

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

Mayor Ashley said there was a need for Executive Session to discuss the proposed sale of City-owned property, and Councillor Stevenson seconded the motion.

The vote to adjourn to Executive Session was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

City Manager Sarah Purdy requested that Patrick Kelly and John Pinkerton from St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Agency join Council in Executive Session, and all members of Council agreed.

Upon returning from Executive Session, all members of Council were still present.

PRESENTATION

1. Director of Public Works Scott Thornhill introduced Michael Tamblin, Project Principal and Charles Prior, Project Manager from GHD Consulting Engineers LLC. Mr. Tamblin and Mr. Prior provided Council with an update and detailed explanation of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project Preliminary Engineering Report and draft Engineering Agreement. (A copy of their presentation follows these minutes.)

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2. Director of Planning and Development Andrea Smith updated Council on the Maple City Trail extension. Ms. Smith said a public meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 1, 2017 at 7:00 pm at the Dobisky Center. Ms. Smith explained the Clarkson University students will describe the engineering concept and finalize the design concept.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Ashley moved that the claims as enumerated in General Fund Warrant #03-2017 in the amount of \$525,948.10 and Library Fund Warrant #03-2017 in the amount of \$23,061.78 and Capital Fund Warrant #03-2017 in the amount of \$60,000.00 and Community Development Fund Warrant #03-2017 in the amount of \$989.00 and Community Renewal Fund Warrant #03-2017 in the amount of \$0.00 as audited, be and the same are ordered paid and Councillor Skamperle seconded the motion.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

1. Councillor Skamperle moved a resolution to authorize the City Manager to sign a Shared Services Agreement between New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) and City of Ogdensburg for Emergency Events, to expire February 28, 2021, and Councillor Morley seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER
TO SIGN AN EMERGENCY EVENT SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION AND THE CITY OF OGDENSBURG

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) requires an Emergency Event Shared Services Agreement to assist the City of Ogdensburg local highway system when a Governor's Emergency Declaration has not been made, and

WHEREAS, by executing this Emergency Event Shared Services Agreement beforehand, the City's emergency needs can be addressed without waiting for an Emergency Declaration or paperwork to be processed, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Manager, Sarah Purdy, is hereby authorized and directed to sign an Emergency Event Shared Services Agreement with the NYSDOT, to expire February 28, 2021.

Councillor Skamperle asked why the agreement has an expiration date. Director of Public Works Scott Thornhill explained the agreement has expired annually in the past, but this year he requested a longer term. Mr. Thornhill said the State is not quite ready for an agreement without an expiration date in case State funding ever became an issue.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

2. Councillor Stevenson moved a resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit an application for up to \$30,000 through the 2017 SLRVRDA grant application for funds to complete necessary Phase II environmental site assessment at Parcel A, to expire February 28, 2021, and Councillor Skamperle seconded to wit:

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE SUBMISSION
OF A 2017 ST. LAWRENCE RIVER VALLEY
REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY GRANT APPLICATION

WHEREAS, the St. Lawrence River Valley Redevelopment Agency (“RVRDA”) has announced the availability of funding through the 2017 Community Development and Environmental Improvement Fund (“CD/EI Fund”); and

WHEREAS, the City of Ogdensburg desires to prepare an application seeking funds to support the acquisition of Parcel A on the grounds of the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center (“SLPC”) Campus; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Planning and Community Development have received quotes to complete the required Phase II Environmental Site Assessment from a qualified engineering firm that will serve as the basis of this request; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Planning and Community Development is prepared to administer this grant and provide in-kind services not to exceed \$3,765.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ogdensburg City Manager is hereby authorized to submit a 2017 RVRDA Application in an amount of \$30,000, and if received, to enter into any necessary contracts to administer this grant.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

3. Councillor Mitchell moved a resolution to authorize the City Manager to submit a revised Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Finance application to finance the wastewater system improvements project, and Councillor Price seconded to wit:

