

## CITY COUNCIL MEETING

February 26, 2018

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

PRESENT: Mayor Ashley, Councillors Davis, Kennedy,  
Price, Shaver, Skamperle and Stevenson

ABSENT: None

### PRESENTATION

1. Katelyn E. Wright, Executive Director of the Greater Syracuse Land Bank, made a presentation to Council regarding Land Banks. (A copy of her presentation follows these minutes.)

2. Rhonda Roethel made a presentation to Council regarding a Veterans Plane Proposal in the Greenbelt. (A copy of her presentation follows these minutes.) Ms. Roethel said Brasher Falls pays about \$600 per year for their required insurance, and the committee is talking to City organizations about coverage. Councillor Stevenson expressed concern over liability and fiscal implications and suggested the plane be placed on the property of one of the local veteran's associations. Ms. Roethel stressed there would be no cost to the City or taxpayers, and the project will not advance until all of the required funding is in place. Councillor Shaver asked if there was an established timeline to complete the fundraising, and Ms. Roethel said one to two years, depending on the timeline of the program. Ms. Roethel said a legacy wall is planned to raise money, and the Chamber of Commerce will organize it. Ms. Roethel said the committee just needs Council's approval to move forward with the project.

Council Skamperle suggested the plane be placed at the veteran's memorial. Ms. Roethel explained there may be security issues in that area, and cameras would be required. Ms. Roethel said options for placement can be discussed as the project progresses. Councillor Stevenson said she is concerned the City has such a tight budget and requested more information. Ms. Roethel explained the committee is fact-finding now, and more information will be provided to Council in the future. Mayor Ashley thanked Ms. Roethel for taking the initiative on this project.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. A public hearing regarding an ordinance to amend Chapter 209, Section 209-48, Schedule XI entitled "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.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. City Clerk Kathleen Bouchard read a letter from Robert Woods, Ogdensburg Minor Hockey President, regarding a request to extend the time frame for ice rentals at Lockwood Arena this year. (A copy of the letter follows these minutes.)

City Manager Sarah Purdy said Ogdensburg Minor Hockey has increased their offer to pay for the extra ice time, but that revenue still would not offset all of the costs associated with keeping the arena open an extra two weeks. Councillor Skamperle said the ice could also be used by Ogdensburg Figure Skating and to host rock-n-skate sessions. Councillor Skamperle said that extra revenue may just offset the additional costs. Councillor Skamperle explained it is a great service to the community, and there is a demand for it. Councillor Stevenson agreed.

Councillor Skamperle made a motion to keep the Lockwood Arena open for an additional two weeks, and Councillor Stevenson seconded the motion.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Ashley moved that the claims as enumerated in General Fund Warrant #04-2018 in the amount of \$609,149.47 and Library Fund Warrant #04-2018 in the amount of \$23,190.17 and Capital Fund Warrant #04-2018 in the amount of \$1,215.00 and Community Development Fund Warrant #04-2018 in the amount of \$0.00 and Community Renewal Fund Warrant #04-2018 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 Kathleen Lawrence to a five year term on the Ogdensburg Library Board, term to begin February 27, 2018 and end December 31, 2022, and Councillor Stevenson seconded the motion.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

1. Councillor Skamperle moved an ordinance to amend Chapter 209, Section 209-48, Schedule XI entitled "Parking Prohibited at All Times" of the Code of the City of Ogdensburg, and Councillor Price seconded to wit:

ORDINANCE #2 OF 2018

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 to remove the following:

Name of Street	Side	Location
Madison Avenue	East	From the Ogdensburg-Dekalb Railroad tracks to the north curb line of Main Street

ITEM TWO:

This ordinance shall take effect ten (10) days after publication of notice which shall give the title and describe same in summary form.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

2. Councillor Shaver moved a resolution declaring the following properties as surplus: 502 King Street, tax map number 59.022-15-14; 722 Canton Street, tax map number 59.024-2-20; 414 Rensselaer Avenue, tax map number 59.022-12-4 and 116 Oak Street, tax map number 59.030-4-10 and establishing a minimum sale price, and Councillor Skamperle seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION DECLARING SURPLUS PROPERTY  
AND ESTABLISHING A MINIMUM SALE PRICE

