

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

August 9, 2010

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

PRESENT: Mayor Nelson, Councillors Cilley, Morley,
Powers, Sholette, Skamperle and Vaugh

ABSENT: None

PUBLIC HEARING

1. A public hearing for an ordinance to amend Chapter 209, Section 209-48, Schedule XI: "Parking Prohibited at All Times" of the Code of the City of Ogdensburg was held. No one being present to speak, the hearing was declared closed.

PRESENTATION

1. Kathy Wade, President of the Garden Club, thanked Mayor Nelson, City Manager, Arthur Sciorra, City Council, Director of Recreation, Philip Clemens and Ron Spears of the Recreation Department for their support. Mrs. Wade also thanked Mary Lou Bromley, Chairperson of the City's Beautification program.

Donna Bentley, Vice President of the Garden Club, presented the following awards:

Commercial Award - North Country Savings Bank
Residential Award - Mike and Nicole Newtown
Civic Award - the Pride and Beautification Commission
Good Neighbor Award - Eileen Jarrett

Mayor Nelson thanked the Ogdensburg Garden Club and the Pride and Beautification Commission for keeping the City beautiful, and thanked the Garden Club for its eighty-five years of service to the Ogdensburg community.

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2. Elizabeth Smith, Gulfstream International Airline, presented Council with a packet and explained Gulfstream's proposal to provide subsidized essential air service to Massena, Ogdensburg and Watertown areas. (A copy of the presentation follows these minutes.)

3. Andrew Bonney, Dave Bushy and Leslie Murney, Hyannis Air Service, Inc. dba Cape Air, presented Council with a packet and explained Cape Air's proposal to provide subsidized essential air service to Massena, Ogdensburg and Watertown areas. (A copy of the presentation follows these minutes.)

PERSONAL APPEARANCES

1. Doug Myers, Director of Public Affairs for the Albany County Airport Authority, advised Council of the great working relationship they've had with Cape Air over the past two years. Mr. Myers said Cape Air has been a valuable addition to the Albany Airport, and they would like to keep Cape Air's maintenance facility and employees at the Albany Airport. Mr. Meyers stated it is important to have connectivity to the State's colleges and the Capitol district. Mr. Meyers also stated that Cape Air is a well-funded organization.

2. Wade Davis, Executive Director of Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority, addressed Council regarding the essential air service proposals. Mr. Davis stated that he would make a recommendation to the OBPA board August 19th to select Cape Air. Mr. Davis added that Cape Air's bid was \$1.3 million less than Gulfstream, and a four-year agreement would mean even more savings.

3. Joanne Roberts, St. Lawrence County Chamber, addressed Council and stated that Cape Air has been a great partner to the County Chamber. Ms. Roberts also said that Cape Air matches the Chambers' funds to market the airport as a region, and the County Chamber would like to continue working with them.

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4. Steve Rose, 1702 Montgomery Street, presented Council with a five page letter of complaints regarding the Mayor's complaint hotline; Code Enforcement complaints; the status of the Beaverbrook storm sewer backup and the July 27, 2010 Zoning Board of Appeals meeting. (A copy of the letter presented to Council follows these minutes.)

CORRESPONDENCE

1. City Clerk, Kathleen Bouchard read a letter from Sandra Porter, Executive Director of the Greater Ogdensburg Chamber of Commerce, supporting Cape Air as the best choice to provide Ogdensburg's Air Service. (A copy of the letter follows these minutes.)

2. City Clerk, Kathleen Bouchard read a letter from Mary Basta LeClair supporting Cape Air and urging Council to choose them for Ogdensburg's Air Service provider. (A copy of the letter follows these minutes.)

CONSENT AGENDA

Deputy Mayor Morley moved that the claims as enumerated in General Fund Warrant #14-2010 in the amount of \$791,512.06 and Library Fund Warrant #14-2010 in the amount of \$47,473.79 and Capital Fund Warrant #14-2010 in the amount of \$109,121.40 and Community Development Fund Warrant #14-2010 in the amount of \$74,452.00 and Community Renewal Fund Warrant #43-2010 in the amount of \$19,717.50 and HOME Fund Warrant #14-2010 in the amount of \$160.00 and AHC Funds Warrant #14-2010 in the amount of \$0.00 and RESTORE Program Warrant #14-2010 in the amount of \$0.00 as audited, be and the same are ordered paid and Councillor Powers seconded the motion.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

1. Councillor Vaugh moved an ordinance amending Chapter 209 entitled "Vehicles and Traffic" of the Code of the City of Ogdensburg, and Councillor Sholette seconded to wit:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 209 ENTITLED
"VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC"
OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF OGDENSBURG

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
OGDENSBURG, NEW YORK, AS FOLLOWS:

ITEM ONE: That Section 209-48, Schedule XI: "Parking Prohibited at All Times" is hereby amended as follows:

Add:

<u>Name of Street</u>	<u>Side</u>	<u>Location</u>
Crescent	West	From the north curblineline of Spinner Street 215 feet to the south curblineline of Knox Street.

