

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

PRESENT: Mayor Ashley, Councillors Davis,  
Mitchell, Price and Skamperle

ABSENT: Councillors Morley and Stevenson

Mayor Ashley said Councillor Morley and Councillor Stevenson were out of town. There was a consensus of Council to excuse Councillor Morley and Councillor Stevenson.

#### PRESENTATION

1. Mayor Ashley announced NYCOM certificates were issued for the following employees:

- Thomas Beauchamp – Fire Department – 30 years
- Joseph King – DPW – 30 years
- Donald McCarthy – Fire Department – 30 years
- Byron Montroy – DPW – 30 years
- Jo-Ellen Murray – Public Library – 30 years
- Timothy O'Reilly – Recreation – 30 years
- Kevin Shaver – DPW – 25 years

2. Fred Bean, Chairman of the Charter Review Commission, presented the Commission's final recommendations to City Council for their consideration. Chairman Bean asked that the Commission be notified of the meeting date at which Council intends to discuss the recommendations. Mayor Ashley thanked Chairman Bean and Commission members on behalf of Council for their time and hard work.

## CITY COUNCIL MEETING

September 25, 2017

Page 224

3. Director of Planning and Development Andrea Smith and Jeffrey M. Skelly made a presentation to Council regarding a proposed Adaptive Reuse Permit Application for 616 Rensselaer Avenue. Ms. Smith said the Zoning Board of Appeals has recommended approval with conditions. Ms. Smith explained the proposal in detail and described the building, property and neighborhood. Mr. Skelly said he intends to develop high end apartments and described his plans in detail. Councillor Skamperle asked if Mr. Skelly intends to install the curbing as recommended. Mr. Skelly said the wall has been removed and part of the pavement will also be removed. Mr. Skelly explained he intends to raise the bed and install plants to give the area more eye appeal and meets the requirements of the conditions. Councillor Davis said he supports the proposal 100% and asked if there has been any interest in the apartments yet. Mr. Skelly explained he will probably have more names on the list than available apartments. Mr. Skelly said if this project is successful, he would have an interest in developing other properties.

## PUBLIC HEARING

1. A public hearing to amend Chapter 149 entitled "Parks" of the Ogdensburg Municipal Code to designate the Clifford Montroy Youth Complex as a Youth Only Organized Sporting Event Complex was held. No one being present to speak, the hearing was declared closed.

2. A public hearing regarding a proposed Adaptive Reuse Permit Application for 616 Rensselaer Avenue was held. The following people spoke:

- a) Dave Bush, 610 Rensselaer Avenue, said it is a great proposal and he supports Mr. Skelly's plans.
- b) Francine Naccarato, 215 Franklin Street, said she fully supports the project and hopes she is able to rent one of the apartments. Ms. Naccarato said Mr. Skelly performs top notch work and complies with City requirements.

- c) Bob Purser, 701 Rensselaer Avenue, said Mr. Skelly already does a great job maintaining the property, and his proposal will enhance the neighborhood.

City Clerk Kathleen Bouchard read a letter of support from Chuck Foster. (A copy of the letter follows these minutes.) No one else being present to speak, the hearing was declared closed.

### CORRESPONDENCE

1. City Clerk Kathleen Bouchard read a letter from Rhonda Roethel, Committee Chairperson of the Light Up the Night Santa Parade, requesting permission to hold the parade on Saturday, November 18, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. (A copy of the letter follows these minutes.)

### CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Ashley moved that the claims as enumerated in General Fund Warrant #15-2017 in the amount of \$606,721.34 and Library Fund Warrant #15-2017 in the amount of \$23,296.01 and Capital Fund Warrant #15-2017 in the amount of \$6,683.75 and Community Development Fund Warrant #15-2017 in the amount of \$0.00 and Community Renewal Fund Warrant #15-2017 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

APPOINTMENTS

1. Mayor Ashley moved to appoint Edward Dana, 2127 Ford Street, Ogdensburg, to a five year term on the Board of Assessment and Review, to begin October 1, 2017 and expire September 30, 2022, and Councillor Price seconded the motion.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

