

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. Carrie Tuttle, DANC, provided Council with an update on the Water Pollution Control Facilities Management Services. (A copy of her presentation material follows these minutes.)

2. Andrea Smith, Director of Planning & Development, provided Council with an update on the 2016 Consolidated Funding Applications. (A copy of her presentation material follows these minutes.)

PERSONAL APPEARANCE

1. Barbara Michael, 941 Franklin Street, addressed Council regarding the employee prescription program. Ms. Michael explained employees are required to use ProAct and cannot purchase their prescriptions locally to support City businesses. Ms. Michael asked Council to review the prescription services program for City employees. Councillor Skamperle said the City should consider our local tax paying pharmacies. Councillor Stevenson requested a copy of the most recent cost-benefit analysis regarding pharmacy services.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Ashley moved that the claims as enumerated in General Fund Warrant #12-2016 in the amount of \$444,494.60 and Library Fund Warrant #12-2016 in the amount of \$20,875.42 and Capital Fund Warrant #12-2016 in the amount of \$22,686.73 and Community Development Fund Warrant #12-2016 in the amount of \$0.00 and Community Renewal Fund Warrant #12-2016 in the amount of \$11,232.70 as audited, be and the same are ordered paid and Councillor Skamperle seconded the motion.

Councillor Morley asked for an explanation of the Community Renewal Fund expense. Director of Planning and Development Andrea Smith said this expenditure covered the CDBG lead abatement for two properties on New York Avenue.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

APPOINTMENTS

1. Mayor Ashley moved to re-appoint Donna Pirie, to a six-year term on the Ogdensburg Civil Service Commission, term will expire 6/1/2022, and Councillor Stevenson seconded the motion.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

1. Councillor Skamperle moved a resolution to establish the Standard Work Days for Elected and Appointed City of Ogdensburg officials and report the days worked to the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System, and Councillor Price seconded to wit:

STANDARD WORK DAY AND REPORTING RESOLUTION
 FOR ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Ogdensburg hereby establishes the following as standard work days for elected and appointed officials and will report the following days worked to the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System based on the record of activities maintained and submitted by these officials to the clerk of this body:

Title	Name	Standard Work Day (Hrs/day)	Term Begins/Ends	Participates in Employer's Time Keeping System (Y/N)	Days/Month (based on Record of Activities)
City Councillor	David G. Price	6	01/01/16-12/31/19	N	4.81
City Councillor	Daniel E. Skamperle	6	01/01/14-12/31/17	N	10.42
City Councillor	Brian R. Mitchell	6	01/01/14-12/31/17	N	3.64
City Manager	Sarah Purdy	7	01/01/16-12/31/19	Y	20/22
City Clerk	Kathleen A. Bouchard	7	01/01/16-12/31/19	Y	20/22
City Comptroller	Timothy Johnson	7	06/03/16-12/31/19	Y	20/22
Deputy City Clerk	Cathy A. Jock	7	01/01/16-12/31/19	Y	20/22
Secretary to Mayor and City Manager	Coralee Barrett	7	01/01/16-12/31/19	Y	20/22
Director of Parks & Recreation	Matthew J. Curatolo	7	01/01/16-12/31/19	Y	20/22
Director of Public Works	Scott A. Thornhill	7	01/01/16-12/31/19	Y	20/22
Director of Planning & Development	Andrea L. Smith	7	01/01/16-12/31/19	Y	20/22
Executive Director of Remington Art Museum	Laura A. Foster	7	01/01/16-12/31/19	Y	20/22
Executive Director of Ogdensburg Public Library	Penny J. Kerfien	7	01/01/16-12/31/19	Y	20/22

*Mayor's term (01/01/16-12/31/19) used for purposes of this regulation only, not for internal use.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

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2. Councillor Mitchell moved a resolution to approve the issuance of a Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) to cover cash flow needs for the City, and Councillor Stevenson seconded to wit:

TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE RESOLUTION DATED JUNE 27, 2016.

