

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

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

ABSENT: None

PRESENTATION

1. Terry Quinn, Tyler Technologies, made a presentation to Council regarding software. (A copy of his presentation material follows these minutes.)

PUBLIC HEARING

1. A public hearing on the City's proposed RESTORE NY 5 grant application and Property Assessment List to demolish, deconstruct, rehabilitate and/or reconstruct vacant, abandoned, condemned and surplus properties within the City's designated Brownfield Opportunity Area (100 Paterson Street, formerly Newell Manufacturing) was held. No one being present to speak, the hearing was declared closed.

2. A public hearing on the City's proposed special award RESTORE NY 5 grant application and Property Assessment List to demolish, deconstruct, rehabilitate and/or reconstruct vacant, abandoned, condemned and surplus properties within the City's designated Brownfield Opportunity Area (Diamond/Shade Roller BOA District) was held. No one being present to speak, the hearing was declared closed.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. City Clerk Kathleen Bouchard read a letter from Alcoholics Anonymous Ogdensburg Groups regarding the fees at the Dobisky Center. (A copy of the letter follows these minutes.)

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Ashley moved that the claims as enumerated in General Fund Warrant #17-2017 in the amount of \$467,943.84 and Library Fund Warrant #17-2017 in the amount of \$22,965.09 and Capital Fund Warrant #17-2017 in the amount of \$338,618.38 and Community Development Fund Warrant #17-2017 in the amount of \$45.00 and Community Renewal Fund Warrant #17-2017 in the amount of \$0.00 as audited, be and the same are ordered paid and Councillor Skamperle seconded the motion.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

1. Councillor Morley moved a resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit an application for up to \$1 million through the Round 5 RESTORE NY COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE through Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC) (100 Paterson Street, formerly Newell Manufacturing), and Councillor Skamperle seconded to wit:

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE SUBMISSION OF AN
ROUND 5 RESTORE NY GRANT APPLICATION

WHEREAS, the City of Ogdensburg desires to prepare a Round 5 RESTORE NY COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE grant application for 100 Paterson Street, formerly Newell Manufacturing, to rehabilitate, and/or reconstruct the vacant, abandoned, and surplus industrial property; and

WHEREAS, the 63,400 square foot industrial property was acquired by the city on June 26, 2014 for unpaid real property taxes through the foreclosure process; and

WHEREAS, the property has been the target of vandalism, and is a source of blight on the neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, the City is eligible to apply for up to \$1,000,000 from Restore NY 5 being a municipality under 39,999 in population; and

WHEREAS, this application requires a 10% match equal to \$100,000 which will be provided by a National Grid grant that will provide up to \$300,000; and

WHEREAS, this application will promote smart growth principals of infill development that take advantage of, and enhance existing infrastructure and facilities that will attract, create, and sustain future employment opportunities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ogdensburg City Council authorizes the City Manager to submit a grant application for the proposed rehabilitation of City-owned, vacant property located at 100 Paterson Street as listed in the Property Assessment List; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that matching funds for this grant will be provided from National Grid Grant # _____, and if awarded, the City Manager is authorized to enter into any necessary contracts to accept and administer this grant.

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Councillor Morley asked what will happen when the building is sold. City Manager Sarah Purdy said the St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Agency would retain the profit from the sale since they will have maintenance costs to keep the building safe, secure and marketable until it is sold. Councillor Price asked if we would be able to sell the property without holding an auction. Ms. Purdy explained the building was obtained through the tax foreclosure process so it can be sold outright without the necessity of a public auction.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

2. Councillor Stevenson moved a resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit an application for up to \$5 million through the special award category of Round 5 RESTORE NY COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE through Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC) (Diamond/Shade Roller BOA District), and Councillor Skamperle seconded to wit:

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE SUBMISSION OF A SPECIAL
AWARD ROUND 5 RESTORE NY GRANT APPLICATION

WHEREAS, the City of Ogdensburg desires to prepare a special award Round 5 RESTORE NY COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE grant application for the Diamond/Shade Roller BOA District, to demolish, deconstruct, rehabilitate and/or reconstruct vacant, abandoned, condemned and surplus properties with this strategic planning district; and

WHEREAS, the City is eligible to apply for up to \$5,000,000 from Restore NY 5 being a highly distressed municipality under 100,000 in population; and

WHEREAS, this application, if awarded, requires a 10% match equal to \$500,000 which will be provided by:

- National Grid grant # 3190 that will provide up to \$300,000; and
- Northern Border Regional Commission Grant # NBRC 14 GNY00001 in the amount of \$250,000.