1. Councillor Davis moved an ordinance to amend Chapter 149 entitled “Parks” of the Ogdensburg Municipal Code to designate the Clifford Montroy Youth Complex as a Youth Only Organized Sporting Event Complex, and Councillor Skamperle seconded to wit:

ORDINANCE #16 of 2017  
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 149 ENTITLED “PARKS”,  
SECTION 149.5 ENTITLED “RESTRICTIONS”  
OF THE OGDENSBURG MUNICIPAL CODE

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

WHEREAS, the Clifford Montroy Youth Complex is City-owned property and maintained by the Ogdensburg Recreation Department; and

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

September 25, 2017

Page 227

WHEREAS, the Clifford Montroy Youth Complex houses the Ogdensburg Parks & Recreation Department summer youth sports camps, the Russ McDonald Baseball Field, the Gary Skelly Softball Field, the Ogdensburg Kiwanis Club softball, baseball and soccer programs and the Ogdensburg Pee Wee Football Association programs; and

WHEREAS, the Ogdensburg Recreation Commission at their June 1, 2017 meeting determined that the fields at the Clifford Montroy Youth Complex are too small for adult use and cause softballs to routinely hit neighboring houses and break windows; and

WHEREAS, the Ogdensburg Recreation Commission acknowledges that there are City fields at Monnett Park and Peg LaVigne Women's Softball Field to host adult softball tournaments.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Ogdensburg City Council of the City of Ogdensburg as follows:

Section 1: Section 149-5, entitled "Restrictions" of Chapter 149 of the Ogdensburg Municipal Code entitled "Parks", be and the same is hereby amended to add a new subdivision which shall read as follows:

K. Clifford Montroy Youth Complex. The Clifford Montroy Youth Complex has been designated for youth organized sporting events only (ages 16 and under) and adult organized sporting event usage is prohibited.

Section 2: This ordinance shall become effective ten days after publication in the official City newspaper.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

September 25, 2017

Page 228

Councillor Price said he was concerned the language regarding organized sporting events is not clear enough. City Manager Sarah Purdy asked if City Attorney Andy Silver had reviewed the language. City Clerk Kathleen Bouchard said Council amended the language at the last Council meeting. Councillor Skamperle explained his reason for amending the language was to not prevent adults from being on the property. Councillor Price suggested clarification on “organized”. Councillor Davis said adults could still use the property for fundraising.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

2. Councillor Skamperle moved a resolution to approve with conditions the request for an Adaptive Reuse Permit Application for 616 Rensselaer Avenue, OMC §221-28, and Councillor Price seconded to wit:

**A RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL WITH CONDITIONS OF AN ADAPTIVE  
REUSE DISTRICT PERMIT APPLICATION FOR 616 RENSSELAER AVE IN  
THE CITY OF OGDENSBURG**

WHEREAS, the Ogdensburg Planning and Development Office accepted a completed Adaptive Reuse District (ARD) Permit Application on August 11, 2017 which was presented to the Ogdensburg Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) on August 22, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Ogdensburg Planning and Development Board reviewed the request on September 5, 2017 in accordance with OMC §221-24B and recommended approval with conditions; and

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

September 25, 2017

Page 229

WHEREAS, the Ogdensburg Zoning Board of Appeals duly advertised in the Ogdensburg Journal and sent written notice to all persons listed in the petition as owning property within 400 feet radius of the premises in question and held a public hearing on said application at City Hall, 330 Ford Street, Ogdensburg, New York the 7<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2017 in accordance with OMC §221-25. All those desired to be heard were heard and their testimony duly recorded at said hearing; and

WHEREAS, the Zoning Board of Appeals recommends to the Ogdensburg City Council: *final approval* with *conditions* of the applicant's request for an adaptive reuse district permit to convert the former 26,848 SF elementary school into 10 residential units, with 1,300 SF of commercial/office space and site amenities at 616 Rensselaer Ave.

