

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

August 28, 2017

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

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Morley, Councillors Davis,
Mitchell, Price, Skamperle and Stevenson

ABSENT: Mayor Ashley

Deputy Mayor Morley said Mayor Ashley was absent due to a family emergency. There was a consensus of Council to excuse Mayor Ashley.

PRESENTATION

1. City Manager Sarah Purdy made a presentation to Council regarding the Five Year Capital Improvement Plan. (A copy of her presentation follows these minutes.)

City Manager Sarah Purdy explained that the Capital Improvement Plan is a multi-year document that identifies major infrastructure and equipment needs of the City. Ms. Purdy stated that the Spring Street Bridge is a City bridge with structural issues. Councillor Skamperle said the Spring Street Bridge has been resurfaced since he has been a Councillor. Ms. Purdy added there may be Federal money available for this bridge repair.

2. City Manager Sarah Purdy made a presentation to Council regarding the status of the 2017 Budget and the preliminary projections for 2018. (A copy of her presentation follows these minutes.)

Councillor Morley suggested we focus on reducing expenses, and Ms. Purdy agreed. Councillor Morley asked how much fund balance was used for this year's budget, and Ms. Purdy said none. Councillor Morley suggested we contact our State representative to help change the law so the City is not required to make the School District whole on unpaid taxes. Ms. Purdy said she would look into it, and advised Council that this was never a budgeted item, but needs to be.

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Councillor Skamperle asked if the City has been paid for the airport security and Ms. Purdy said yes. Councillor Morley asked if the Moody's bond rate downgrade will affect this year's borrowing. Ms. Purdy said it will affect next year's borrowing. City Comptroller Timothy Johnson explained the rate takes affect this year, but repayment doesn't begin until next year.

Ms. Purdy advised Council that the proposed 2018 Budget would be released to them on October 13, 2017. Ms. Purdy asked Council to review the budget review schedule.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. A public hearing regarding the sale of City-owned property located at 111 Lafayette Street was held.

Joanne Poore, 334 County Route 28A, said she submitted a request to purchase the property. Deputy Mayor Morley said Council has reviewed her correspondence. No one else being present to speak, the hearing was declared closed.

2. A public hearing regarding a proposed ordinance amending Chapter 209, entitled 'Vehicles and Traffic', Article VII entitled 'Schedules', §209-54 "Schedule VII: Time Limit Parking" of the Code of the City of Ogdensburg. No one being present to speak, the hearing was declared closed.

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

1. Councillor Stevenson moved a local law to amend the City Charter, Article XV, §C-54 entitled Department of Personnel; City Civil Service Commission, and Councillor Mitchell seconded to wit:

LOCAL LAW # 2 of 2017
A LOCAL LAW TO AMEND ARTICLE XV, SECTION 54
OF THE OGDENSBURG CITY CHARTER ENTITLED
DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL; CITY CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

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A Local Law providing for changes in the Ogdensburg Municipal Code, Article XV, §C-54. entitled Department of Personnel; City Civil Service Commission as requested by the Ogdensburg City Council.

Be it enacted by the City Council of the City of Ogdensburg, New York as follows:

SECTION 1. Article XV, §C-54 of the Ogdensburg City Charter is hereby abolished in its entirety in accordance with Civil Service Law, Chapter 7, Article II, Title B, §16(b) authorizing the withdrawal of the administration of Civil Service from the City of Ogdensburg Commission and elects that Civil Service for the City of Ogdensburg be administered under the jurisdiction of the Personnel Officer of St. Lawrence County;

SECTION 2. The effective date of this Local Law shall be not later than July 1, 2018 in accordance with Civil Service Law, Chapter 7, Article II, Title B, §16 (2);

SECTION 3. All local laws and ordinances and provisions of the Charter and all other laws capable of modification hereby which conflict with the provisions of this local law are hereby modified, amended or repealed, as the case may be, to conform to the provisions of this local law.

SECTION 4. This local law shall take effect not later than July 1, 2018 in accordance with Section 2 of this Local Law if it is approved by a majority of the qualified electors of the City of Ogdensburg voting thereon at the next general election in compliance with the provisions of the Municipal Home Rule Law of the State of New York.

Councillor Davis asked how this change benefits the City. City Manager Sarah Purdy explained the City is facing an interesting challenge because one person has been performing all Civil Service duties for the City for several years and is nearing retirement. Ms. Purdy said City Clerk Kathleen Bouchard has done an excellent job. Ms. Purdy explained Mrs. Bouchard has put in many extra hours including Saturdays but is unable to use her accumulated time because of other duties in the City Clerk's Office. Ms. Purdy explained if we transfer this duty to the County, we create opportunities to redistribute or consolidate duties in the City Clerk's Office.