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WHEREAS, this application will promote smart growth principals of infill development that take advantage of, and enhance existing infrastructure and facilities that will attract, create, and sustain future employment opportunities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ogdensburg City Council authorizes the City Manager to submit a grant application for the proposed demolition, rehabilitation, and construction of City-owned, vacant property located within the Diamond/Shade Roller District as listed in the Property Assessment List; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if awarded, the City Manager is authorized to enter into any necessary contracts to accept and administer this grant.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

3. Councillor Mitchell moved a resolution of support for the Village of Heuvelton, a lead local government entity, to apply for a Municipal Restructuring Fund Program Grant through the New York State Department of State, and Councillor Stevenson seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR VILLAGE OF HEUVELTON
MUNICIPAL RESTRUCTURING FUND PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION

WHEREAS, the Village of Heuvelton owns and operates a municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) capable of treating an average flow of 0.45 million gallons per day (MGD), and

WHEREAS, the Village's WWTP serves a population of 734 people, several small businesses, and a specialty cheese manufacturing facility, Losurdo Foods, Inc., which is the largest employer in the area with approximately 65 jobs, and

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WHEREAS, the Village WWTP's infrastructure will require significant capital improvements in the upcoming years to serve the current and future needs of the community, and

WHEREAS, the City of Ogdensburg owns and operates a WWTP capable of handling average daily flows of 6.5 MGD, with excess capacity due to the loss of several large manufacturing facilities over the last several decades, and which is undergoing a \$35M capital improvement project to renovate the facility and bring the facility into compliance with current environmental and safety regulations, and

WHEREAS, the Village of Heuvelton is interested in pursuing a solution for wastewater treatment which would involve decommissioning the Village's WWTP, constructing a sewer pipeline between the Village and the City of Ogdensburg, and interconnecting to the City's collection system, and

WHEREAS, this sewer pipeline would provide opportunities for economic development along the NYS Route 812 corridor, provide opportunity for growth within the Village of Heuvelton, and provide the opportunity for service to the Ogdensburg International Airport; which does not have access to municipal wastewater services and has recently expanded service, and

WHEREAS, this project would benefit the Village of Heuvelton, City of Ogdensburg, Town of Oswegatchie, and the Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority by providing a more cost effective, sustainable solution for municipal wastewater through the consolidation of two disparate systems and the accessibility to wastewater treatment in areas of the Town of Oswegatchie that are presently unserved.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Ogdensburg does hereby resolve to provide its support for the Village of Heuvelton, as lead local government entity, to apply for a Municipal Restructuring Fund Program Grant through the New York State Department of State.

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Mayor Ashley asked how much wastewater capacity is currently used per day. Public Works Director Scott Thornhill said we are currently using between 4 and 4.5 million gallons per day. Mr. Thornhill explained the Village of Heuvelton will need to work through their debt and apply for a grant to create a sewer district from the Town of Oswegatchie to Ogdensburg. Councillor Morley asked if any reconstruction would be required at our plant, and Mr. Thornhill said no because we are already a 6.5 million gallon plant. Councillor Davis said it is a good fit for both communities. Mr. Thornhill agreed and said the additional money in the water and sewer funds could help move the City forward. Councillor Stevenson said the development of this district could also bring in more commercial customers. Mayor Ashley asked how many pump stations would be required. Mr. Thornhill said the area would need to be reviewed geographically before an estimate on the number of pumps could be made. Councillor Mitchell asked how long it would be before the district could be developed. Mr. Thornhill explained the project is between a five and ten year plan.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

4. Mayor Ashley moved a resolution to accept the 2018 Preliminary Budget and direct that the Preliminary Budget be filed with the City Clerk and the Comptroller of the City of Ogdensburg, and Councillor Stevenson seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE 2018 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

WHEREAS, as required by the City Charter, the City Manager has submitted a preliminary budget for fiscal year 2018 to the City Council on or before November 1, 2017,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council hereby accepts the preliminary budget and directs that the preliminary budget be filed with the City Clerk and the City Comptroller, and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, and noted, that the preliminary budget is a public record and is available for inspection by the general public at the Office of the Comptroller.

The vote was:

AYES: Mayor Ashley, Councillors Davis,
Mitchell, Morley, Price and Stevenson

NAYS: Councillor Skamperle

CARRIED, 6 TO 1

5. Councillor Price moved a resolution introducing a local law and providing for public notice and public hearing to authorize a property tax levy in excess of the amount otherwise prescribed in General Municipal Law §3-c, and Councillor Skamperle seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION
INTRODUCING LOCAL LAW # 4 OF 2017

BE IT RESOLVED that proposed Local Law #4 of the year 2017 entitled:

AMENDMENT to authorize an override of the property tax cap for 2018, be and it hereby is introduced before the City Council of the City of Ogdensburg, NY, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of the aforesaid proposed Local Law be laid upon the desk of each member of the City Council, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council hold a Public Hearing on said proposed Local Law at the City Council Chambers at 7:00 pm on November 13, 2017, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk publish or cause to be published a public notice in the official newspaper of the City of Ogdensburg of said public hearing at least seven days prior thereto.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