Conditions of approval are as follows:

1. Remove failing retaining wall and regrade as necessary to achieve grade and prevent sheet flow from entering the City's storm sewer, or install curbing within the parking area to prevent sheet flow from entering the City's storm sewer on Ogden Street. Either method will be found acceptable, but must prevent storm water runoff from entering the public right-of-way and therefore the City's combined storm sewer on Ogden Street.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ogdensburg City Council after holding a public hearing today, the 25<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2017 where all those desiring to be heard were heard and their testimony duly recorded by the City Clerk does hereby authorize approval with conditions of the request for an Adaptive Reuse Permit for 616 Rensselaer Ave in accordance with the findings of the Ogdensburg Zoning Board of Appeals.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

September 25, 2017

Page 230

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk is authorized to report this decision to the City's Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Board within ten (10) days of this meeting date.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

3. Mayor Ashley moved a resolution to call for a public hearing regarding a local law to amend Local Law #2 of 2017, Section 2 and Section 4, to provide for changes in the Ogdensburg Municipal Code, Article XV, §C-54 entitled Department of Personnel; City Civil Service Commission, and Councillor Skamperle seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION OF CITY COUNCIL  
INTRODUCING A LOCAL LAW AND PROVIDING FOR PUBLIC NOTICE  
AND PUBLIC HEARING

BE IT RESOLVED that proposed Local Law #3 of the year 2017 entitled:

Amendment to Local Law #2 of 2017, Section 2 and Section 4, to provide for changes in the Ogdensburg Municipal Code, Article XV, §C-54. entitled Department of Personnel; City Civil Service Commission, be and it hereby is introduced before the City Council of the City of Ogdensburg, NY, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of the aforesaid proposed Local Law be given to each member of the City Council, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council hold a Public Hearing on said proposed Local Law at the City Council Chambers at 7:00 pm on October 10, 2017, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk give notice of such public hearing by publication, in the newspaper so designated for the publication of legal notices, at least seven days before the hearing date, of a notice setting forth the time and place and describing the proposed Local Law in summary form.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

4. Councillor Mitchell moved a resolution authorizing the City Manager to accept a \$181,334.00 Department of Homeland Security Grant No. EMW-2016-FO-00295 to purchase 28 new self-contained breathing apparatuses with face pieces and 56 SCBA cylinders, and Councillor Skamperle seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT  
A DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT  
NO. EMW-2016-FO-00295 TO PURCHASE EQUIPMENT  
FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the Ogdensburg Fire Department has been awarded a Department of Homeland Security Grant No. EMW-2016-FO-00295 in the amount of \$181,334.00 for the purchase of 28 new self-contained breathing apparatuses with face pieces and 56 SCBA cylinders; and

WHEREAS, funding to support this acquisition will be paid from budgeted funding allocated in A3410.240 Specialized Equipment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Ogdensburg City Council that it hereby authorizes the City Manager to accept the Department of Homeland Security Grant No. EMW-2016-FO-00295 in the amount of \$181,334.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Manager or her designee is hereby authorized to administer these funds, including executing all necessary documents relating to the application or administration of the award.

Councillor Skamperle said the packs have a shelf life and asked if the purchase can be postponed until we need them. Fire Chief Michael Farrell explained we have one year to use the money, but our packs expire in 2018 so the timing is perfect. City Manager Sarah Purdy said these grants take lead time, and Chief Farrell planned perfectly.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

5. Councillor Price moved a resolution opposing the elimination of the deductibility of State and Local Taxes, and Councillor Skamperle seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION OPPOSING ELIMINATION OF THE  
DEDUCTIBILITY OF STATE AND LOCAL TAXES

WHEREAS Congress is giving serious consideration to eliminating the federal income tax deduction for state and local taxes;

WHEREAS this deduction, which has been in place for more than 100 years, is heavily utilized by residents of our community and our State;

WHEREAS New York residents already pay more into the federal treasury than the federal government returns to New York;

WHEREAS the state and local tax deduction is a fundamental principle of federalism and without it our residents would be faced with double taxation as they would be forced to pay federal income taxes on the taxes they pay to state and local governments;

WHEREAS this federal cost shift onto local governments would place extreme pressure on municipal budgets, including diminished revenue for essential local government investments, including public safety and public infrastructure; and

WHEREAS increased federal taxation and reduced municipal services will harm our local housing market, decrease home values and erode our local tax base,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ogdensburg City Council expresses its strong opposition to any tax reform proposal that would eliminate the State and Local Tax (SALT) Deduction and urges their Representative, Congresswoman Elise Stefanik, to join us in publicly opposing any such proposal.