ITEM TWO: This ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days after publication of notice which shall give the title and describe same in summary form.

Councillor Cilley stated that he can't support this because it's not the relief that was requested and it will eliminate eight to ten parking spaces.

The vote was:

AYES: Councillors Sholette and Vaugh

NAYS: Mayor Nelson, Councillors Cilley,
Morley, Powers and Skamperle

DEFEATED, 5 TO 2

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2. Councillor Skamperle moved a resolution to remove the pole and streetlight from the north side of the 1900 block of Ford Street, and Councillor Powers seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE REMOVAL OF THE
POLE AND STREET LIGHT ON THE 1900 BLOCK OF FORD STREET

WHEREAS, there has been a written request from the Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority to remove the pole and streetlight from the 1900 block of Ford Street; and

WHEREAS, the Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority agrees to pay all costs associated with the pole removal and light relocation as it is an obstruction to the entrance of the Port of Ogdensburg alternative access road; and

WHEREAS, one of the primary functions of local government is to serve and work with agencies within the city to promote commerce and improvements thereof; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Ogdensburg hereby requests the National Grid Company to remove a lighting device and pole (# 61-1) located on the north side, middle section of Ford Street, in the 1900 block.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Ogdensburg also requests the light be reinstalled across the street on an existing pole (#61 NYT44) located on the south side of Ford Street, in the 1900 block. Also, certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the National Grid Company.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

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OLD BUSINESS

1. Mayor Nelson asked City Manager, Arthur Sciorra if a scope of the Beaverbrook storm sewer has been done to look for blockages. Mr. Sciorra stated Director of Public Works, Kit Smith has had the pipes scoped; and if there were any blockages, they would have been removed. Mr. Sciorra also stated he would follow-up with Mr. Smith regarding this issue. Councillor Vaugh requested an update from City Assessor, Kathryn Bateman regarding the effect of this problem on the lowering of the assessments in this neighborhood. Councillor Vaugh also requested copies of the Zoning Board meeting minutes and a first-hand account from the City employee who was present at the meeting that Mr. Rose referred to. Councillor Sholette asked who is the Chairman of the Zoning Board and what City representative attends these meetings. Councillor Sholette also suggested having the Zoning Board meetings audio taped. Councillor Sholette also questioned why Fire Chief, Steve Badlam is the head of the Code Enforcement Department. Mr. Sciorra stated Code Enforcement is a division of the Fire Department as per the City Charter. Councillor Cilley questioned if the City has a policy regarding buildings that are built without permits and if citations are given for such. Mr. Sciorra explained that a permit was issued for the reasons Mr. Rose mentioned, but the project was built larger than what was originally approved by the Zoning Board. Mr. Sciorra asked the City Planner to explain what took place at that Zoning Board meeting in a memo.

2. Councillor Powers requested an update on the City properties scheduled for demolition. Director of Planning and Development, Justin Woods stated that the first two properties without asbestos, are going to be started this week. Mr. Woods also stated within two weeks the other properties will begin the asbestos abatement process. Councillor Morley asked if the City is going to rehabilitate the 505 New York Avenue property. Councillor Morley stated he believes Council should have a say in what properties the City rehabilitates or demolishes. Mayor Nelson stated it is not the role of Council to get involved in the day-to-day operation of the City. Mr. Sciorra stated sealed bids will be received, and the contractors will be held to that price, which is the bid process for all these properties.

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3. Councillor Vaughn stated Council passed a resolution to have inmates counted in the community in which they are housed, and last week the Senate passed a bill to have inmates counted in their home communities. Councillor Vaughn added that they say for now it won't effect the City's State aide, but Council needs to continue to voice their opposition. Mayor Nelson stated the direction the Senate took with this also bothers him.

