

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

December 7, 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

PUBLIC HEARING

1. A public hearing regarding the 2010 Preliminary Budget was held. The following spoke:

Jennifer Stevenson spoke in favor of outsourcing the Rehabilitation Department to the St. Lawrence Housing Council.

Gary Bouchard spoke against a 12% tax increase.

Jane Pinkerton, 506 Elizabeth Street, stated her son purchased a home through the first time homebuyer program, and St. Lawrence County missed some things that Mark Jacobs helped him with. Mrs. Pinkerton also stated Mr. Jacobs has a lot to offer the City.

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

2. A public hearing regarding a Local Law to amend Chapter 177 (Sections 5 and 6) of the Ogdensburg Municipal Code entitled "Sewer Rates" was held. No one else being present to speak, the hearing was declared closed.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Kathleen Bouchard, City Clerk, read a letter from Arthur A. Davies, RN in support of maintaining Mark Jacobs' Housing Rehab Coordinator position. (A copy of the letter follows these minutes.)

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Nelson moved that the claims as enumerated in General Fund Warrant #21-2009 in the amount of \$331,073.54 and Library Fund Warrant #21-2009 in the amount of \$20,061.95, Capital Fund Warrant #21-2009 in the amount of \$23,226.00 and Community Development Fund Warrant #21-2009 in the amount of \$10,785.84 and Community Renewal Fund Warrant #21-2009 in the amount of \$0.00 and HOME Fund Warrant #21-2009 in the amount of \$3,980.00 and AHC Funds Warrant #21-2009 in the amount of \$0.00 and RESTORE Program Warrant #21-2009 in the amount of \$18,100.00 as audited, be and the same are ordered paid and Councillor Flynn seconded the motion.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

1. Councillor Morley moved the adoption of the 2010 Budget for the City of Ogdensburg, which included \$180,480. in appropriation reductions, and Councillor Powers seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT
THE CITY OF OGDENSBURG'S 2010 BUDGET

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Ogdensburg adopts the 2010 Preliminary Budget as amended in the attached schedules,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following rates shall be in effect for 2010:

1. The City Real Property Tax Rate for 2010 shall be \$15.76 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation.

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Mayor Nelson explained this is a very lean budget and explained that after five budget sessions between Council and department heads, \$180,480. in cuts were made and the proposed rate increase is now at 7.87%. After much discussion, the vote was:

AYES: Mayor Nelson, Councillors Hannan and Sholette

NAYS: Councillors Flynn, Morley, Powers and Vaugh

DEFEATED, 4 TO 3

* It was noted that only a Councillor who voted no on a resolution previously, could bring the resolution back on the floor for another vote.

Additional discussion was held on the budget, and being that no additional reductions were brought forward, Councillor Morley moved the adoption of the 2010 Budget for the City of Ogdensburg, which included \$180,480. in appropriation reductions, and Mayor Nelson seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT
THE CITY OF OGDENSBURG'S 2010 BUDGET

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Ogdensburg adopts the 2010 Preliminary Budget as amended in the attached schedules,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following rates shall be in effect for 2010:

1. The City Real Property Tax Rate for 2010 shall be \$15.76 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation.

The vote was:

AYES: Mayor Nelson, Councillors Hannan,
Morley and Sholette

NAYS: Councillors Flynn, Powers and Vaugh

APPROVED, 4 TO 3

(A copy of the list of the appropriation reductions totaling \$180,480. follows these minutes.)

2. Councillor Powers moved a Local Law to amend Chapter 177 of the OMC entitled "Sewer Rates", and Councillor Morley seconded to wit:

Local Law # 1 of 2009

§177-5 Rates for metered premises.

The following rates for sewer rents are hereby fixed and established to every lot, parcel of land, building or other premises now or hereafter being charged at a metered rate for sewer service within the City of Ogdensburg, New York, effective the first billing date after January 1, 2010:

Meter Size (inches)	Water Allowed	Minimum (gallons) Quarterly Charge
5/8"	16,338	\$ 76.75
3/4"	21,711	102.00
1"	33,114	156.00
1 1/4"	43,860	206.00
1 1/2"	54,825	258.00
2"	109,649	515.00
3"	164,474	773.00
4"	219,079	1,029.00

\$4.70/1,000 gallons of water used

§ 177-6 Flat rates within the corporation limits of the City.