Councillor Skamperle asked how many other municipalities have voiced their opposition. City Manager Sarah Purdy said there is strong resistance where these deductions are currently allowed, and she estimated about twenty states are joining in opposition. Councillor Skamperle asked if Congresswoman Elise Stefanik has voiced her opposition. Ms. Purdy said she is not aware if Congresswoman Stefanik has taken a position on the issue.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

6. Mayor Ashley moved a resolution authorizing the City Manager to sign a NYSDOT Undertaking Agreement to allow the 2017 Holiday Light Up the Night Parade route to be designated as State Street (Route 68), and Councillor Price seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER  
TO SIGN A NYSDOT UNDERTAKING AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) requires an Undertaking Agreement to allow the 2017 Holiday Light Up the Night Parade route to be designated as State Street (Route 68), and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Manager, Sarah Purdy, is hereby authorized and directed to sign an Undertaking Agreement with the NYSDOT to allow the 2017 Holiday Light Up the Night Parade route to be designated as State Street (Route 68).

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

7. Councillor Davis moved a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a purchase contract with Swab Wagon Co., Inc. for the purchase of a new Pioneer Services – Solid Fiberglass EMS Unit for a sum not to exceed \$99,535.00, and Councillor Skamperle seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING  
AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR  
PURCHASE OF NEW SOLID FIBERGLASS EMS UNIT

WHEREAS, bids have been solicited and received for the purchase of a new Solid Fiberglass EMS Unit for the City of Ogdensburg Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, City staff evaluated the one bid received and recommended the contract be awarded to that bidder;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Sarah Purdy, City Manager, is authorized to enter into the following purchase contract, for a sum not to exceed \$99,535.00, on behalf of the City; and

SUPPLIER	BID AMOUNT
Swab Wagon Co., Inc. 44 South Callowhill Street P.O. Box 919 Elizabethville, PA 17023	\$99,535.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the funds to pay for the New Solid Fiberglass EMS Unit come from the State and Municipal Facilities Capital Program GRANT (SAM7856) and will be reimbursed to the City of Ogdensburg.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

8. Councillor Skamperle moved a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with LaBella Associates for a sum not to exceed \$37,400 for a Feasibility Study for a Visitor Interpretive Center for Fort La Presentation (funds to pay for this contract will come from Fort La Presentation and Department of State Grant Contract #T1000541), and Councillor Davis seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO  
ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH LABELLA ASSOCIATES  
FOR THE COMPLETION OF A  
FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR A VISITOR/INTERPRETIVE CENTER (VIC)

WHEREAS, Fort La Presentation in partnership with the City intends to conduct a Feasibility Study for a Visitor/Interpretive Center at Lighthouse Point; and

WHEREAS, the City requested proposals from qualified firms and received proposals from five (5) firms interested in the project and experienced in performing the services; and

WHEREAS, the interested firms, in no particular order are LaBella Associates with an office in Buffalo, NY; ConsultEcon with an office in Cambridge, MA; Market & Feasibility Advisors with an office in Chicago, IL; ArtsMarket with an office in Bozeman, MT; and Crane Associates, Inc. with an office in Burlington, VT; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Fort Board and City staff have reviewed and compared the proposals submitted and determined that the LaBella Associates proposal is the one that best meets the needs of the Fort and the City; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Manager is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with LaBella Associates, for a sum not to exceed \$37,400 in services associated with the completion of a VIC feasibility study; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the funds to pay for this contract will come from following source:

Fort La Presentation:	\$25,000
NYS Department of State:	\$12,500

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

9. Councillor Mitchell moved a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an amended agreement with GHD Consulting Services, Inc. for the Wastewater System Improvements project, and Mayor Ashley seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO  
AN AMENDED AGREEMENT WITH GHD CONSULTING SERVICES, INC.

