

## CITY COUNCIL MEETING

May 9, 2016

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

PRESENT: Mayor Ashley, Councillors Davis, Mitchell,  
Morley, Skamperle and Stevenson

ABSENT: Councillor Price

### PRESENTATION

1. Director of Planning & Development Andrea Smith provided Council with a Brownfield update. (A copy of her presentation material follows these minutes.)

2. Director of Public Works Scott Thornhill provided Council with a solar power update. (A copy of his presentation material follows these minutes.)

3. Director of Buildings & Assessment Bruce Green provided Council with a Proctor Avenue area revaluation update. Mr. Green advised Council the 2016 tax roll has been completed and is available on the City website. Mr. Green explained the non-waterfront side of Proctor Avenue and the surrounding area has been reassessed. Mr. Green said some properties were increased significantly, and his office will be mailing notices this week. Mr. Green said property owners can contact his office with questions or concerns Monday through Friday, 8am to 4pm. Mr. Green explained he will also schedule one evening from 6-8pm and one Saturday morning for those not available during the day. Mr. Green announced Grievance Day will be June 21, 2016 from 2-4pm and 6-8pm.

Mayor Ashley questioned the net increase, and Mr. Green said it is \$2.5 million. Councillor Mitchell asked how many homes were reassessed, and Mr. Green said 165. Councillor Stevenson asked when the waterfront side of Proctor Avenue will be reassessed. Mr. Green said he anticipates an evaluation of that area in the next two to three years. Mr. Green explained an area cannot be reassessed unless two or three sales occur during a year. Councillor Stevenson suggested we reassess areas more frequently to avoid large increases.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. A public hearing regarding an ordinance to license municipal property in the Greenbelt to M&T's Concession operated by Mary Jo and Tom Montana was held. No one being present to speak, the hearing was declared closed.

PERSONAL APPEARANCE

1. Douglas Spooner, 220 Lafayette Street, addressed Council regarding the City-owned parcel on the corner of State and Lafayette Streets which is adjacent to his property. Mr. Spooner said he isn't aware of anyone else who wishes to purchase the parcel and asked how the minimum bid is established. Mr. Spooner explained he wants to install a circular driveway on the parcel similar to the driveway at Mr. & Mrs. Dana's Ford Street property. Mr. Spooner said he believes Mr. & Mrs. Dana paid the City about \$3,000 for that parcel and expressed concern over the minimum bid on the parcel adjacent to his property. Mr. Spooner said he had notified the City Manager Sarah Purdy in writing that he is interested in this parcel but has not received any response. Mayor Ashley said there is a resolution to call for a public hearing on the agenda tonight. Ms. Purdy explained the process to Mr. Spooner and said he will be receiving written notification of the public hearing. Mr. Spooner said he believes the parcel is encumbered by a right-of-way, but Ms. Purdy explained the right-of-way terminated when the structure was removed.

2. Elizabeth Marshall, 219 Spring Street, addressed Council regarding needles being found on City streets and her concerns for the safety of our community. Ms. Marshall suggested an emergency hotline for the pickup and removal of discarded needles.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Ashley moved that the claims as enumerated in General Fund Warrant #9-2016 in the amount of \$1,419,371.30 and Library Fund Warrant #9-2016 in the amount of \$20,016.95 and Capital Fund Warrant #9-2016 in the amount of \$9,706.72 and Community Development Fund Warrant #9-2016 in the amount of \$45.00 and Community Renewal Fund Warrant #9-2016 in the amount of \$18,557.00 as audited, be and the same are ordered paid and Councillor Mitchell seconded the motion.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

1. Mayor Ashley moved an ordinance to authorize a license of municipal property in the Greenbelt to M&T's Concession, Mary Jo and Tom Montana, and Councillor Skamperle seconded to wit:

ORDINANCE # OF 2016  
AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE A LICENSE 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 license of municipal property in the Greenbelt to M&T's Concession, Mary Jo and Tom Montana.

ITEM TWO: The City Manager has presented the attached proposed agreement to license space at the asphalt pad in the Greenbelt on Riverside Avenue, commonly referred to as the "Concession Stand Area".

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ITEM THREE: The City Manager is hereby authorized to execute the attached license 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 become effective after public notice has been published at least once each week for three weeks in the official City newspaper.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

2. Councillor Skamperle moved a resolution introducing an ordinance and providing for public notice and public hearing with regard to the sale of City-owned property located at 1420 Ford Street, 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. \_\_\_\_ entitled "An Ordinance to Offer for Sale at Public Auction City-Owned Property " 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 26th day of May, 2016, 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.

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Councillor Skamperle said six affirmative votes are required to sell City-owned property and suggested changing the public hearing date so all members of Council can be present. Councillor Morley made a motion to change the public hearing date on this resolution and the resolutions for the sale of 729-737 State Street and the Monroe Avenue lot to June 13, 2016, and Councillor Skamperle seconded it.

