

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

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

ABSENT: Councillors Hannan and Powers

CORRESPONDENCE

1. City Clerk Kathleen Bouchard read a letter from Zachary S. Amo, 209 Tate Street, requesting to purchase the old DPW box van currently being stored at the City Dump site. (A copy follows these minutes.)

Mayor Nelson asked City Manager Arthur Sciorra to review this request with staff.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Nelson moved that the claims as enumerated in Warrant #13-2008 in the amount of \$948,321.68, and Library Warrant #13-2008 in the amount of \$48,525.28 and Community Development Fund Warrant #13-2008 in the amount of \$40,464.77 and Capital Warrant #13-2008 in the amount of \$49,046.37, as audited, be and the same are ordered paid and Councillor Vaugh seconded the motion.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

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ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

1. Councillor Sholette introduced a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Ogdensburg and the County of St. Lawrence, which will allow St. Lawrence County to purchase diesel fuel from the City of Ogdensburg, and Councillor Morley seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
THE CITY OF OGDENSBURG AND THE COUNTY OF ST. LAWRENCE

WHEREAS, St. Lawrence County currently contracts for a municipal mass transit operation, the operator for which is currently located in the City of Ogdensburg; and

WHEREAS, St. Lawrence County has approached the City with a request to purchase diesel fuel from the City for use by its buses and the City has agreed to sell said diesel fuel to St. Lawrence County on the terms and conditions set forth in the Memorandum of Understanding; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the City Manager is hereby authorized to enter into the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Ogdensburg, New York and the County of St. Lawrence, New York for services outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

2. Councillor Morley introduced a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a School Resource Officer Contract between the City of Ogdensburg and the Ogdensburg City School District, which will provide for a senior Patrolman of the Ogdensburg Police Department to serve as a full-time school resource officer, and Councillor Flynn seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION
AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A SCHOOL RESOURCE
OFFICER CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF OGDENSBURG AND
THE OGDENSBURG CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the Enlarged Ogdensburg City School District has requested the deployment of a patrol officer of the Ogdensburg Police Department who will serve as a full-time school resource officer pursuant to the terms of the attached agreement; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the City Manager is hereby authorized to enter into the School Resource Officer Contract between the City of Ogdensburg and the Ogdensburg City School District for services outlined in the attached agreement.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

3. Councillor Vaughn introduced a resolution requesting the Veto of Bill A09500A for the Repeal of the Residential Component of Real Property Tax Exemption RP-485e, and Councillor Morley seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF OGDENSBURG REQUESTING THE VETO
OF BILL A09500A for the REPEAL OF RESIDENTIAL COMPONENT OF REAL
PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION RP-485e

WHEREAS the revitalization/redevelopment of our downtown and waterfront has been recognized by City Council as critical; and revitalization/redevelopment of downtowns and waterfronts has also been recognized as prudent and eligible for funding through various funding opportunities; and

WHEREAS the waterfront sites designated for future redevelopment from former brownfield industrial sites to mixed use commercial, residential and retail development; and

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WHEREAS a pending application for New York Main Street grant funding through the NYS Division of Housing and Community Renewal may provide for revitalization of the Marina District, and a subsequent application is intended to be submitted for revitalization of a portion of Ford Street through a future round; and

WHEREAS the low-mod income proportion of Ogdensburg's population is 50.4%; and

WHEREAS the Real Property tax exemption RP-485e will be a key component in the redevelopment of these sites and may entice commercial property owners and homeowners in the targeted neighborhoods to make the investment to leverage the matching grant funding and improve Ogdensburg's dilapidated neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS the absence of the residential RP-485e may result in the inability to develop said sites; and

WHEREAS the imperative need to increase population and community investment is dependent on adequate housing stock, which is presently lacking, and would be addressed by said redevelopment; and

WHEREAS the RP-485e provides temporary relief of local property taxes; and

WHEREAS the local intent of the RP-485e real property tax exemption, is to entice property owners, within Empire Zones, to make improvements that over the long term, improve the community tax base, by increasing property values, creating a more inviting aesthetic and spurring economic development through community investment; and

WHEREAS the RP-485e bears no fiscal impact on New York State taxes;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the City of Ogdensburg strongly opposes the passage of Bill A09500A.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

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OLD BUSINESS

1. Councillor Morley stated that a month ago Council received complaints of loud noises and disturbances on New York Avenue. Councillor Morley said the Police Department has done a great job cleaning up that area and the neighbors are very happy.