WHEREAS, Staff has reviewed the following list of properties and recommend that the City Council declare as surplus City-Owned property fit for public sale at the recommended minimum sale price:

TAX MAP #	LOCATION	MIN. SALE PRICE	NOTES/RESTRICTIONS
59.022-15-14	502 King Street	\$19,750.00	nonconforming lot, MDR
59.024-2-20	722 Canton Street	\$4,500.00	nonconforming lot, B
59.022-12-4	414 Rensselaer Ave	\$9,750.00	nonconforming lot, MDR
59.030-4-10	116 Oak Street	\$1,500.00	nonconforming lot, MDR

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the above list shall be published for sale on the City's website as surplus property.

Mayor Ashley asked if the 502 King Street property is vacant land. Councillor Skamperle said it is the old Murray's Store and asked why it is classified as a nonconforming lot. Director of Planning and Development Andrea Smith said the parcel does not comply with current requirements. Councillor Skamperle asked if the building can be used. Ms. Smith explained reuse may require site plan review, and a waiver of parking requirements may also be required. Ms. Smith said changes to the building would be challenging, but it is not condemned. Councillor Skamperle said the minimum sale price seems high for a parcel with so many restrictions. Ms. Smith explained the price is lower than the current assessed value. Councillor Skamperle asked if the price can be reduced if the parcel does not sell. City Manager Sarah Purdy said yes, but recommended we try this minimum sale price first. Councillor Skamperle said if the parcel does not sell he would like to move quickly to get it up for auction with a lower price so the property doesn't fall into disrepair.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

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3. Mayor Ashley moved a resolution introducing an ordinance and providing for public notice and public hearing with regard to the sale of City-owned property: tax map number 48.058-5-11, surplus property located on paper Dearborn Street, and Councillor Skamperle seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION OF CITY COUNCIL INTRODUCING AN ORDINANCE  
AND PROVIDING FOR PUBLIC NOTICE  
AND PUBLIC HEARING

BE IT RESOLVED, that Ordinance No. 3 entitled "An Ordinance to Offer for Sale at Public Auction City-Owned Property " be and it hereby is introduced before the City Council of the City of Ogdensburg, New York, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council shall hold a public hearing in the matter of the adoption of the aforesaid ordinance to be held at the Council Chambers in the City of Ogdensburg, New York, on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2018, at 7:00 p.m., and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk give notice of such public hearing by publication in the official newspaper at least seven (7) days before the hearing date of a notice setting forth the time and place and describing the proposed ordinance in summary form.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

4. Councillor Stevenson moved a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a Cooperative Purchasing Agreement with H-GAC Buy, and Councillor Kennedy seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A  
RESIDUALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN THE CITY AND H-GAC BUY

WHEREAS, The City of Ogdensburg desires to enter into a Residuals Management Service Agreement with Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) pursuant to the Texas Interlocal Cooperation Act, Chapter 791, Texas Government Code (the "Act") for governmental functions and services; and

WHEREAS, H-GAC is a regional planning commission and political subdivision of the State of Texas operating under Chapter 391, Texas Local Government Code; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Act, H-GAC is authorized to contract with eligible entities to perform governmental functions and services, including the purchase of goods and services; and

WHEREAS, in reliance on such authority, H-GAC has instituted a cooperative purchasing program under which it contracts with eligible entities under the Act; and

WHEREAS, H-GAC Buy will provide a comprehensive service for the purchase of large ticket items, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Manager, Sarah Purdy, is hereby authorized and directed to sign the attached Residuals Management Service Agreement with the H-GAC Buy, pending review and approval of the City Attorney.