A RESOLUTION DELEGATING TO THE COMPTROLLER OF THE CITY OF OGDENSBURG, ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY, NEW YORK, THE POWER TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF AND TO SELL NOT EXCEEDING \$2,000,000 TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES OF SAID CITY IN ANTICIPATION OF THE COLLECTION OF TAXES LEVIED OR TO BE LEVIED FOR THE FISCAL YEAR OF SAID CITY WHICH COMMENCED JANUARY 1, 2016.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of Ogdensburg, St. Lawrence County, New York, as follows:

Section 1. Subject to the provisions of the Local Finance Law, the power to authorize the issuance of and to sell not exceeding \$2,000,000 tax anticipation notes of the City of Ogdensburg, St. Lawrence County, New York, including renewals thereof, in anticipation of the collection of taxes levied or to be levied for the fiscal year of said City which commenced January 1, 2016, is hereby delegated to the Comptroller. Such notes shall be of such terms, form and contents, and shall be sold in such manner, as may be prescribed by said Comptroller, consistent with the provisions of the Local Finance Law.

Section 2. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

City Comptroller Timothy Johnson explained the bond counselors recommended authorization for \$2 million, but the City may not use it all. Mr. Johnson said the City borrowed \$1.8 million last year. Mr. Johnson said our current tax rate is the same as twelve years ago. Mr. Johnson explained part of the issue is that we must make the school whole, even when taxes are unpaid by property owners.

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The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

3. Councillor Morley moved a resolution to approve the refunding of 2007 Serial Bonds, to pay for the cost of certain capital improvements for various City projects, and Councillor Mitchell seconded to wit:

REFUNDING BOND RESOLUTION DATED JUNE 27, 2016.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE PURSUANT TO SECTION 90.00 OR SECTION 90.10 OF THE LOCAL FINANCE LAW OF REFUNDING BONDS OF THE CITY OF OGDENSBURG, ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY, NEW YORK, TO BE DESIGNATED SUBSTANTIALLY “PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT REFUNDING (SERIAL) BONDS”,
AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS IN RELATION THERETO AND THE PAYMENT OF THE BONDS TO BE REFUNDED THEREBY

WHEREAS, the City of Ogdensburg, St. Lawrence County, New York (hereinafter, the “City”) heretofore issued \$2,490,000 Public Improvement (Serial) Bonds, 2007 (the “2007 Bonds”), pursuant to a bond resolution dated June 25, 2006 to pay the cost of certain capital improvements in and for said City, as set forth in Exhibit A attached hereto and thereby made a part hereof, and a bond determinations certificate of the City Comptroller therefor (hereinafter referred to as the “Refunded Bond Certificate”), such Public Improvement (Serial) Bonds, 2007, maturing on August 15 annually in each of the years 2016 to 2027, both inclusive, as more fully described in the Refunded Bond Certificate; and

WHEREAS, it would be in the public interest to refund all or a portion of the \$1,620,000 outstanding principal balance of said bonds maturing in the years 2017 to 2027, both inclusive (the “Refunded Bonds”), by the issuance of refunding bonds pursuant to Section 90.00 or Section 90.10 of the Local Finance Law; and

WHEREAS, such refunding will result in present value savings in debt service as so required by Section 90.10 of the Local Finance Law;

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of Ogdensburg, St. Lawrence County, New York, as follows:

Section 1. For the object or purpose of refunding the \$1,620,000 outstanding principal balance of the Refunded Bonds, including providing moneys which, together with the interest earned from the investment of certain of the proceeds of the refunding bonds herein authorized, shall be sufficient to pay (i) the principal amount of the Refunded Bonds, (ii) the aggregate amount of unmatured interest payable on the Refunded Bonds to and including the date on which the Refunded Bonds which are callable are to be called prior to their respective maturities in accordance with the refunding financial plan, as hereinafter defined, (iii) the costs and expenses incidental to the issuance of the refunding bonds herein authorized, including the development of the refunding financial plan, as hereinafter defined, compensation to the underwriter or underwriters, as hereinafter defined, costs and expenses of executing and performing the terms and conditions of the escrow contract or contracts, as hereinafter defined, and fees and charges of the escrow holder or holders, as hereinafter mentioned, and (iv) the premium or premiums for a policy or policies of municipal bond insurance or cost or costs of other credit enhancement facility or facilities, for the refunding bonds herein authorized, or any portion thereof, there are hereby authorized to be issued not exceeding \$1,800,000 refunding serial bonds of the City pursuant to the provisions of Section 90.00 or Section 90.10 of the Local Finance Law (the "City Refunding Bonds" or the "Refunding Bonds"), it being anticipated that the amount of Refunding Bonds actually to be issued will be approximately \$1,660,000, as provided in Section 4 hereof.

