

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

PRESENT: Mayor Ashley, Councillors Davis, Kennedy,
Price, Skamperle and Stevenson

ABSENT: None

VOTING AND APPOINTMENT OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

Council members passed their completed ballots to City Clerk Cathy Jock who compiled the results. The individual with the most votes was Michael B. Powers, specifically with five votes.

Councillor Skamperle moved a resolution to appoint a replacement for the vacant Council seat, and Councillor Stevenson seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION TO APPOINT REPLACEMENT
FOR VACANT COUNCIL SEAT

WHEREAS, the City of Ogdensburg presently has a vacant position on the City Council, and

WHEREAS, the Ogdensburg City Charter provides that a replacement for the vacant Council seat be appointed by the remaining members of Council,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ogdensburg City Council hereby appoints Michael B. Powers to fill the vacant Council seat, term to expire December 31, 2019.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

City Clerk Cathy Jock administered the oath of office to Councillor Powers.

Mayor Ashley said there was a need for Executive Session to discuss current litigation, and Councillor Price seconded the motion.

The vote to adjourn to Executive Session was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

Upon returning from Executive Session, all members of Council were still present.

PRESENTATION

1. Ken Gardner, Chief of Emergency Services of the Ogdensburg Volunteer Rescue Squad made a presentation to Council regarding the 2018 annual report. (A copy of his presentation follows these minutes.)

PUBLIC HEARING

1. A public hearing regarding a Local Law to amend Article III of the City Charter was held. No one being present to speak, the hearing was declared closed.

PROCLAMATION

1. Mayor Ashley read a proclamation for Fair Housing Month, April 2019. (A copy of the proclamation follows these minutes.)

2. Mayor Ashley read a proclamation for National Library Week, April 7-13, 2019. (A copy of the proclamation follows these minutes.)

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PERSONAL APPEARANCE

1. Mike Skelly, 526 Washington Street, addressed Council regarding the exterior condition of the St. Lawrence County Department of Motor Vehicles office in Ogdensburg. City Manager Sarah Purdy said the building is privately owned, and the County is a tenant. Ms. Purdy explained the property will be reviewed, and any municipal code violations will be addressed with the property owner.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Ashley moved that the claims as enumerated in General Fund Warrant #06-2019 in the amount of \$545,176.76 and Library Fund Warrant #06-2019 in the amount of \$25,121.97 and Capital Fund Warrant #06-2019 in the amount of \$3,867.28 and Community Development Fund Warrant #06-2019 in the amount of \$0.00 and Community Renewal Fund Warrant #06-2019 in the amount of \$1,905.09 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. Mayor Ashley moved a Local Law to amend Article III of the City Charter, and Councillor Skamperle seconded to wit:

LOCAL LAW #2 OF 2019

A Local Law providing for changes to the Ogdensburg City Charter.

Be it enacted by the City Council of the City of Ogdensburg as follows:

SECTION I. Article III of the City Charter of the City of Ogdensburg entitled City Council and Mayor be and the same is amended as follows:

§ C-10. Vacancies; forfeiture of office.

C.Filling of vacancies.

- (2) Vacancies in the office of Mayor or Councillor, caused other than by the expiration of the terms thereof, shall be filled, within 30 days, by the remaining members of the City Council according to the following procedures:
- (e) If such vacancy occurs before July 25 of the current year, the term of the appointed Mayor or Councillor shall be for the balance of such calendar year.

SECTION 2. Effective Date: This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing in the office of the New York State Secretary of State.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

2. Councillor Price moved a resolution authorizing the City Manager to sign a Retainer Agreement with Napoli Shkolnik Attorneys at Law to represent the interests of the City of Ogdensburg in the coordinated litigation against the manufacturers and distributors of opioids, and Councillor Stevenson seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN A
RETAINER AGREEMENT WITH NAPOLI SHKOLNIK ATTORNEYS AT
LAW

WHEREAS, deceptive marketing practices by manufacturers and distributors of opioid pain medications have contributed to a nationwide opioid addiction epidemic, and

WHEREAS, Napoli Shkolnik Attorneys at Law of New York City has been selected to assist in the coordinated litigation by New York Counties and Cities, claiming that the manufacturers and distributors of opioids have violated state consumer protection acts and fair business practices, have created a public nuisance, have been negligent in failing to report suspicious opioid orders, and have committed fraud, and

WHEREAS, as a result cities, counties and New York State spend millions of dollars each year to provide and pay for health care and addiction treatment costs as well as criminal justice and victimization costs,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Manager of the City of Ogdensburg is hereby authorized to enter into a Retainer Agreement with Napoli and Shkolnik to represent the interests of the City of Ogdensburg in the coordinated litigation by New York Counties and Cities against the manufacturers and distributors of opioids.

Councillor Skamperle asked if the City needs to keep track of expenses for the lawsuit. City Manager Sarah Purdy said she did not discuss how the settlement proceeds would be distributed with the Attorney. Ms. Purdy explained City staff can estimate previous costs and will continue to keep track of expenses that could be associated with the lawsuit.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. City Manager Sarah Purdy reviewed the tentative schedule of waterfront projects to be addressed in the City with Council. (A copy of the schedule and a memorandum from Director of Planning and Development Andrea Smith detailing each project follows these minutes.) Ms. Purdy said everyone is eager to get the repairs completed. Ms. Purdy added the Seaway Festival committee has been notified and is exploring alternate locations for the fireworks in the event the usual location is under construction at that time.

2. Councillor Davis asked for an update on the review of Roberts Rules of Order. Ms. Purdy said she and City Clerk Cathy Jock have been searching for a refresher course geared towards municipal government. Ms. Purdy asked if Council preferred a workshop scheduled before a Council meeting or a webinar that each Council member could complete individually. There was a consensus of Council for a workshop to be held. Ms. Purdy said she will look at some available dates and schedule the workshop.

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