2. Councillor Morley stated that he has received complaints about the high grass at the Diamond National site housing skunks and snakes in the neighborhood. Councillor Morley said he would like to see this grass cut as we have a tractor to cut it. City Manager Arthur Sciorra said he will look at this but reminded Council that this is a very busy, hazmat truck site.

3. Councillor Morley stated he doesn't like the questions on the smoking survey. Councillor Morley added that Council directed staff to look at designated smoking areas in parks, not to ban smoking in the parks. Councillor Flynn said the questions on the survey are leading and questioned if this is a City survey as it has the City seal at the top. Mayor Nelson said it is our survey, but the St. Lawrence County Tobacco Free Coalition will conduct the survey. (A copy of the survey follows these minutes.)

4. Councillor Sholette stated that he has received complaints from Park Plaza neighbors who are worried that the rodents will scatter into their neighborhoods after the building are torn down. Councillor Sholette said we need a solid plan of action. Mr. Sciorra said he will look into this and Mayor Nelson requested the City Health Officer be contacted.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Mayor Nelson addressed the letter from Zachary S. Amo. City Manager Arthur Sciorra will check into this request and contact Mr. Amo.

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2. Mayor Nelson stated that Council has received complaints of excessive boom box noise from vehicles. Councillor Sholette suggested researching the decibels of a car stereo. Mr. Sciorra said these vehicles are hard to catch and the Police Chief is looking at ways to end this problem. Police Chief Rick Polniak said his department has been enforcing this but explained that patrols need to be within a block of the vehicle to ticket them. Police Chief Polniak said individual complaints require a sworn deposition and a court appearance, which are tough to get.

3. Mayor Nelson stated that the 1st edition of the Ogdensburg Newsletter has been well received by the citizens of Ogdensburg. Mayor Nelson added this is a great way to get our service information out to our citizens and commended staff for their work. City Manager Arthur Sciorra stated that his secretary, Angela Rodriguez, did a great job on this newsletter.

4. Mayor Nelson stated that on behalf of the City Council and residents he would like to extend their gratitude to Katherine Hannan Wears for her twenty eight years of dedicated service to the City as City Attorney. Mayor Nelson read aloud the wording on a plaque that will be presented to Mrs. Wears at a later date as she was not in attendance.

5. Mayor Nelson asked City Manger Arthur Sciorra for his recommendation to fill the City Attorney position.

Mr. Sciorra added that he would like to hire an interim attorney while Council reviews and make changes to the City Charter and Administrative Regulations to allow flexibility. Mr. Sciorra added that he would like the ability to hire a firm, contract out for services or name an individual as City Attorney. Mr. Sciorra stated that in the absence of the City Attorney, he is the department head.

Councillor Sholette stated that there is a lot of day to day City business going on which may be very costly. Councillor Sholette added that it might be difficult to find an attorney with municipal law experience.

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After much discussion, Mayor Nelson moved a resolution giving formal approval to City Manager Arthur Sciorra to put forth recommended changes to the Administrative Regulations and City Charter as related to the Department of Law through his research with other cities and NYCOM attorneys that are in the best interest for the City of Ogdensburg related to matters of corporate law, and Councillor Morley seconded the motion.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

6. Councillor Sholette stated that he has received complaints from the boaters docking at the City Marina. Councillor Sholette said it is unacceptable for the boaters using the marina to pay boat slip fees and then be forced to park in the Mall parking lot. Councillor Sholette asked for the timeline on the Riverside Avenue parking expansion. City Manager Arthur Sciorra stated we can expand parking, but not in this boating season. City Planner Justin Woods handed out copies of the City's Waterfront Master Plan depicting the marina expansion and advised there is a loading/drop off area in this master plan for the boaters. (A copy follows these minutes.) After much discussion amongst Council, there was a consensus of Council to direct the City Manager to look at options of pricing and design for additional parking in and around the marina area, possibly this fall. Councillor Sholette suggested designating parking for Police and Rescue vehicles by the ramp, which would take away twenty-five feet of the grass area.

7. Councillor Flynn stated that he will not be at the August 11th Council Meeting.

8. Councillor Morley stated that two years ago when he had a fire pit lit in his back yard, the Fire Department came and put out the fire, and the Police Department gave him a ticket. Councillor Morley said the Police told him to get a fire bowl or chimney and he recently discovered that these devices are against the law unless used as a cooking device. Councillor Morley stated he would like to make these devices legal. Mayor Nelson turned this over to City staff to review.

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9. Mayor Nelson stated that the Champlain Street and Route 37 traffic light has been installed and is operational.

10. Mayor Nelson stated that the 48th Seaway Festival starts next week and encouraged all to purchase a \$2.00 Seaway Festival button to support it.

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