaired now.

PERSONAL APPEARANCE

1. Barbara O'Keefe, Forsythe Rifles, addressed Council about the recent Battle of Ogdensburg re-enactment and thanked the City for its support. Mrs. O'Keefe advised Council that there were over 200 re-enactors and the largest spectator crowd for a winter battle. Mrs. O'Keefe reminded Council that the re-enactors and spectators visit local restaurants, bars, gas stations and stores. Mrs. O'Keefe said the street battle was the highlight of the weekend and recognized the extra support from the Police Department, Parks and Recreation Department and Department of Public Works. Mrs. O'Keefe requested that the street battle become an annual event.

David Murray of Morristown also thanked the City and said everyone appreciates the overtime put in by the Ogdensburg Police Department for the weekend. Mr. Murray said the re-enactors on the street were professional and the event was safe. Mr. Murray said the economic impact on the City that weekend was huge, and the community support is appreciated.

CONSENT AGENDA

Deputy Mayor Morley moved that the claims as enumerated in General Fund Warrant #5-2013 in the amount of \$386,780.07 and Library Fund Warrant #5-2013 in the amount of \$24,186.49 and Capital Fund Warrant #5-2013 in the amount of \$16,783.71 and Community Development Fund Warrant #5-2013 in the amount of \$1,333.75 and Community Renewal Fund Warrant #5-2013 in the amount of \$71.82 and HOME Fund Warrant #5-2013 in the amount of \$0.00 and AHC Funds Warrant #5-2013 in the amount of \$0.00, RESTORE Program Warrant #5-2013 in the amount of \$0.00 and NSP Funds Warrant #5-2013 in the amount of \$14,473.24 and NY Main St. Program Warrant #5-2013 in the amount of \$0.00 as audited, be and the same are ordered paid and Councillor Skamperle seconded the motion.

Deputy Mayor Morley asked for an explanation of the NSP Funds Warrant payment. Andrea Smith, Director of Planning and Development, said the money is coming back to the City for our costs for caring for the property.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

1. Councillor Skamperle moved a resolution authorizing the submission of a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) Grant Application, and Councillor Ashley seconded to wit:

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE
THE SUBMISSION OF A GREAT LAKES RESTORATION
INITIATIVE (GLRI) GRANT APPLICATION

WHEREAS, the City of Ogdensburg Strategic Management Plan sets the City's organizational goals, which includes among others, revitalizing aging neighborhoods and commercial areas, and having a beautiful city; and

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WHEREAS, in furtherance of these goals, the City has recently developed a complete tree inventory and management plan; and

WHEREAS, Ogdensburg NY is a Tree City USA; and

WHEREAS, properly located trees can reduce air pollution, improve water quality, lower heating and cooling costs, minimize stormwater runoff, decrease soil erosion, lessen the urban heat island effect, buffer noise pollution, provide habitat for wildlife, increase property values, and contribute to the psychological and social health of communities; and

WHEREAS, research has shown that trees in urban and urbanizing areas such as Ogdensburg can mitigate the negative effects of urban development and improve environmental quality, ecological services, and even economic prosperity; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative in partnership with the EPA and US Forest Service is seeking requests for proposals to plant and maintain tree canopy to reduce stormwater runoff;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ogdensburg City Manager is hereby authorized to submit an application for funds, and if received, to enter into any necessary contracts to administer the grant.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

2. Deputy Mayor Morley moved a resolution providing for public notice and public hearing with regard to an amendment to Article VII, Industrial and Institutional District (I/I) of the City's Zoning Ordinance allow Tavern/Club as a Special Permit Use, and Councillor Hosmer seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL INTRODUCING
AN AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE
AND PROVIDING FOR PUBLIC NOTICE AND PUBLIC HEARING

BE IT RESOLVED that the ordinance entitled "Ordinance Amending Chapter 221 Entitled 'Zoning' of the City of Ogdensburg Municipal Code" 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 in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 330 Ford Street, Ogdensburg, New York, on Monday the 25th day of March, 2013, at 7:00 p.m., and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk give notice of such public hearing by publication, in the official newspaper, at least seven days before the hearing date, of a notice setting forth the time and place and describing the proposed ordinance in summary form.

Councillor Cilley asked why this change is being proposed.