The Refunding Bonds shall each be designated substantially "PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT REFUNDING (SERIAL) BOND" together with such series designation and year as is appropriate on the date of sale thereof, shall be of the denomination of \$5,000 or any integral multiple thereof (except for any odd denominations, if necessary) not exceeding the principal amount of each respective maturity, shall be numbered with the prefix R-16 (or R with the last two digits of the year in which the Refunding Bonds are issued as appropriate) followed by a dash and then from 1 upward, shall be dated on such dates, and shall mature annually on such dates in such years, bearing interest semi-annually on such dates, at the rate or rates of interest per annum, as may be necessary to sell the same, all as shall be determined by the City Comptroller pursuant to Section 4 hereof. It is hereby further determined that (a) such Refunding Bonds may be issued in series,

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(b) such Refunding Bonds may be sold at a discount in the manner authorized by paragraph e of Section 57.00 of the Local Finance Law and pursuant to subdivision 2 of paragraph f of Section 90.10 of the Local Finance Law, and (c) such Refunding Bonds may be issued as a single consolidated issue. It is hereby further determined that such Refunding Bonds may be issued to refund all, or any portion of, the Refunded Bonds, subject to the limitation hereinafter described in Section 10 hereof relating to approval by the State Comptroller.

Section 2. The Refunding Bonds may be subject to redemption prior to maturity upon such terms as the City Comptroller shall prescribe, which terms shall be in compliance with the requirements of Section 53.00 (b) of the Local Finance Law. If less than all of the Refunding Bonds of any maturity are to be redeemed, the particular refunding bonds of such maturity to be redeemed shall be selected by the City by lot in any customary manner of selection as determined by the City Comptroller.

The Refunding Bonds shall be issued in registered form and shall not be registrable to bearer or convertible into bearer coupon form. In the event said Refunding Bonds are issued in non-certificated form, such bonds, when issued, shall be initially issued in registered form in denominations such that one bond shall be issued for each maturity of bonds and shall be registered in the name of Cede & Co., as nominee of The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York ("DTC"), which will act as securities depository for the bonds in accordance with the Book-Entry-Only system of DTC. In the event that either DTC shall discontinue the Book-Entry-Only system or the City shall terminate its participation in such Book-Entry-Only system, such bonds shall thereafter be issued in certificated form of the denomination of \$5,000 each or any integral multiple thereof (except for any odd denominations, if necessary) not exceeding the principal amount of each respective maturity. In the case of non-certificated Refunding Bonds, principal of and interest on the bonds shall be payable by check or draft mailed by the Fiscal Agent (as hereinafter defined) to The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York, or to its nominee, Cede & Co., while the bonds are registered in the name of Cede & Co. in accordance with such Book-Entry-Only System. Principal shall only be payable upon surrender of the bonds at the principal corporate trust office of such Fiscal Agent (or at the office of the City Clerk as Fiscal Agent as hereinafter provided).

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In the event said Refunding Bonds are issued in certificated form, principal of and interest on the Refunding Bonds shall be payable by check or draft mailed by the Fiscal Agent (as hereinafter defined) to the registered owners of the Refunding Bonds as shown on the registration books of the City maintained by the Fiscal Agent (as hereinafter defined), as of the close of business on the fifteenth day of the calendar month or last business day of the calendar month preceding each interest payment date as appropriate and as provided in a certificate of the City Comptroller providing for the details of the Refunding Bonds. Principal shall only be payable upon surrender of bonds at the principal corporate trust office of a bank or trust company or banks or trust companies located or authorized to do business in the State of New York, as shall hereafter be designated by the City Comptroller as fiscal agent of the City for the Refunding Bonds (collectively the "Fiscal Agent").