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Councillor Davis asked if there is any cost associated with the change. City Manager Sarah Purdy explained the City would lose about \$13,000 in revenue beginning in 2019, but the redistribution or consolidation of duties would offset that revenue loss. Councillor Stevenson asked if the County would charge any fee for the service. City Clerk Kathleen Bouchard said she has confirmed with the County Treasurer that the County does not charge any other towns or villages in St. Lawrence County to administer their Civil Service. Councillor Stevenson said that Civil Service laws change regularly, and the County HR Director would be able to stay on top of those changes and attend regular training. Councillor Morley asked if the City would be required to hire from countywide lists. Ms. Purdy explained the City can request a list of only Ogdensburg residents. Councillor Mitchell said the change would benefit residents because they would have more job opportunities. Councillor Skamperle asked if the voters have to approve this change. Ms. Purdy said yes, it would be a proposition on this November's ballot.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

2. Councillor Mitchell moved an ordinance to sell City-owned property located at 111 Lafayette Street, and Councillor Stevenson seconded to wit:

ORDINANCE #14 of 2017
AN ORDINANCE TO OFFER FOR SALE AT PUBLIC AUCTION
CITY-OWNED PROPERTY

BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the City Council of the City of Ogdensburg, New York, as follows:

SECTION ONE:

The following property shall be offered for sale at public auction by the City of Ogdensburg:

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<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>MINIMUM PURCHASE PRICE</u>	<u>RESTRICTION(S)</u>
111 Lafayette Street	\$2,500.00 (includes estimated a \$100 Attorney & \$350 SLC recording fees)	Vacant Lot with garage on site, the property is zoned MDR and is non-conforming lot of record at 30'x100'. As a non-conforming lot of record the property can be built upon in accordance with the provisions for the MDR district, but must comply with the setbacks. Without a principle permitted use on the property the only other means of using the parcel for something else without combining it to an adjacent lot is to seek a variance.

SECTION TWO: The City does not guarantee clear property title in the transfer of properties by auction and conveyance will be made by Quit Claim Deed. The City Council reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to withdraw any parcel from sale.

SECTION THREE: This ordinance shall become effective after public notice has been published at least once each week for three weeks in the official City newspaper.

Joanne Poore, 334 County Route 28A, said she saw a sign on the property that said "For Sale by City of Ogdensburg", not by auction. Deputy Mayor Morley explained by law an auction is the only way the City can sell property. Councillor Skamperle said this is the way Council can speed up the process to sell the property rather than wait for a City wide auction next year. Councillor Skamperle asked if the garage currently located on the property will need to be removed, and Ms. Purdy said no.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

1. Councillor Price moved an ordinance to amend Chapter 209, entitled 'Vehicles and Traffic', Article VII entitled 'Schedules', §209-54 "Schedule VII: Time Limit Parking" of the Code of the City of Ogdensburg, and Councillor Skamperle seconded to wit:

ORDINANCE #15 of 2017

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

BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the City Council of the City of
Ogdensburg, New York, as follows:

ITEM ONE: That Chapter 209, entitled 'Vehicles and Traffic', Article VII entitled 'Schedules', §209-54 "Schedule VII: Time Limit Parking" is hereby amended and the following shall be deleted:

New York Avenue	East	2 hrs.; All/ Monday through Friday	From a point 35 feet south from the southeast curblin of Rensselaer Avenue to a point 40 feet south therefrom
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ITEM TWO: This ordinance shall take effect ten (10) days after publication of a notice which shall give the title and describe same in summary form.

Councillor Skamperle asked for an explanation of the location of the sign and how much area would be affected. Public Works Director Scott Thornhill explained it affects approximately two parking spaces. Councillor Morley asked why the sign was initially placed. Mr. Thornhill explained it was required when the doctor's office existed in that area, but that office is now gone.

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Mr. Thornhill said the hospital has created additional parking in the area and asked for more signage to be placed. Mr. Thornhill explained this sign should be removed simply to accommodate the newly placed signs. Councillor Skamperle asked if parking would be permitted in this area, and Mr. Thornhill said yes.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

Deputy Mayor Morley said there was a need for Executive Session to discuss litigation, and Councillor Skamperle seconded the motion.

The vote to adjourn to Executive Session was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

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