City Manager Sarah Purdy explained using this service will give us the most cost effective price for the sewer camera included in this year's budget. Councillor Skamperle asked if we will only use this service for the sewer camera. Director of Public Works Scott Thornhill said we can use it for other equipment as well, we are not required to use the service at all and there is no cost to the City.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

5. Councillor Kennedy moved a resolution to amend the 2018 budget in connection with the 2016-2017 Legislative Grant Award LG16-1463 for the purchase of equipment and training for the K-9 Program, and Councillor Stevenson seconded to wit:

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE 2018 BUDGET IN CONNECTION WITH  
THE 2016-2017 LEGISLATIVE GRANT LG16-1463-D00

WHEREAS, the Ogdensburg Police Department was awarded a 2016-2017 Legislative Grant Award LG16-1463-D00 in the amount of \$22,886 for the purchase of equipment for the K-9 Program, for vehicle equipment upgrades to the K-9 vehicle, K-9 training and for portable radio upgrades for the department; and

WHEREAS, the Ogdensburg City Council authorized the City Manager to accept the 2016-2017 Legislative Grant Award LG16-1463-D00 in the amount of \$22,886 at the August 14, 2017 meeting.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council amends the 2018 budget to appropriate \$22,886 in the Police Department K-9 line item A3120.519 and corresponding revenue account A3089 Misc. State Aid.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

6. Councillor Price moved a resolution authorizing City Comptroller to transfer funds from the Street Maintenance Account-Capital Equipment (A5110.310), to the Snow Account-Specialized Equipment (A5142.240), for the purchase of an Underbody Reversible Belly Scraper from the Cives Corporation, dba Viking Cives for a sum not to exceed \$9,805., and Councillor Skamperle seconded to wit:

A RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER FUNDS TO PAY FOR AN  
UNDERBODY REVERSIBLE BELLY SCRAPER

WHEREAS, a Department of Public Works belly scraper has broken down due to its age and is unable to be fixed; and

WHEREAS, an Underbody Reversible Belly Scraper is instrumental in keeping the City's streets clear of snow and ice during the winter months; and

WHEREAS, the City has chosen the Cives Corporation, dba Viking Cives, to purchase the Underbody Reversible Belly Scraper;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council authorizes the City Manager, or designated representative to enter into an agreement with the Cives Corporation, dba Viking Cives to purchase the Underbody Reversible Belly Scraper; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Comptroller is hereby authorized to transfer funds not to exceed \$9,805.00 from A5110.310 (Street Maintenance Account-Capital Equipment), to A5142.240 (Snow Account-Specialized Equipment), to pay for this purchase.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

NEW BUSINESS

1. Councillor Davis said he has received several complaints regarding the parking on Greene Street near St. Mary's Cathedral and asked for a resolution to call for a public hearing to discuss limiting parking to one side of the street. Police Chief Andrew Kennedy said he has reviewed the area and agrees it is narrow year around. Chief Kennedy explained that he believes making one side of the street no parking will simply make another area in the neighborhood similarly congested and narrow.

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Councillor Skamperle asked if the area between the sidewalk and curb could be paved and the curbing removed. Director of Public Works Scott Thornhill said he has reviewed that option, but there is an elevation issue in that area that could not be easily overcome without significant financial impact. City Manager Sarah Purdy said the area has been reviewed and asked if Council would like an estimate of the costs associated with the suggested change. Councillor Davis said he would like to review the estimate, and Councillor Skamperle agreed he would like to look at the options.

### ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. City Manager Sarah Purdy said City staff is trying to develop a new policy for boat slip rentals that could be implemented this season. (A copy of her memorandum follows these minutes.) Ms. Purdy explained the suggestions will be reviewed by the Recreation Commission on Thursday, March 1, 2018. Ms. Purdy outlined the proposed changes and the available options. Mayor Ashley said it would be unfair to eject a City resident who has had a boat slip for several years to implement a lottery system. Councillor Price said a nonresident could be holding a slip as well as a resident. Councillor Price suggested proof of insurance be required and asked if the full fee is paid in advance. Recreation Director Matthew Curatolo said yes. Councillor Price asked if subletting slips is permitted, and Mr. Curatolo said no. Ms. Purdy said if someone vacates a slip for an extended period of time we contact the owner and ask if the City can use the slip as a transient slip.

Councillor Price explained there isn't much incentive to lure new people in if slips are occupied by the same people for several years. Councillor Price said everyone has an equal chance with a lottery system. Councillor Davis asked how other municipalities address the issue. Mr. Curatolo said some use a residency preference, but he hasn't found one using a lottery system yet. Mr. Curatolo explained he spoke with four different municipalities, and if someone had the slip the previous year they get to return the following year. Councillor Skamperle said that is how it should be, and Mayor Ashley agreed.