6. Mayor Ashley moved a resolution to establish a public hearing date for the Preliminary 2018 Budget for the City of Ogdensburg, and Councillor Price seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A PUBLIC HEARING
FOR THE 2018 PRELIMINARY BUDGET
OF THE CITY OF OGDENSBURG

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ogdensburg City Council hereby establishes a public hearing on the Preliminary Budget of the City of Ogdensburg for 2018, said public hearing to be held at 7:00 pm on November 13, 2017 in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, and

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

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

7. Mayor Ashley moved a resolution introducing an ordinance and providing for public notice and public hearing with regard to the sale of City-owned property (116 Oak Street), and Councillor Skamperle seconded to wit:

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that Ordinance No.17 of 2017 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 November, 2017, 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

8. Councillor Davis moved a resolution calling for a public hearing and public notice on a proposed ordinance amending Chapter 209, Section 209-48, Schedule XI entitled "Parking Prohibited at All Times" of the Code of the City of Ogdensburg, 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. 18 of 2017, entitled, Ordinance Amending Chapter 209 entitled "Vehicles and Traffic", Chapter 209, Section 209-48, Schedule XI entitled "Parking Prohibited at All Times" 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 13th day of November, 2017 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.

Councillor Price asked why the change is required. Public Works Director Scott Thornhill said the hospital requested a review of parking signs. Mr. Thornhill explained the area is across from the Renal Center, and there are no residences.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

9. Councillor Stevenson moved a resolution calling for a public hearing on a Local Law to amend Chapter 177 (Sections 5 and 6) of the Ogdensburg Municipal Code entitled Sewer Rates, and Councillor Morley seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION
INTRODUCING LOCAL LAW #5 of 2017

BE IT RESOLVED that proposed Local Law #5 of the year 2017 entitled:

Amendment to the Ogdensburg Municipal Code, Chapter 177 Entitled Sewer Rates be and it hereby is introduced before the City Council of the City of Ogdensburg, NY, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of the aforesaid proposed Local Law be laid upon the desk of each member of the City Council, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council hold a Public Hearing on said proposed Local Law at the City Council Chambers, 330 Ford Street, Ogdensburg, NY at 7:00 pm on Monday, November 13, 2017, and

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

The vote was:

AYES: Mayor Ashley, Councillors Davis,
Mitchell, Morley, Price and Stevenson

NAYS: Councillor Skamperle

CARRIED, 6 TO 1

10. Councillor Price moved a resolution calling for a public hearing on a Local Law to amend Chapter 215 (Sections 39, 40 and 41) of the OMC entitled “Water Rates”, and Councillor Stevenson seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION
INTRODUCING LOCAL LAW #6 OF 2017

BE IT RESOLVED that proposed Local Law #6 of the year 2017 entitled:

Amendment to the Ogdensburg Municipal Code, Chapter 215 entitled Water Rates be and it hereby is introduced before the City Council of the City of Ogdensburg, NY, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of the aforesaid proposed Local Law be laid upon the desk of each member of the City Council, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council hold a Public Hearing on said proposed Local Law at the City Council Chambers, 330 Ford Street, Ogdensburg, NY, at 7:00 pm on Monday, November 13, 2017, and

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

The vote was:

AYES: Mayor Ashley, Councillors Davis,
Mitchell, Price and Stevenson

NAYS: Councillors Morley and Skamperle

CARRIED, 5 TO 2

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OLD BUSINESS

1. Councillor Morley said he is concerned about the letter Council received from the Alcoholics Anonymous groups. City Manager Sarah Purdy said this is not the only request received regarding the rate changes at the Dobisky Center. Mayor Ashley said Council cannot pick and choose which groups to charge. Councillor Price requested a list of non-profit groups who use the Dobisky Center. Ms. Purdy explained said the revenues were not increased for 2018 and suggested Council rescind the change that was made. Councillor Price said the not-for-profit groups do agree to give up the room if the City can make money from a group that must pay a fee. Councillor Skamperle said the problem with rescinding the change is that a small group of taxpayers are paying for everything and asked when we stop placing the burden on taxpayers. Councillor Stevenson suggested Council revisit the recommendation from the Recreation Commission and receive a breakdown of the non-profit groups that use the facilities.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Councillor Mitchell said the City's 'For Sale' sign at the corner of Knox and Morris Streets cannot be seen because of the newly installed fence. Public Works Director Scott Thornhill said the fence was recently installed because there were problems with an individual using the area and damaging to City-owned property. Mr. Thornhill said he will make sure the sign gets moved so it is visible again.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Councillor Skamperle asked if there was any update on the Co-gen plant. City Manager Sarah Purdy said negotiations are still going on, and there is not any new information available.

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