Refunding Bonds in certificated form may be transferred or exchanged at any time prior to maturity at the principal corporate trust office of the Fiscal Agent for bonds of the same maturity of any authorized denomination or denominations in the same aggregate principal amount. Principal and interest on the Refunding Bonds will be payable in lawful money of the United States of America. The City Comptroller, as chief fiscal officer of the City, is hereby authorized and directed to enter into an agreement or agreements containing such terms and conditions as he or she shall deem proper with the Fiscal Agent, for the purpose of having such bank or trust company or banks or trust companies act, in connection with the Refunding Bonds, as the Fiscal Agent for said City, to perform the services described in Section 70.00 of the Local Finance Law, and to execute such agreement or agreements on behalf of the City, regardless of whether the Refunding Bonds are initially issued in certificated or non-certificated form. The City Comptroller is hereby further delegated all powers of this Council with respect to agreements for credit enhancement, derived from and pursuant to Section 168.00 of the Local Finance Law, for said Refunding Bonds, including, but not limited to the determination of the provider of such credit enhancement facility or facilities and the terms and contents of any agreement or agreements related thereto. The Refunding Bonds shall be executed in the name of the City by the manual signature of the City Comptroller, and its corporate seal shall be imprinted thereon.

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The Refunding Bonds shall contain the recital required by subdivision 4 of paragraph g of Section 90.00 of the Local Finance Law or subdivision 4 of paragraph j of Section 90.10 of the Local Finance Law, as applicable, and the recital of validity clause provided for in Section 52.00 of the Local Finance Law and shall otherwise be in such form and contain such recitals, in addition to those required by Section 51.00 of the Local Finance Law, as the City Comptroller shall determine. It is hereby determined that it is to the financial advantage of the City not to impose and collect from registered owners of the Refunding Bonds any charges for mailing, shipping and insuring bonds transferred or exchanged by the Fiscal Agent, and, accordingly, pursuant to paragraph c of Section 70.00 of the Local Finance Law, no such charges shall be so collected by the Fiscal Agent.

Section 3. It is hereby determined that:

- (a) the maximum amount of the Refunding Bonds authorized to be issued pursuant to this resolution does not exceed the limitation imposed by subdivision 1 of paragraph b of Section 90.10 of the Local Finance Law;
- (b) the maximum period of probable usefulness permitted by law at the time of the issuance of the Refunded Bonds for the objects or purposes for which such Refunded Bonds were issued is as shown upon Exhibit A attached hereto and hereby made a part hereof;
- (c) the last installment of the Refunding Bonds will mature not later than the expiration of the period of probable usefulness of the objects or purposes for which said Refunded Bonds were issued in accordance with the provisions of subdivision 1 of paragraph a of Section 90.00 of the Local Finance Law and subdivision 1 of paragraph c of Section 90.10 of the Local Finance Law, as applicable;
- (d) the estimated present value of the total debt service savings anticipated as a result of the issuance of the Refunding Bonds, if any, computed in accordance with the provisions of subdivision 2 of paragraph b of Section 90.10 of the Local Finance Law, is as shown in the Refunding Financial Plan described in Section 4 hereof.

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Section 4. The financial plan for the aggregate of the refundings authorized by this resolution (collectively, the “Refunding Financial Plan”), showing the sources and amounts of all moneys required to accomplish such refundings, the estimated present value of the total debt service savings and the basis for the computation of the aforesaid estimated present value of total debt service savings, are set forth in Exhibit B attached hereto and made a part of this resolution. The Refunding Financial Plan has been prepared based upon the assumption that the Refunding Bonds will be issued in one series to refund all of the Refunded Bonds in the principal amount of \$1,660,000, and that the Refunding Bonds will mature, be of such terms, and bear interest as set forth on Exhibit B attached hereto and made a part of this resolution. This Council recognizes that the Refunding Bonds may be issued in one or more series, and for all of the Refunded Bonds, or portions thereof, that the amount of the Refunding Bonds, maturities, terms, and interest rate or rates borne by the Refunding Bonds to be issued by the City will most probably be different from such assumptions and that the Refunding Financial Plan will also most probably be different from that attached hereto as Exhibit B. The City Comptroller is hereby authorized and directed to determine which of the Refunded Bonds will be refunded and at what time, the amount of the Refunding Bonds to be issued, the date or dates of such bonds and the date or dates of issue, maturities and terms thereof, the provisions relating to the redemption of Refunding Bonds prior to maturity, whether the Refunding Bonds will be insured by a policy or policies of municipal bond insurance or otherwise enhanced by a credit enhancement facility or facilities, whether the Refunding Bonds shall be sold at a discount in the manner authorized by paragraph e of Section 57.00 of the Local Finance Law, and the rate or rates of interest to be borne thereby, whether the Refunding Bonds shall be issued having substantially level or declining annual debt service and all matters related thereto, and to prepare, or cause to be provided, a final Refunding Financial Plan for the Refunding Bonds and all powers in connection therewith are hereby delegated to the City Comptroller; provided, that the terms of the Refunding Bonds to be issued, including the rate or rates of interest borne thereby, shall comply with the requirements of Section 90.00 or Section 90.10 of the Local Finance Law as applicable. The City Comptroller shall file a copy of his certificate determining the details of the Refunding Bonds and the final Refunding Financial Plan with the City Clerk not later than ten (10) days after the delivery of the Refunding Bonds, as herein provided.

