

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

February 12, 2007

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

PRESENT: Mayor Nelson, Councillors Flynn, Hannan, LaMacchia,
LaRose and Morley

ABSENT: Councillor Ericksen

City Manager Arthur Sciorra introduced Kimberly DesChamp, the newly appointed Economic Development Program Manager to City Council.

PERSONAL APPEARANCE

1. Nick Serio, Chairperson of the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center Community Advisory Board, advised Council that the SVP unit is staffed and ready for the clients. Mr. Serio stated that this board meets quarterly and is presently working with Mike Wassus, St. Lawrence County 911 Coordinator, regarding a reverse 911 program in case of an escape. Mr. Serio outlined the agenda of this board and added that Sharon E. Carpinello, Commissioner of the Office of Mental Health, resigned and was replaced by Michael Hogan. Mr. Serio added that the board wants to set up a meeting with Commissioner Hogan to help the City gain control of the surplus SLPC property and to set up new programs to ensure the life of the SLPC Facility. Mr. Serio added that an open house to tour the SVP facility will be held before the March 1st opening, and committee members would also like to implement a Community Awareness Campaign to recognize predatory behavior. Mr. Serio stated that the board intends to draft a letter to Governor Spitzer and legislators requesting legislation to provide more stringent predator laws and urged Council to do the same.

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2. Eileen Jarrett, 112 Caroline Street, addressed Council regarding the SVP Unit. Mrs. Jarrett read a prepared statement (a copy follows these minutes).

CORRESPONDENCE

1. City Clerk Kathleen Bouchard read a letter from Michael Tooley, Chair of the Charter Review Commission, requesting comment on the City Charter. (A copy of this letter follows these minutes.)

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Nelson moved that the claims as enumerated in Warrant #3-2007 in the amount of \$1,010,181.42, and Library Warrant #3-2007 in the amount of \$42,158.72 and CD Block Grant Warrant #3-2007 in the amount of \$274,708.91 and Capital Projects Warrant #3-2007 in the amount of \$237,847.05 as audited, be and the same are ordered paid and Councillor LaMacchia seconded the motion.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

1. Councillor Flynn moved a resolution authorizing the Police Department to purchase a Cardiac Science Automatic External Defibrillator (AED), and Councillor Morley seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING
THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO PURCHASE A CARDIAC SCIENCE
AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED)

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WHEREAS, the Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) possessed by the Police Department is outdated and unable to be upgraded, and

WHEREAS, an upgrade AED is available through the Police Department's vendor at State Contract pricing,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Police Department is authorized to purchase a Cardiac Science AED, and that monies in the amount of \$1,769.90 be appropriated from line A3120.240, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that \$1,769.90 be transferred from the Forfeiture of Criminal Proceeds account to the General Fund, A2626.

Police Chief Andrew Wells explained that the present defibrillator was a gift from St. Lawrence Health Alliance Group. Police Chief Wells stated that the battery died and couldn't be replaced because the model was outdated.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

2. Mayor Nelson moved a resolution to change the regularly scheduled City Council meeting of February 26, 2007, and Councillor Morley seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION
TO CHANGE COUNCIL MEETING DATE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the regularly scheduled City Council Meeting of Monday, February 26, 2007 be changed to Wednesday, February 28, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at City Hall as members of the Council and the City Manager will be attending the 2007 NYCOM Winter Legislative Meeting in Albany, New York.

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After much discussion among Council, the vote was:

AYES: Mayor Nelson, Councillors Flynn, LaMacchia,
LaRose and Morley

NAYS: Councillor Hannan

CARRIED, 5 TO 1

3. Councillor LaRose moved a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a \$1,000,000 State Contract Assistance Agreement with Empire State Development Corporation for Visitor Center Project, and Councillor Morley seconded to wit:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE \$1,000,000
STATE CONTRACT ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT WITH EMPIRE STATE
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FOR VISITOR CENTER PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the City of Ogdensburg has awarded contracts for the construction of a new Visitor Center in the Greenbelt Park System; and

WHEREAS, the total capital budget for this project is \$2,312,331.; and

WHEREAS, the City has secured \$817,030 in grant funds and appropriated an additional \$495,301 in local funds for the construction of the new Visitor Center; and

WHEREAS, the City applied for and has received an Empire State Development Corporation State Assistance Contract in the amount of \$1,000,000 toward the construction of the new Visitor Center;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Manager is hereby authorized to execute said \$1,000,000 State Assistance Contract.