WHEREAS, an amended agreement for the City Wastewater System Improvements project has been negotiated between the City Manager and GHD Consulting Services, Inc. (GHD), and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council authorizes the City Manager to enter into said amended agreement with GHD to provide additional professional services as described in Amendment No. 1 for the Wastewater System Improvements project, pending review and approval of the City Attorney.

## CITY COUNCIL MEETING

September 25, 2017

Page 237

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that funding for these services will come from the Wastewater System Improvements Project Fund H813003.518.

City Manager Sarah Purdy explained the details of the project changes and said there is plenty of money in the contingent project account to complete this work. Ms. Purdy said the Diocese of Ogdensburg has agreed to deed the required land to the City at no charge and has already obtained the necessary approvals on their end. Ms. Purdy read part of a letter she received and thanked the Diocese for their generosity.

Councillor Skamperle asked why this work was not included in the original project and voiced concern about the cost of the project continuing to grow. Ms. Purdy explained she has been very stern in every meeting with the contractors about holding the project to its cost. Public Works Director Scott Thornhill explained this work is outside of the original scope of the project. Mr. Thornhill said this is a long term requirement that can be accomplished at this time. Mr. Thornhill said this work was evaluated now because of the recent flooding.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

### ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. City Manager Sarah Purdy said she forwarded a proposal to Council regarding brush pickup. Ms. Purdy explained the City could save between \$2,700 and \$5,000 by eliminating the last three weeks of scheduled brush pickups and picking up everything when the Fall pickup begins. Ms. Purdy said we can prevent future overtime costs by making this change. Councillor Mitchell asked if the landfill will be reopened during that timeframe. Public Works Director Scott Thornhill said it is a misconception that the landfill is closed. Mr. Thornhill explained residents simply need to call ahead, and someone will meet them to unlock the gate.

## CITY COUNCIL MEETING

September 25, 2017

Page 238

Mayor Ashley asked if this change would impact the Fall pickup schedule, and Mr. Thornhill said no. Councillor Mitchell asked if the City would be issuing tickets for violations of the brush policy during this time period, and Mr. Thornhill said no. Councillor Skamperle said the changes to the brush pickup schedule were initiated to keep the CHIPS funding for work that needed to be completed and asked if those projects were still underway. Mr. Thornhill explained his department is working everyday with CHIPS money and described some of the ongoing projects. Mr. Thornhill said the projects will continue throughout the construction season. Councillor Skamperle asked if brush pickup resumes on rainy days when CHIPS projects cannot be completed, and Mr. Thornhill said yes. Mr. Thornhill explained the overtime hours are currently being banked by the workers, but at some point the City will need to pay out for those hours. There was a consensus of Council to eliminate the last three weeks of scheduled brush pickup.

2. Councillor Skamperle said Mr. Thornhill had provided an update on the sewer gas issue at the intersection of Paterson Street and Lafayette Street and asked for more details. Mr. Thornhill explained the system was previously combined, but it is now separated. Mr. Thornhill said a check valve will be installed and described the work that needs to be completed. Mr. Thornhill said when the work is complete, the gases will migrate. Councillor Davis asked for the cost of the work. Mr. Thornhill said the valves are approximately \$10,000, but all expenses are eligible project costs.

3. Councillor Skamperle asked if we have completed ten sewer drops in the Paterson Street project area, and Mr. Thornhill said yes. Councillor Skamperle asked if the \$60,000 withheld from the contractor covered the expense. Mr. Thornhill said the total cost was approximately \$35,000. Councillor Skamperle asked if any others will need to be replaced, and Mr. Thornhill said he did not foresee any at this time.

## CITY COUNCIL MEETING

September 25, 2017

Page 239

4. Councillor Skamperle asked if the net metering issue will be changed since the general fund pays the electric bill, but the reimbursements are going to the water and sewer funds. City Manager Sarah Purdy said the change will be made effective January 1, 2018, and City Comptroller Timothy Johnson can make the adjustment for 2017 with a journal entry.