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Section 5. The City Comptroller is hereby authorized and directed to enter into an escrow contract or contracts (collectively the “Escrow Contract”) with a bank or trust company, or with banks or trust companies, located and authorized to do business in this State as said President shall designate (collectively the “Escrow Holder”) for the purpose of having the Escrow Holder act, in connection with the Refunding Bonds, as the escrow holder to perform the services described in Section 90.10 of the Local Finance Law.

Section 6. The faith and credit of said City of Ogdensburg, St. Lawrence County, New York, are hereby irrevocably pledged to the payment of the principal of and interest on the Refunding Bonds as the same respectively become due and payable. An annual appropriation shall be made in each year sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such bonds becoming due and payable in such year. There shall be annually levied on all the taxable real property in said City a tax sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such Refunding Bonds as the same become due and payable.

Section 7. All of the proceeds from the sale of the Refunding Bonds, including the premium, if any, but excluding accrued interest thereon, shall immediately upon receipt thereof be placed in escrow with the Escrow Holder for the Refunded Bonds. Accrued interest on the Refunding Bonds shall be paid to the City to be expended to pay interest on the Refunding Bonds. Such proceeds as are deposited in the escrow deposit fund to be created and established pursuant to the Escrow Contract, whether in the form of cash or investments, or both, inclusive of any interest earned from the investment thereof, shall be irrevocably committed and pledged to the payment of the principal of and interest on the Refunded Bonds in accordance with Section 90.10 of the Local Finance Law, and the holders, from time to time, of the Refunded Bonds shall have a lien upon such moneys held by the Escrow Holder. Such pledge and lien shall become valid and binding upon the issuance of the Refunding Bonds and the moneys and investments held by the Escrow Holder for the Refunded Bonds in the escrow deposit fund shall immediately be subject thereto without any further act. Such pledge and lien shall be valid and binding as against all parties having claims of any kind in tort, contract or otherwise against the City irrespective of whether such parties have notice thereof.

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Section 8. Notwithstanding any other provision of this resolution, so long as any of the Refunding Bonds shall be outstanding, the City shall not use, or permit the use of, any proceeds from the sale of the Refunding Bonds in any manner which would cause the Refunding Bonds to be an “arbitrage bond” as defined in Section 148 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and, to the extent applicable, the Regulations promulgated by the United States Treasury Department thereunder.

Section 9. In accordance with the provisions of Section 53.00 and of paragraph h of Section 90.10 of the Local Finance Law, in the event such bonds are refunded, the City hereby elects to call in and redeem each of the Refunded Bonds which the City Comptroller shall determine to be refunded in accordance with the provisions of Section 4 hereof and with regard to which the right of early redemption exists. The sum to be paid therefor on such redemption date shall be the par value thereof, and the accrued interest to such redemption date. The Escrow Agent for the Refunding Bonds is hereby authorized and directed to cause notice of such call for redemption to be given in the name of the City in the manner and within the times provided in the Refunded Bond Certificate. Such notice of redemption shall be in substantially the form attached to the Escrow Contract. Upon the issuance of the Refunding Bonds, the election to call in and redeem the callable Refunded Bonds and the direction to the Escrow Agent to cause notice thereof to be given as provided in this paragraph shall become irrevocable, provided that this paragraph may be amended from time to time as may be necessary in order to comply with the publication requirements of paragraph a of Section 53.00 of the Local Finance Law, or any successor law thereto.

Section 10. The Refunding Bonds shall be sold at private sale to Roosevelt & Cross Inc. (the “Underwriter”) for purchase prices to be determined by the City Comptroller, plus accrued interest from the date or dates of the Refunding Bonds to the date or dates of the delivery of and payment for the Refunding Bonds. The City Comptroller is hereby authorized to execute and deliver a purchase contract for the Refunding Bonds in the name and on behalf of the City providing the terms and conditions for the sale and delivery of the Refunding Bonds to the Underwriter. After the Refunding Bonds have been duly executed, they shall be delivered by the City Comptroller to the Underwriter in accordance with said purchase contract upon the receipt by the City of said the purchase price, including accrued interest.