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A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO
SUBMIT A REVISED CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING
FUND (CWSRF) FINANCE APPLICATION TO FINANCE THE
WASTEWATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

WHEREAS, the City of Ogdensburg contracted with GHD, who conducted an evaluation of the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), South Water Street, Main Street, and Psychiatric Center Pump Stations, re-evaluated means for compliance with the City's Long-Term Control Plan and developed a Preliminary Engineering Report; and

WHEREAS, the Preliminary Engineering Report provides recommendations for upgrades at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, South Water Street, Main Street, and Psychiatric Center Pump Stations as well as compliance with the City's Long-Term Control Plan; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to update the previously submitted Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) finance application based on the change in project scope and the estimated project cost; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ogdensburg City Manager is hereby authorized to submit a revised Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) finance application to finance the Wastewater System Improvements Project.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

4. Mayor Ashley moved a resolution to accept and enter into an agreement with St. Lawrence County to acquire the former Owasco River Railroad Bridge ("Black Bridge"), and Councillor Skamperle seconded to wit:

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A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT AND
ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY

WHEREAS, the St. Lawrence County (“the County”) is the title holder of the portion of the former Owasco River Railroad Bridge, locally known as the “Black Bridge”, including the bridge extending across the Oswegatchie River; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ogdensburg desires to acquire this bridge at the cost of one dollar (\$1), plus \$350 deed recording fee for a total costs of \$351 for the purpose of extending the existing Maple City Trail; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ogdensburg has submitted an application to the New York State Department of Transportation to complete said trail extension; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Sections C-3 and C-8 of Charter of the City of Ogdensburg, the City Council has the authority to accept the gift of the bridge and related real property on behalf of the City of Ogdensburg.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ogdensburg City Manager is hereby authorized to accept the title of the Owasco Railroad Bridge from the County and to enter into an agreement with the County to complete said transfer as approved by the City Attorney and to execute all documents necessary to complete said transfer.

Councillor Davis asked for the condition of the bridge and if the City assumes all liability if we acquire the property. Councillor Morley said he is also concerned about liability issues. Mayor Ashley asked who owns the parcel to the south of the bridge. Director of Planning and Development Andrea Smith said the parcel south of the bridge is privately owned, and the owner has agreed to give the City an easement to the cemetery property line. Ms. Smith explained the cemetery has also agreed to give the City an easement.

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Ms. Smith explained the City first made this proposal in 2004, received \$250,000 in State funding but returned the grant because we were unable to obtain ownership of the bridge and the required easements. Ms. Smith said the State has recommended the City pursue the ownership of the bridge and required easements before the funding of this new grant begins. Ms. Smith explained the St. Lawrence County Legislature passed a resolution agreeing to transfer the property to the City in December 2016. Councillor Morley said an earlier study showed the bridge needed significant repairs. Ms. Smith said that study was performed in 2008. Councillor Morley asked how much the City has applied for under this grant, and Ms. Smith said \$2.2 million.

Councillor Morley asked who will police the trail extension since it is outside the City limits. Police Chief Andrew Kennedy said he will need to explore the options of policing the additional area if the trail is extended, but the immediate concern is for the City to take the necessary steps to pursue the grant. Councillor Morley asked for an estimate of the cost to repair the bridge. Ms. Smith said the 2008 study provided an estimated cost, and the State has a formula to calculate the approximate current cost. Ms. Smith explained 80% of the cost would be covered by the grant, and our share could be absorbed through in-kind services, administrative work, etc.

City Manager Sarah Purdy said the basic question right now is whether Council wants to acquire the property and obtain the required easements now to move forward easily in our pursuit of the grant. Ms. Purdy explained the alternative is to wait to see if we are awarded the grant, but then face significant challenges to move forward with the extension of the trail. Councillor Morley said he does not like the City's acceptance of liability. Councillor Price asked if the City has liability insurance, and Ms. Purdy said yes. Director of Public Works Scott Thornhill explained the requirements for the bridge to be used as a walking bridge are much lower than the minimum requirements for it to be used as a train trestle. Mr. Thornhill explained staff from all departments will work together to make the project successful. Councillor Morley recommended 'No Trespassing' signs be posted on the property and all members of Council agreed.

