

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

November 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 Price,
Shaver, Skamperle and Stevenson

ABSENT: Councillors Davis and Kennedy

Mayor Ashley said Councillor Davis is ill and Councillor Kennedy is out of the City and they asked to be excused. There was a consensus of Council to excuse Councillors Davis and Kennedy.

PRESENTATION

1. Amanda Bertram, Vice President of Public Affairs for the Empire State Chapter of the Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc., addressed Council. She stated that a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) excludes local contractors from bidding and working on NYS projects. She added that attaching a PLA to a public works project does everything to discourage non-union contractors from bidding and the lack of competition could drive up the cost of the project. She stated that Mr. Seeler, of Seeler Engineering, was at the last Council Meeting urging Council to conduct a Due Diligence Study in consideration of a PLA on the Wastewater Treatment Plant project. Ms. Bertram stated the cost of this study is between \$15,000. and \$20,000. She asked Council to forgo this study and allow every qualified contractor in this area to bid this job. She added that PLA's promise a savings but are based on 1980 labor models. She said a PLA eliminates 70 to 80% of qualified contractors and fewer bids mean less competition. She added that Onondaga County performed a post PLA Study when their Oneida Lake cleanup project was completed and found no actual savings. Councillor Stevenson stated she would like to review this study. Ms. Bertram gave City Manager Sarah Purdy a copy of this study. Ms. Bertram then introduced Jeff Luck, Luck Brothers, Inc.

Jeff Luck, Luck Brothers, Inc. of Plattsburgh, NY, said Mr. Seeler made a living selling PLA's to cities and urged Council to do their own research and not pay \$15,000. to \$20,000. for this report. Mr. Luck said PLA's are structured so that 3/4 of the workforce comes from unions.

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CORRESPONDENCE

1. City Clerk Kathleen Bouchard read a letter from Lauris C. Kelly, President of Kelly Sales Corporation, regarding the Use of a PLA on the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant Project. (A copy of the letter follows these minutes.)

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Ashley moved that the claims as enumerated in General Fund Warrant #20-2018 in the amount of \$1,041,996.60 and Library Fund Warrant #20-2018 in the amount of \$22,538.35 and Capital Fund Warrant #20-2018 in the amount of \$2,078.00 and Community Development Fund Warrant #20-2018 in the amount of \$1,259.13 and Community Renewal Fund Warrant #20-2018 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 re-appoint Robert Ashley and Craig Chevalier, each to a three-year term on the Frederic Remington Art Museum Board of Trustees, terms to begin January 1, 2019 and end December 31, 2021, and Councillor Stevenson seconded the motion.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

2. Mayor Ashley moved to appoint Rafael A. Olazasti III, Edward J. Forbes and Rhonda Roethel, each to a three-year term on the Frederic Remington Art Museum Board of Trustees, terms to begin January 1, 2019 and end December 31, 2021, and Councillor Skamperle seconded the motion.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

OLD BUSINESS

1. Councillor Skamperle stated that despite voting for the 2019 Budget that passed at the last meeting, he has concerns about hiring a full-time Code Enforcement Officer. Councillor Skamperle said he would rather use those funds to purchase a pickup truck that the DPW and Recreation Departments can use, and also hire a couple part-time employees to pick up small brush piles. Councillor Shaver agreed. Mayor Ashley stated we can't change the tax rate, but between now and April he would like to review and develop a better Brush Policy management process. Councillor Price said the new Code position was not about brush, it was to assist current Code Officers clean up the City. Councillor Stevenson said she believes the additional Codes position is necessary and if we determine it isn't, eliminate it in next year's budget.

Mayor Ashley suggested Council hold further discussion on this until all members of Council were present to give their input. Councillor Skamperle agreed to wait until all members of Council were present to discuss this further.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Mayor Ashley stated that he has selected the Honorable A. Michael Gebo to fill the six-year appointment as part time Ogdensburg City Court Judge, effective 1/1/2019 through 12/31/2024.

2. Mayor Ashley encouraged the public to attend the Festival of the Trees this Friday and Saturday at the Mosaic Building in the Ogdensburg Mall.

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CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

1. Penny Kerfien, Ogdensburg Public Library Director, addressed Council stating she was looking for clarification because she was at the last Council meeting and Council passed the budget but since then has heard that amendments can be made. She also heard Councillor Skamperle's question regarding the Code Officer. Councillor Skamperle stated the budget can be amended but not the tax rate. He added we transfer line items all year. Mayor Ashley said the 2019 budget is signed and delivered.

City Manager Sarah Purdy advised that the Library Fund is separate and distinct from the General Fund. Ms. Purdy said the City's contribution to the Library is set and can't be changed but if Council wanted to increase the City contribution to the Library, the Library would have to cut something else because the total has to stay the same. Ms. Kerfien said she knows the funding amount Council approved, but wanted to make sure that the Library's funding remained at the amount Council budgeted, so she can budget accordingly.

Mayor Ashley said there was a need for an Executive Session to discuss collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law, and Councillor Price seconded the motion.

The vote to adjourn to Executive Session was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

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

Mayor Ashley introduced a resolution to ratify Labor Contract with the CSEA Hourly Unit for 2019, and Councillor Skamperle seconded the motion.

RESOLUTION TO RATIFY LABOR CONTRACT WITH THE
CSEA HOURLY UNIT FOR 2019

WHEREAS, on November 2, 2018 the City Manager executed the attached Tentative Labor Agreement for 2019 with the CSEA Hourly Unit, and

WHEREAS, said Tentative Agreement was ratified by membership vote of the CSEA Hourly Unit on November 15, 2018,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Ogdensburg City Council hereby ratifies the terms of said Tentative Agreement and authorizes the City Manager to execute a new labor contract with the CSEA Hourly Unit for 2019, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Comptroller is authorized to transfer \$49,100 from the Contingency Accounts in the General, Water and Sewer Funds in the 2019 Budget to fulfill the terms of the Labor Agreement for 2019.

The vote was:

AYES: Mayor Ashley, Councillors Price,
Skamperle and Stevenson

NAYS: Councillor Shaver

APPROVED, 4 TO 1

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