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Section 11. The City Comptroller and all other officers, employees and agents of the City are hereby authorized and directed for and on behalf of the City to execute and deliver all certificates and other documents, perform all acts and do all things required or contemplated to be executed, performed or done by this resolution or any document or agreement approved hereby.

Section 12. All other matters pertaining to the terms and issuance of the Refunding Bonds shall be determined by the City Comptroller and all powers in connection thereof are hereby delegated to the City Comptroller. The City Comptroller shall be further authorized to issue said Refunding Bonds pursuant to Section 90.00 or Section 90.10 of the Local Finance Law as said officer shall determine necessary.

Section 13. The validity of the Refunding Bonds may be contested only if:

1. Such obligations are authorized for an object or purpose for which said City is not authorized to expend money, or
2. The provisions of law which should be complied with at the date of publication of this resolution are not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of such publication, or
3. Such obligations are authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution.

Section 14. A summary of this resolution, which takes effect immediately, shall be published in the official newspapers of said City, together with a notice of the City Clerk in substantially the form provided in Section 81.00 of the Local Finance Law.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

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OLD BUSINESS

1. Councillor Mitchell asked for an update on the Dobisky Center concession stand. City Manager Sarah Purdy said the agreement can be signed this week.
2. Councillor Skamperle thanked Ms. Purdy for including the City Attorney's legal opinion regarding assessments in the weekly update. Ms. Purdy explained the City Assessor changed forty assessments by stipulation after meeting with the property owners. Ms. Purdy said if an agreement was not reached, the process moved onto grievance. Councillor Skamperle asked if large increases can be phased in over several years. Ms. Purdy explained her research of the New York State Real Property Tax law revealed this is not a legal option for residential properties.
3. Councillor Skamperle said a union contract negotiation allowed the City of Syracuse to establish a residency requirement for fire and police employees.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Councillor Price requested that Council's weekly update also include an update from the Code Enforcement department.
2. Mayor Ashley thanked Director of Public Works Scott Thornhill and the DPW crews for a great job on the recent paving of several City streets.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Mr. Thornhill provided Council with an update regarding the Solar Array. Mr. Thornhill explained New Energy Equity has made a new proposal, and he would like to present Council with a resolution to enter into a new PPA. Mr. Thornhill said the current rate is 7.9 with a 2.5% escalator per year, but we have an opportunity to obtain a better rate. Councillor Morley said he would like to review a detailed breakdown and comparison of the numbers as well as a list of what other communities are paying.

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CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

1. Doug Loffler, 311 Paddock Street, said he asked for Council's projection of the increased assessments before the assessment roll was released, and no one had an answer. Mr. Loffler asked if any Council member asked the City Manager for the projected increase amount before the assessments were increased. City Manager Sarah Purdy said the preliminary roll was not available at that time.

2. Don Clark, 513 John Street, asked if City Comptroller Timothy Johnson reported the City's tax rate has not changed in the past twelve years. Mr. Johnson explained the tax rate is the same today as it was twelve years ago, but the rate has fluctuated over the years. Mr. Clark asked how much the City's expenses increase each year. Councillor Morley said salaries increase by about 2%. Ms. Purdy said the salary line also includes fringes, such as health insurance and retirement. Councillor Skamperle said the entire budget is available on the City website. Mr. Clark asked if Ms. Purdy reported forty residents were dissatisfied with the assessment increases. Ms. Purdy said forty property owners met with the City Assessor and entered into a stipulation. Mr. Clark said eleven property owners did not come to Grievance Day. Councillor Stevenson said forty property owners signed the stipulated agreement, but Council does not know how many actually met with the City Assessor.

3. Michael Seaman, 228 Franklin Street, suggested vegetable gardens be planted behind the Trinity Building at the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center and recommended a VA Hospital be developed in that area.

4. Barbara Michael, 941 Franklin Street, said she retired from the City in 2012 under what she believed would be the contract she would always follow. Ms. Michael said as of January 1, 2016 her out-of-pocket medical costs increased again under a different contract that she had no input on and couldn't vote on. Mayor Ashley asked City Manager Sarah Purdy to review this issue and advise Council.

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