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Councillor Price recommended privatizing the marina to let an individual address these issues. Councillor Stevenson said taxpayers paid to develop the marina, and the City has had difficulty leasing the concession stand at the Dobisky Center. Councillor Stevenson suggested the City explore grant options to expand the marina since there is such a demand for boat slips. City Manager Sarah Purdy cautioned if the marina is expanded, more staff will be required. Councillor Price said current staff could be used other ways if the marina was privatized.

Councillor Kennedy disclosed she has been on the waiting list for over a year and has been unable to obtain a slip. Councillor Price asked how the City's rental rate compares with other local marinas, and Mr. Curatolo said our rate is lower. Councillor Skamperle said a local marina owner has previously complained the City prevents him from making more money because our rates are so low. Mr. Curatolo said the rates will be reviewed at Thursday's Recreation Commission meeting. Councillor Skamperle said increasing the fees would generate more revenue. Councillor Kennedy said someone who has had the slip for fourteen years may not have met the requirements years ago but is still permitted to keep the slip year after year. Ms. Purdy explained everyone will be required to meet the same requirements, and those not meeting the requirements will be weeded out. Councillor Kennedy asked if any non-residents currently have slips, and Mr. Curatolo said yes. Councillor Kennedy said resident taxpayers are being prevented from obtaining a slip by non-residents who continually maintain a slip, and Councillor Stevenson agreed. Councillor Kennedy asked how many slips are rented to non-residents, and Mr. Curatolo said he would get that information to Council. Mayor Ashley said the boat slips should be filled by City residents first. Councillor Kennedy agreed and said residents feel taxpayers do not get the opportunity to obtain the boat slips. Councillor Kennedy said she is advocating in general for everyone on the waiting lists. Councillor Price asked if the waiting lists are continually updated or deleted each year. Mr. Curatolo explained once all slips are filled for the season he calls everyone on the waiting list and asks if they wish to be put on the list for next year, and anyone new goes to the bottom of the list.

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Councillor Davis asked if a new policy could be implemented this year, and Mr. Curatolo said one non-resident has already paid. Councillor Kennedy asked if a refund could be issued, and Mr. Curatolo said yes. Councillor Skamperle said he doesn't agree with removing non-residents who have been paying for a slip for years.

Councillor Stevenson asked if there was any interest in researching grants to expand the marina. There was a consensus of Council to search for grants. City Manager Sarah Purdy said the recommendations will be presented to the Recreation Commission first and then to Council at the March 12, 2018 Council Meeting.

Councillor Price made a motion that City residents be given preference in securing a boat slip in the City marina annually, and Mayor Ashley seconded the motion. Councillor Stevenson said she did not agree with implementing a policy without the recommendation of the Recreation Commission. Councillor Price made a motion to amend his motion to recommend to the Recreation Commission that City residents be given preference in securing a boat slip in the City marina annually, and Councillor Shaver seconded the motion.

The vote was:

AYES: Mayor Ashley, Councillors Davis, Kennedy,  
Price, Shaver and Stevenson

NAYS: Councillor Skamperle

CARRIED, 6 TO 1

2. City Manager Sarah Purdy requested Council schedule a Work Session for the week of March 19, 2018 to discuss the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program and BOA. There was a consensus of Council to schedule a Work Session on March 21, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

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3. Councillor Skamperle said he reviewed the FEMA update and disagrees with the removal of the roadway at Morrissette Park. City Manager Sarah Purdy said she will provide Council with the estimates to restore the area to the same condition and let Council decide how to proceed. Director of Public Works Scott Thornhill said the roadway will remain, and traffic will still be able to drive through the area. Mr. Thornhill explained some parking spots would be lost to increase greenspace, and we could always look at alternate parking options.

4. Councillor Price congratulated the OFA Cheerleaders on their Co-Ed Division Championship and the OFA Boys Varsity Hockey Team on becoming Section 10 champions that evening. Councillor Price said both teams will compete on Saturday.

Mayor Ashley said there was a need for Executive Session to discuss personnel, 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.