

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

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

ABSENT: Councillor Powers

Mayor Nelson stated that Councillor Powers was out of the City for his job.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. A public hearing regarding a proposed ordinance amending Chapter 209, Section 209-51, Schedule XIV entitled "Parking Prohibited Certain Hours" of the Ogdensburg Municipal Code was held. No one being present to speak, the hearing was declared closed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Nelson moved that the claims as enumerated in Warrant #02-2008 in the amount of \$462,561.62, and Library Warrant #02-2008 in the amount of \$23,426.11 and Community Development Fund Warrant #02-2008 in the amount of \$41,841.03 and Capital Fund Warrant #02-2008 in the amount of \$ 324,476.36 as audited, be and the same are ordered paid and Councilor Flynn seconded the motion.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

PERSONAL APPEARANCE

1. Brit Basinger, Saratoga Associates, presented Council with two conceptual landscape plans for the Visitor's Center.

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After much discussion, there was a consensus of Council to direct Mr. Basinger to modify concept #1 with wider plantings by the north side of parking area. Mr. Basinger said the next step is to complete the master plan and modify concept #1 and have Council give him a budget for this project.

2. Fire Chief Steven Badlam addressed Council regarding the Fire Department's broken heating system and emergency generator. Fire Chief Steve Badlam said that the furnace and generator are both 33 years old and 10-12 repair attempts have been made on the furnace.

City Manager Arthur Sciorra stated that \$29,000. was budgeted for a fire truck, but we didn't get the grant for the truck and the money is still in the Fire Department budget.

There was a consensus of Council to use this money to buy a new heating system. Fire Chief Badlam said a firm from Syracuse will be looking at the generator and he will bring their recommendation back to Council.

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

1. Councillor Hannan moved an Ordinance amending Chapter 209, Section 209-51, Schedule XIV: "Parking Prohibited Certain Hours" of the Ogdensburg Municipal Code, and Councillor Morley seconded to wit:

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that Ordinance No. 1 of 2008, entitled, Ordinance Amending Chapter 209 entitled "Vehicles and Traffic"; Section 209-51, Schedule XIV: "Parking Prohibited Certain Hours" of the Code of the City of Ogdensburg be and it hereby is introduced before the City Council of the City of Ogdensburg, New York, and

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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 28th day of January, 2008 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 of a notice setting forth the time and place and describing the proposed ordinance in summary form.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

2. Mayor Nelson moved a resolution calling for public hearing and public notice on proposed ordinance amending Chapter 215, Section 215-2.1, entitled "Connection to Available Public Water Service Required" of the Code of the City of Ogdensburg and Councillor Vaughn seconded to wit:

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that Ordinance No. 2 of 2008, entitled "An Ordinance to amend Chapter 215 entitled "Water"; Section 215-2.1, entitled "Connection to Available Public Water Service Required" of the Code of the City of Ogdensburg 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 11th day of February, 2008 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

3. Councillor Vaughn introduced a resolution to authorize the City Manager to submit a grant application to the NYS Department of State for the revision of the City's Local Waterfront Revitalization Program not to exceed \$35,000., and Councillor Hannan seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT
A GRANT APPLICATION
TO THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
LOCAL WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION PROGRAM, ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION FUND 2007-2008 FOR THE REVISION OF THE CITY OF
OGDENSBURG'S LOCAL WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of State has announced that matching grant funds will be made available from the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) and the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) for implementation of a LWRP, and

WHEREAS, the City of Ogdensburg's LWRP was approved in 1987 and there have been many changes to the city's waterfront and surrounding properties over the last two decades, and

WHEREAS, the city is desirous of updating this important planning document to incorporate these changes, and

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WHEREAS, the required match for this program from the City of Ogdensburg will be a combination of administrative expenses, in-kind services and cash.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Arthur J. Sciorra, as City Manager of the City of Ogdensburg, is hereby authorized and directed to file an application for funds from the New York State Department of State in accordance with the provisions of Title 11 of the New York State Environmental Protection Fund Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (EPF LWRP), in an amount not to exceed \$35,000, and upon approval of said request to enter into and execute a project agreement with the State for such financial assistance to the City of Ogdensburg for this comprehensive land and water use program.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

4. Councillor Sholette moved a resolution to authorize City Manager to submit a grant application for funding through the NYS Department of State Environmental Protection Fund and Local Waterfront Revitalization Program, under the NYS Coastal Resources Interpretive Program (NYSCRIP) in an amount not to exceed \$157,888.54 to construct an exhibit at the recently completed Visitor Center, and Councillor Morley seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT
A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF
STATE LOCAL WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION PROGRAM
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FUND 2007-2008 NYS COASTAL
RESOURCES INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM (NYSCRIP)

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of State has announced that matching grant funds will be made available from the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) and the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) under the NYS Coastal Resources Interpretive Program; and