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The vote was:

AYES: Mayor Ashley, Councillors Mitchell,
Price, Skamperle and Stevenson

NAYS: Councillors Davis and Morley

CARRIED, 5 TO 2

OLD BUSINESS

1. Mayor Ashley asked for an update on the signs recommending no smoking in City parks. Recreation Director Matt Curatolo said his department has been working directly with the agency that agreed to donate the signs. Mr. Curatolo explained a cigarette pickup day will be held at Kids Kingdom on May 20, 2017 and signs will be installed at that park the same day. Mr. Curatolo said the signs will be installed at the other City parks on the following Monday. Councillor Skamperle asked for a description of the signs. Mr. Curatolo said he believes the signs will state 'Please don't smoke – children at play'.

2. Councillor Morley said he reviewed the library's referendum for the School Board and asked if anyone has discussed the future loss of funding from the City with the library representatives. City Manager Sarah Purdy said she has already discussed the pending cuts with them. Councillor Price said he would have preferred the library seek the full amount required, and Councillor Morley agreed.

3. Councillor Stevenson thanked the community for their support of the St. Lawrence Valley SPCA Shelter SNOLF tournament held this past weekend.

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4. Councillor Stevenson said she attended the presentation hosted by Forsyth's Rifles regarding the War of 1812 and St. Lawrence County during the battle reenactment weekend. Councillor Stevenson suggested better patrolling of the reenactment area and letters to residents along the route regarding the condition of their sidewalks prior to next year's event. Ms. Stevenson commended Forsyth's Rifles and Fort la Presentation for a great event.

5. Councillor Skamperle asked for more information regarding the \$250,000 Northern Border Regional Commission grant the City received. Director of Planning and Development Andrea Smith explained the funding will be used to advance the project near the former Diamond National and Shade Roller sites to be ready for final design by performing water and sewer upgrades in the area.

6. Councillor Price asked when Council will receive updates from all departments as requested. Councillor Price explained Mr. Thornhill's updates on the DPW department are very thorough but asked that other departments also keep Council updated. City Manager Sarah Purdy said she will provide Council with the schedule developed for updates from every department. Councillor Morley asked that Council also receive regular updates on overtime.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Director of Public Works Scott Thornhill said his department has experienced a difficult week with water main breaks. Mr. Thornhill said his staff discovered a slow leak on February 17, 2017 and were confident the repair could be completed easily. Mr. Thornhill said unfortunately after the repair was made the following day, they discovered another failure in the same line and repaired that. Mr. Thornhill said that failure was followed by several other failures, day after day. Mr. Thornhill said his department installed a new valve without any issues, but then there was a failure on the other side of the valve.

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Councillor Morley asked if the City installed the lines we are currently experiencing trouble with, and Mr. Thornhill said no. Mr. Thornhill said the cause of the leaks is still under investigation, and he will keep Council updated on the issues. Mr. Thornhill recommended the use of poly lines in the future. Councillor Davis asked if we could tie back into poly lines. Mr. Thornhill said yes and described the process in great detail.

Mayor Ashley commended the DPW workers for their dedication. Mr. Thornhill said we have a tremendous work force, and staff repeatedly agreed to stay to repair breaks after already working their full shift. Councillor Morley asked if we can apply for any grants to help absorb the cost of the line replacement. Mr. Thornhill said it is possible once the source of the problem is discovered.

Mayor Ashley said there was a need for Executive Session to discuss proposed litigation and the Charter Review Commission appointments, and Councillor Skamperle seconded the motion.

The vote to adjourn to Executive Session was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

City Manager Sarah Purdy asked that City Comptroller Timothy Johnson join Council in Executive Session, and all members of Council agreed.

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