5. Councillor Skamperle asked for an update on the Newell property. Ms. Purdy said she and Director of Planning and Development Andrea Smith attended a webinar regarding Restore 5 grant funding. Ms. Purdy explained the available funding, the purpose of the grant and the requirements. Ms. Purdy said the intention is to apply for funding for the Newell property as well as the Diamond National/Shade Roller properties. Ms. Purdy said the Diamond National/Shade Roller properties are shovel ready and if the City is awarded these grants, contractors will show up interested in the projects. Councillor Skamperle asked if anyone has talked to the State about working with us on the Newell's contamination. Ms. Purdy explained those types of discussions will take place during the grant application process.

6. Councillor Skamperle said he is very concerned about the bed bug issue at the Housing and Urban Development controlled buildings. Councillor Skamperle said it is an epidemic, and it is terrible that nothing is being done. Councillor Skamperle said the City appoints the board members for the Ogdensburg Housing Authority and asked if the City can put any pressure on that board to get something done for the residents. Councillor Skamperle cautioned if the issue is not resolved, the bed bugs will spread all over the City. City Manager Sarah Purdy said Ogdensburg Housing Authority Director William Seymour was not available to attend tonight's City Council meeting due to a recent death in his family, but she will ask him to attend a future meeting. Mayor Ashley said the problem has been ongoing for at least six months, and the bugs are now visible. Mayor Ashley asked if public health can be of any assistance. Ms. Purdy said she understands some residents have already contacted public health. Mayor Ashley suggested the City make contact with public health on behalf of all of the residents. Councillor Skamperle said action needs to be taken on this issue before the next Council meeting.

## CITY COUNCIL MEETING

September 25, 2017

Page 240

7. Councillor Skamperle asked for an update on the Co-gen plant. City Manager Sarah Purdy said she spoke with Mr. Sharlow from Alliance Energy recently, and he assured her if the City's assistance is needed he will be in contact. Ms. Purdy said she will reach out to Mr. Sharlow again.

8. Mayor Ashley asked for the final cost of the demolition of the old Garn's Store at 17 Main Street. Director of Planning and Development Andrea Smith said she provided the exact figure in the update but believes the final cost was approximately \$72,000 or \$78,000. Ms. Smith explained the whole project has been submitted to National Grid for funding under the Brownfield Project, and we are just waiting for payment. Ms. Smith said the 17 Main Street and 420 Lafayette Street projects were awarded under the Restore 4 funding, and the City is very fortunate. Ms. Smith said the work has been completed at 17 Main Street, and she anticipates the first draw down of funding this week. Ms. Smith explained the work is beginning at 420 Lafayette Street, but that is a significant asbestos removal project. Ms. Smith said further updates are required for the pre-demo work.

### CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

1. Donald Burns, 820 Mechanic Street, addressed Council regarding weed overgrowth in the City. Mr. Burns said the old Park Plaza property on Paterson Street and the property at the end of Elizabeth Street on Riverside Avenue always look a mess. Mr. Burns asked why the City is not cleaning up these properties and billing the owners. Public Works Director Scott Thornhill said his office is notified if the Code Enforcement Office sees the overgrowth, and he explained the process. Mr. Thornhill said his department has cleared Park Plaza twice this year, and the property owner has been billed. Mr. Thornhill explained the Riverside Avenue property owner has hired someone to maintain the area in front of the fence, but the area inside the fence is contaminated. Mr. Thornhill said trees are not considered violations as long as the property owner keeps the edges mowed back.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

September 25, 2017

Page 241

City Comptroller Timothy Johnson confirmed the Park Plaza property owner has been billed. Mr. Johnson explained if the bill is not paid, the amount due will be added to the property tax bill.

Mr. Burns also addressed Council regarding the bed bug issue and asked why the City doesn't inspect those rental units like all other rentals in the City. Mayor Ashley said the Ogdensburg Housing Authority inspects its own units because it is HUD housing. Mr. Burns urged City officials to get in touch with someone and get something done as soon as possible. City Manager Sarah Purdy explained the City can put pressure on the Ogdensburg Housing Authority Director, but we have no jurisdiction over the HUD facilities.

Mayor Ashley said there was a need for Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations, and Councillor Mitchell 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.