The following schedule of rates for sewer rents is hereby fixed and established for every lot, parcel of land, building or premises now or hereafter being charged at a flat rate for sewer service within the City of Ogdensburg, New York, effective the first billing date after January 1, 2010:

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A.	Single family residence per year	\$ 307.00
B.	Multi-family residence, or each family unit of each tenant per year	307.00
C.	Combination residential-commercial for each individual unit per year	307.00
D.	Apartment houses, for each individual unit	307.00
E.	Rooming Houses: Private homes with additional rooms to rent or commercial rooming houses:	
	(1) Minimum annual rents	307.00
	(2) Additional rooms to hire	76.75 (annual rent)

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

3. Councillor Vaugh moved a resolution requesting state and federal governments re-fund the Safe Routes to School Program, and Councillor Flynn seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program has been a federally funded program since 2003 that focuses on safe routes for children to walk and bike to school; and

WHEREAS, there are numerous public health and community benefits of providing safe routes to walk and bike to school; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ogdensburg has a need to improve its walking and biking infrastructure to make safer routes for children to commute to school; and

WHEREAS, a citizen's committee of concerned parents has requested the City's assistance in establishing a safe routes to school program; and

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WHEREAS, the federal transportation legislation that has provided over \$600 Million to states to implement Safe Routes to School programs expired in 2009;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Ogdensburg City Council hereby requests the state and federal governments to re-fund the SRTS program for another 5 years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager forward copies of this resolution to Senator Schumer, Senator Gillibrand, Congressman Owens, Governor Patterson, State Senator Aubertine, Assemblywoman Russell, US Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood, and NYS DOT Acting Commissioner Stanley Gee.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

4. Mayor Nelson moved a resolution to provide for public notice and public hearing regarding an amendment to the official City Map, and Councillor Sholette seconded to wit:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF OGDENSBURG
TO PROVIDE FOR PUBLIC NOTICE AND PUBLIC HEARING

WHEREAS, Louise Wagner requested and received Council's approval to realign Old Ford Street, which presently bisects her property, to the southern property line; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to amend the Official City Map of the City of Ogdensburg to delete the remaining portion of Old Ford Street and a portion of Kenrick Street that are no longer required; and

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WHEREAS, for environmental review, mapping of existing roads is a Type II action in accordance with SEQRA 6NYCRR, Part 617.5 (c) (17) and as such no further action is necessary regarding the same;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council shall hold a public hearing in the matter of this amendment to be held in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, Ogdensburg, New York, on the 11th day of January, 2010, 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 (7) days before the hearing date setting forth the time and place of the hearing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in accordance with Section 29 of General City Law, the proposed amendment be forwarded to the Planning Board for a report thereon.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

OLD BUSINESS

1. Councillor Morley stated he was told the Arena was shut down on Saturday due to a compressor problem, and asked if we checked with our insurance company for a revenue reimbursement. Councillor Sholette asked why it broke down. Director of Public Works Kit Smith stated an ignition box was replaced on the compressor Saturday morning but the Arena was not shut down and there was no revenue lost.

2. Councillor Vaugh said he read an article in the Times about a local civic center was using solar panels and questioned if the City is looking at the same. Kit Smith stated Matt Denner is researching whether this will benefit our application with New York Certification.

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3. Councillor Powers advised that two St. Lawrence River water level meetings have been scheduled in Clayton at the Opera House on 02/05/10 and 02/06/10.

4. Councillor Powers stated Senator Aubertine will be holding round table discussions on Friday in Waddington and Massena regarding agriculture and energy issues.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Councillor Hannan asked if City staff have talked with representatives from P&C regarding their store closure. City Manager Arthur Sciorra stated a meeting is scheduled for this week.

2. Councillor Vaughn asked if we have received an update from Peter Baynes, NYCOM, on the State's AIM funding. Mayor Nelson stated he has spoke with Mr. Baynes has no new information, we will have to wait and see.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Councillor Sholette stated it is good to see the progress on the Park Plaza demolition.

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