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WHEREAS, the City of Ogdensburg has recently completed the Ogdensburg Visitor Center and desires to construct an exhibit expressing the significance of Ogdensburg on the St. Lawrence River; and

WHEREAS, the required match for this program from the City of Ogdensburg will be a combination of administrative expenses, in-kind services and cash;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Arthur J. Sciorra, as City Manager of the City of Ogdensburg, is hereby authorized to submit an application for funds from the New York State Department of State in accordance with the provisions of Title 11 of the New York State Environmental Protection Fund Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (EPF LWRP), NYSCRIP, in an amount not to exceed \$157,888.54, and upon approval of said request to enter into and execute a project agreement with the State for such financial assistance to the City of Ogdensburg.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

5. Mayor Nelson moved a resolution calling for public hearing and public notice on proposed ordinance amending Section 221-8, entitled "Zoning Map", and Councillor Morley 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 Tuesday the 11th day of February, 2008, 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

OLD BUSINESS

1. Councillor Morley stated the beams keeping vehicles off the Maple City Trail were recently vandalized and knocked down. City Manager Arthur Sciorra stated that he hasn't received a report on this yet. Public Works Supervisor Kit Smith said the DPW took pictures of the vandalism and made the repairs. Mr. Smith said he will meet with the Police Chief to discuss this.

2. Councillor Flynn questioned if we have received an update from the state to relocate the water and sewer lines to the Twin Bridges. Public Works Supervisor Kit Smith said that he has spoken with DOT and there is a possibility that we may be able to do this. Mr. Smith said that he will have more information by the next meeting.

3. Councillor Hannan stated that last November the Executive Compensation Committee presented their recommendations. City Manager Arthur Sciorra stated that he has had discussions with staff and they have concerns. Mr. Sciorra stated that he would like the Executive Compensation Committee to meet with Phil and himself to discuss these concerns.

Mayor Nelson noted that the Executive Compensation Committee was short one member. There was a consensus of Council to appoint Councillor Doug Sholette to the committee.

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4. Councillor Hannan stated in the Governor's State of the State message shared services was mentioned and questioned if the City is moving ahead with shared services. City Manager Arthur Sciorra stated that we are working on a shared water/sewer district with Lisbon, Oswegatchie and Heuvelton. Mr. Sciorra said that he and Kit Smith will revisit DPW equipment sharing.

5. Councillor Hannan requested an update on the developers for the Diamond properties. City Manager Arthur Sciorra stated that he will be meeting with two consultants tomorrow.

6. Councillor Hannan questioned if we are at the mercy of customs for videophones for our Canadian visitors, or can we discuss this with Congressman McHugh. Councillor Hannan stated that he would like Council to be proactive and see if there's anything Council can do. Mayor Nelson said he will send a letter to Congressman McHugh as this is important for tourism.

7. Councillor Hannan asked for an update on the Visitor Center concession. Councillor Hannan questioned if we will re-evaluate the concession proposals we received or rebid. After much discussion, there was a consensus of Council to revisit the proposals received and determine why many of the locals originally said they would bid on the concession and didn't. Mayor Nelson added we also need to determine if the reason they didn't apply was the high investment cost for the equipment or the length and terms of the contract.

8. Councillor Sholette asked for an update on the home energy heat tax. Mayor Nelson advised that the City Manager is going to make a presentation under Items for Discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Mayor Nelson moved to change the regularly scheduled Ogdensburg City Council Meeting of Monday, February 25, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. to Wednesday, February 27, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 330 Ford Street, Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669, and Councillor Morley seconded the motion.

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The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

2. Councillor Flynn stated that it has been twenty years since Council looked at the alternate veterans tax exemption. Councillor Flynn proposed Council look into raising the exemption up to the state law basic amount. There was a consensus of Council to get veterans tax exemption information.

3. Councillor Sholette stated that we have received numerous Brownfield's grants in Ogdensburg and always seek state funding, and questioned if we could seek help from the County. Mayor Nelson said he recently met with the three legislators who represent Ogdensburg and was told the County has funding available. City Manager Arthur Sciorra stated that since that meeting, he has met with Legislator Burns who advised him that the County has a revolving loan program up to \$100,000., not a grant program.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Update on SLC Proposed Fuel Sales Tax Elimination

City Manager Arthur Sciorra explained the impact of the SLC proposed fuel sales tax elimination's impact on the City's 2008 general fund would be a loss of approximately \$200,000. and the loss of revenue would require a 5.3% tax rate increase of \$.78. Mr. Sciorra outlined the additional costs associated with the clean up of Diamond International and Shade Roller properties and the replacement of the Lake Street Bridge. After much discussion amongst Council, there was a consensus to continue collecting fuel sales tax.

County Legislator Sam Burns addressed Council and thanked the Mayor and staff for putting this informational sheet together (a copy follows these minutes). Mayor Nelson thanked Legislator Burns for meeting with Ogdensburg representatives.

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