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The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

4. Councillor LaMacchia moved a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a \$400,000 State Contract Assistance Agreement with the NYS Empire State Development Corporation for the waterfront demolition project, and Councillor Morley seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE \$400,000
STATE CONTRACT ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT WITH EMPIRE STATE
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FOR WATERFRONT DEMOLITION
PROJECTS

WHEREAS, the City of Ogdensburg has acquired numerous properties through tax sale foreclosure proceedings; and

WHEREAS, these properties have been deemed unsuitable for habitation and have created a blighting condition on their respective neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the City is desirous of removing these blighting conditions to improve the aesthetic quality of the adversely impacted neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the City has applied for and received funding from the New York State Empire State Development Corporation (NYS ESDC) in the amount of \$400,000 toward the demolition of these structures;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the City Manager is hereby authorized to execute said State Assistance Contract with the NYS ESDC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Manager is hereby authorized to issue an order to proceed for previously authorized and awarded contracts for the asbestos abatement, air monitoring and demolition of the following properties in the amount of \$45,088.; and

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1025 New York Avenue
804-806 New York Avenue
416 ½ John Street
17 Mill Street

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that funds from the NYS ESDC Assistance Contract (\$400,000) will be expended for said work.

City Manager Arthur Sciorra explained the bidding and demolition timetable.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

OLD BUSINESS

1. Councillor LaMacchia requested an update on the bathrooms/showers at the arena. City Manager Arthur Sciorra stated that Tim Irvine, Recreation Director, is looking at options and will bring an update to Council.

2. Councillor LaMacchia asked Mr. Sciorra if there has been any discussion regarding how we're going to hire Police Officers in light of possible 2007 retirements and transfers to Court Security. Councillor LaMacchia questioned if this will affect the budget. Mr. Sciorra stated that he and Police Chief Andrew Wells are currently working on this. Police Chief Wells stated that earlier this year the City Manager allowed him to make two early hires that are financed through the police officers currently working court security. Chief Wells added that court security has created a revenue stream for recouping salaries for actual hours worked there.

3. Councillor LaMacchia questioned if there has ever been a policy requiring new hires to be residents of the City.

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City Manager Art Sciorra and Police Chief Andrew Wells stated that it's illegal to require new police hires to reside in the City. Councillor LaMacchia asked for a list of current City employees who reside in the City.

4. Councillor Hannan asked the City Manager for an update on the contract agreement with Tisdell Associates. City Manager Arthur Sciorra said we do need to name an individual from this firm as City Engineer, but he is still working out the details with the corporation. Councillor Hannan asked if Tim Baker's responsibilities are shared by other department heads and Mr. Sciorra yes.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Councillor Morley advised Council that Waterfowl USA has donated two bird houses to the City. Councillor Morley said they would like one placed at the end of the canal and the other near the City Marina. There was a consensus of Council to accept this donation. Councillor Morley will give City Manager Arthur Sciorra the contact information.

2. Mayor Nelson updated Council on the first meeting with the Fort representatives on February 1. Mayor Nelson said this was a very productive meeting as the Fort representatives gave us their formal proposal and shared their timetable for fundraising. Mayor Nelson stated that we will continue to work together to get the Fort built by 2010, as this is an important project for our community. Mayor Nelson said that the Fort representatives want to be self sufficient adding that they don't want to be a line item in the City budget. Mayor Nelson added that we all share the same goal, a cultural plan for our community. Mayor Nelson asked if there was a consensus of Council to have the City Manager and City Attorney formally meet with the Fort's Attorney and representatives to talk about the overall plan and agreement.

City Manager Arthur Sciorra said this agreement will lead to the transfer of City-owned property to the Fort.

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It was the consensus of Council to have the City Manager and City Attorney formally meet with the Fort's Attorney and representatives to talk about the overall plan and agreement.

3. Councillor Hannan stated that he wanted to follow up on Eileen Jarrett's request that Council have formal communication with our legislators and the Governor to restrict how sex predators will be released into our communities and also provide notification of any public hearings.

Mayor Nelson stated that he will send a letter on behalf of the Council to our representatives. Mayor Nelson also stated he will be meeting with our representatives later this month at the NYCOM conference.

Councillor Flynn requested copies of the letters sent.

Mayor Nelson stated that there was a need for Executive Session to discuss personnel, the City Manager's evaluation. There was no anticipated action following Executive Session.

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