The vote to amend the resolution was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

The amended resolution now reads:

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that Ordinance No. \_\_\_ entitled "An Ordinance to Offer for Sale at Public Auction City-Owned Property " 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 13th day of June, 2016, 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 on the amended resolution was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

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3. Councillor Mitchell moved a resolution introducing an ordinance and providing for public notice and public hearing with regard to the sale of City-owned property located at 729-737 State Street, and Councillor Stevenson seconded to wit:

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that Ordinance No. \_\_ entitled "An Ordinance to Offer for Sale at Public Auction City-Owned Property " 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 13th day of June, 2016, 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

4. Councillor Mitchell moved a resolution introducing an ordinance and providing for public notice and public hearing with regard to the sale of City-owned property (vacant lot on Monroe Avenue), 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. \_\_\_ entitled "An Ordinance to Offer for Sale at Public Auction City-Owned Property " 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 13th day of June, 2016, 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

5. Mayor Ashley moved a resolution to authorize the City Manager to sign a Tri-County Energy Consortium Electricity Purchasing Agreement, and Councillor Skamperle seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER  
TO SIGN A TRI-COUNTY ENERGY CONSORTIUM  
ELECTRICITY PURCHASING AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, the City of Ogdensburg is currently faced with increased energy costs, as well as instability in the prices of energy; and

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WHEREAS, the City of Ogdensburg desires to enter into a Tri-County Energy Consortium Electricity Purchasing Agreement to better manage and purchase electricity; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of City of Ogdensburg, hereby authorizes the City Manager to sign the attached Tri-County Energy Consortium Electricity Purchasing Agreement.

Councillor Stevenson said she supports this effort to reduce energy expenses. Mayor Ashley agreed and said Director of Public Works Scott Thornhill provided Council with an excellent presentation.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

### OLD BUSINESS

1. Councillor Morley asked if the City received any additional funding for paving our streets. Councillor Morley explained the newspaper reported an increase in CHIPS funding. Mr. Thornhill said the information reported in the newspaper was incorrect. Mr. Thornhill explained the City received exactly the same CHIPS funding as last year, but PAVE NY has tentatively awarded \$73,000 to the City. Mr. Thornhill said the terms of this new program have not yet been defined, and therefore he has no plans to spend any of the money until he can be sure the City will be reimbursed under the grant.

2. Councillor Morley said an executive session may be necessary to discuss an issue reported in the newspaper. City Manager Sarah Purdy explained the headline was erroneous.

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3. Mayor Ashley asked for an update on the Ford Street area tree removal issue. Mr. Thornhill explained it was determined the trees are located on property owned by OBPA, and a concerned citizen has already taken some of those trees down without permission. Councillor Stevenson asked for an update on the cleanup of the Crescent area. Mr. Thornhill said he would refer all questions concerning the Crescent area to the Parks & Recreation Department since it is on the Maple City Trail.

Councillor Skamperle suggested the removal of trees located on the island on the west side of the Oswegatchie River. Councillor Skamperle explained if those trees are not removed we could experience issues in the future. City Manager Sarah Purdy said OBPA would need to obtain approval to remove the trees, and she will invite Wade Davis to a Council meeting to discuss this concern. Councillor Morley agreed we should correct the issue before there is a problem. Councillor Skamperle asked if the changing river current has been assessed recently. Ms. Purdy said no, but we can request an evaluation. Councillor Skamperle suggested we seek grant funding to rebuild our shore line, and Ms. Purdy said she will look into it.

### NEW BUSINESS

1. Councillor Stevenson said the Gary Skelly softball field dedication at Montroy Park was wonderful and well deserved. Councillor Stevenson thanked Kiwanis and the City Parks & Recreation Department.

2. Councillor Stevenson said she would like to see education offered regarding the disposal of discarded needles. Councillor Stevenson suggested the Police Department, Fire Department and Rescue Squad provide recommendations on how to handle discarded needles. Councillor Skamperle said Massena has done a great job addressing this issue in their community. Councillor Skamperle said information sessions were held to educate the public, and needle sweeps were performed in their parks.

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Police Chief Andrew Kennedy said discarded needles are a concern and thanked Elizabeth Marshall for bringing the issue to light. Chief Kennedy said his department has picked up 41 needles so far this year in comparison to only 17 at this time last year. Chief Kennedy explained the typical response time to this type of call is nine minutes if officers are not tied up on other calls. Chief Kennedy said the Fire Department has already agreed to assist the department with needle pickups when the police department cannot respond immediately. Chief Kennedy said he supports public education, and he has spoken with the DARE officer about visiting the schools. Councillor Stevenson said the 41 documented pickups by the police department do not even include those needles disposed of by citizens and asked what the recommendation is for public response when a needle is discovered. Chief Kennedy said the public should never touch a discarded needle and should always contact the police department.

3. Councillor Davis requested an update on the boat ramp improvements in the City. Councillor Davis explained we need improvements to our docks to enhance the area, bring in more fishermen and host more derbies. Councillor Skamperle said fishermen everywhere are talking about fishing in Ogdensburg. City Manager Sarah Purdy said she will provide Council with an update.

4. Mayor Ashley thanked the Fire Department for offering to assist with the discarded needle pickup and for the thirteen picnic tables constructed and donated. Fire Chief Michael Farrell said local union members constructed the tables while off duty.

### ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Councillor Skamperle said the Key Club members did an excellent job with their recent cleanup of the Maple City Trail area.

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