Andrea Smith, Director of Planning and Development, said it is not a solution for any particular property. Ms. Smith explained the Planning Board reviews the Municipal Code and interpreted that this type of use was already permitted. Ms. Smith said the Planning Board recommends adding this use. Ms. Smith said this type of use would be subject to additional review under the special permit process because it is different from heavy industrial practices.

Deputy Mayor Morley clarified the date of the public hearing will be March 25, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers.

The vote was:

AYES: Deputy Mayor Morley, Councillors Ashley,
Cilley, Hosmer and Skamperle

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Councillor Stevenson

CARRIED, 5 TO 0

3. Councillor Hosmer moved a resolution authorizing the submission of a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) Grant Application, and Councillor Stevenson seconded to wit:

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN AN
AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF OGDENSBURG AND THE
OGDENSBURG VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD**

WHEREAS, the City desires to recognize OVRs as a provider of ambulance/rescue squad service within the boundaries of the City of Ogdensburg; and

WHEREAS, OVRs is willing to provide said service within the boundaries of the City of Ogdensburg and will bill the users of the service directly for their services; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this Agreement is for the parties to exchange services to their mutual benefit; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Manager is authorized to sign the attached agreement between the City of Ogdensburg and the Ogdensburg Volunteer Rescue Squad.

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Deputy Mayor Morley said he would like to discuss the matter in Executive Session. Councillor Hosmer asked if a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote is required to pass a contract. Councillor Stevenson said she has many issues with the proposed agreement. Deputy Mayor Morley made a motion to table the resolution until the next meeting and Councillor Skamperle seconded the motion.

The vote to table the resolution was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

OLD BUSINESS

1. Councillor Skamperle advised Council that the beaver is back near the Maple Trail. City Manager John Pinkerton said he also saw the beaver near the trail. Deputy Mayor Morley said he enjoys seeing the beaver and suggested fencing be put around the trees. Mr. Pinkerton said the apples trees are already protected, but he is concerned about safeguarding the new trees to be planted near the pedestrian bridge. Deputy Mayor Morley suggested research be done to select trees that a beaver will not eat.

2. Councillor Cilley asked for an update on the search for a new fire truck. Chief Farrell said he has met with three salespeople and will meet with another later this week, but has narrowed down the selection. Chief Farrell said the salespeople have been from the Syracuse or Saratoga area.

3. Councillor Ashley asked for a start date on the Paterson Street project. Mr. Pinkerton said it now looks like June or July.

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NEW BUSINESS

1. Councillor Skamperle said he received a complaint that there are eight lights not working on the Spring Street Bridge. Mr. Pinkerton said the lights were put on a different circuit timer to save electricity. Mr. Pinkerton explained DPW crews will make sure the ballasts and bulbs are working properly and there is sufficient lighting.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. City Comptroller Philip Cosmo asked for Council's intent regarding the bond for the fire truck (\$325,000), zamboni (\$122,550) and library windows (\$100,000) for a total amount not to exceed \$550,000. There was a consensus of Council to move forward with a bond resolution. Mr. Cosmo said the bond resolution will be presented at the March 25th meeting.

2. Deputy Mayor Morley asked if Council wishes to meet in Executive Session tonight to discuss the OVRS agreement. City Manager John Pinkerton said he would like to discuss the issue when the Mayor is present, and Deputy Mayor Morley agreed. Councillor Cilley said OVRS would be happy to answer any questions. Deputy Mayor Morley asked if half of the building will be for commercial use. Councillor Cilley said that is the future plan, but currently the entire building will be tax exempt. Councillor Cilley said under the terms of their USDA loan, they can rent or otherwise use 1/3 of the total floor space. Councillor Cilley said it has been the plan right along that if any space is rented for commercial use, the tenant will pay their own sewer and water rates. Councillor Cilley added the building is being set up so separate billing for water and sewer is possible. Councillor Cilley said in all probability the portion of the building that is rented out will be put back on the tax rolls. Councillor Stevenson said this item has been tabled and Council is out of order. Councillor Stevenson said Council should wait until all of the information is provided before discussing the matter further.

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Councillor Cilley said he is concerned OVRS will not be prepared unless they are told what information Council desires. Councillor Stevenson agreed and said she will forward her questions to the City Manager.

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