

CITY OF OGDENSBURG, NEW YORK

CITY HALL • 330 FORD STREET • OGDENSBURG, NY 13669 • (315) 393-6100

Office of the City Manager



January 1, 2021

Mayor & Councilors & Citizens,

The 2021 Annual Budget for the City of Ogdensburg is complete and presented for your review. This balanced budget is the result of serious commitment from all involved to recognize the serious financial crisis the city is facing and to take decisive action to make substantive changes that will ensure the survival of the city while working equally as hard to begin the revival of the city.

Many hard decisions are prevalent in this document, and you will see significant reductions in every area of our operations, to include public safety. Change is never easy, even when it is wanted and needed the most, as someone will most likely be impacted negatively. Every effort was made to minimize personal impacts and to respect the service our city employees commit each day. However staff reductions for the good of the city's fiscal strength are necessary, and we cannot delay.

Public Safety is the number one responsibility of every level of government, and it must be the number one responsibility of each member of the community. The budget reduces the level of resources dedicated to public safety. We are accepting a greater level of risk in some areas, but we are not gambling with community safety. Every decision is made with a significant amount of analysis, thought and consideration.

Partnerships are well highlighted in this budget. We have renewed our agreement for law enforcement services with the Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority for 3 years. We support the Ogdensburg School District with the School Resource Officer Program. We provide funding to the Ogdensburg Volunteer Rescue Squad for life-saving defibrillators. Those are just a few of the key partnerships the city is committed to.

The next page highlights key items in the budget that respond to city council priorities.

I look forward to working with each of you during the year.

Respectfully,

Stephen P. Jellie
City Manager / Fire Chief