4. Councillor Morley stated he recently read that the Shade Roller grant money is being released and asked when the demolition work will begin. Mr. Sciorra explained the bids will go out this winter if we get a bid price within the range of the funds the City has obtained. Director of Planning and Development, Justin Woods stated we are waiting for contracts from the Empire State Development and EPA.

5. Councillor Morley questioned the road coating being applied to New York Avenue. Councillor Morley asked if the City was given any guarantee with this petroleum/crushed stone mixture. City Manager, Arthur Sciorra stated he would check into this and get back to Council.

6. Councillor Sholette stated a while ago Council passed a resolution to provide funds to the an I-98 project and asked if those funds have been sent. Mr. Sciorra stated he will check with the Comptroller. Councillor Sholette stated he will provide Council with a I-98 project update at the next meeting.

7. Councillor Sholette asked Mr. Sciorra if he has reviewed the Syracuse one-dollar home buy back program. Director of Planning and Development, Justin Woods stated this is a program which involves a request for proposals and projects that are then ranked based on a pre-set criteria. Mr. Woods stated this program in Syracuse involves mostly vacant lots. Mr. Woods added that the City does not have many vacant lots and uses grant funds for housing rehabilitation. Councillor Sholette stated he was looking at other options to stimulate our economy. Mr. Woods stated the City is hiring local contractors to do the work and putting money back into the economy.

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8. Councillor Cilley stated he has requested a list of City-owned properties, and would now also like that list to include a description of the City's plans for those properties. Mr. Woods stated he is working on a new computer mapping software along with assessment information provided by City Assessor, Kathryn Bateman, which will generate a map and allow him to provide that information to Council.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Mayor Nelson stated he would like to discuss the Essential Air Service proposals tonight because the deadline for recommendations is August 20th. Mayor Nelson asked Council if they were ready to pass a resolution tonight.

After much discussion amongst Council, there was a consensus of Council to recommend Cape Air, option 3, for a four-year rate, waiving the requirement to provide a minimum 15 passenger standard for service.

Mayor Nelson moved a resolution in support of Cape Air's Service proposal, and Councillor Vaughn seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CAPE AIR SERVICE PROPOSAL

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Transportation has solicited proposals for Essential Air Service to the North Country, and

WHEREAS, the community has judged Cape Air to best satisfy the air travel needs of the Ogdensburg area, and

WHEREAS, Cape Air will provide EAS service to Albany and Boston,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ogdensburg City Council hereby supports Cape Air, Option 3 for a 4 year rate, as the best proposal for Essential Air Service for Ogdensburg and the North Country, and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk forward copies of this resolution to the Chairman of the OBPA, Mr. Dennis DeVany (USDOT), Renee Williams (USDOT), Congressman Bill Owens, and Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

2. Councillor Skamperle said that recently it was announced that CSX would like to eliminate or reduce rail service to the Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority, and he would like to sponsor a resolution opposing this. Wade Davis, Executive Director of the Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority, stated an application has been filed with the transportation board to reduce rail service in Ogdensburg to two days per week which is a concern. Mayor Nelson stated he will get more information from Mr. Davis and send a letter of opposition.

3. Councillor Sholette thanked the City Manager for enclosing Penny Sharrow's Recreation Department response to an Ogdensburg Journal article which stated this year's City pool usage was down due to the pool usage fee in Council's update. Mr. Sciorra stated that the reporter, Brian Kidwell, will be writing an article to acknowledge this misinformation.

4. Councillor Vaugh stated the Ogdensburg Chamber of Commerce will be hosting the Wine, Beer and Food Festival on August 14th and 15th at the Lockwood Arena and Dobisky Visitors' Center.

5. Mayor Nelson stated there will be a DEC hearing at City Hall regarding the cleanup of 2 King Street on August 17th.

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6. Mayor Nelson stated that the Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority's Port Commerce Day will be held on August 25th.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Councillor Sholette stated that Senator Aubertine voted in favor of saving the Ogdensburg Correctional Facility from closure and deals amongst our elected officials are being done everyday. Councillor Sholette suggested that Senator Aubertine could have made a deal with other elected officials to save the prison and that may be why he didn't vote in favor of counting inmates in their housed community. Mayor Nelson stated the community saved Ogdensburg Correctional Facility from closure.

Mayor Nelson stated there was a need for Executive Session and no action is expected. Mayor Nelson moved to adjourn to Executive Session, and Councillor Sholette seconded the motion.

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