

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

PRESENT: Mayor Skelly, Councillors Dillabough, Fisher,  
Kennedy, Powers, Rishe and Skamperle

ABSENT: None

#### PERSONAL APPEARANCE

When the public was given the opportunity to speak regarding the Police Reform Collaborative Action Plan, no one chose to address Council.

#### ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

1. Councillor Skamperle moved a resolution to approve the Police Reform Collaborative Action Plan, and Mayor Skelly seconded the motion as wit:

#### RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE OGDENSBURG POLICE REFORM COLLABORATIVE ACTION PLAN

WHEREAS, on June 12, 2020 Governor Andrew Cuomo issued Executive Order 203 titled “New York State Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative”, which directed each local government entity having a police agency operating with police officers to perform a comprehensive review of current police force deployments, strategies, policies, procedures, and practices, and to develop a plan to improve such deployments strategies, policies, procedures, and practices for the purpose of addressing particular needs of the communities served by the police agency and to promote community engagement to foster trust, fairness and legitimacy, and to address any racial bias and disproportionate policing of communities of color; and

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WHEREAS, the Ogdensburg City Council established a Police Reform Community Stakeholder Committee to evaluate policing policy and procedures, to develop recommendations, and to gather community input; and

WHEREAS, the inaugural Police Reform Community Stakeholder Committee meeting was held on January 26, 2021, and included a broad spectrum of community members and City Administration including City Manager Stephen Jellie; Chief of Police Robert Wescott; St. Lawrence County District Attorney Gary Pasqua; St. Lawrence County Public Defender James McGahan; Father Christopher Carrera of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg; Mary Joly Wills, a retired school teacher and current Director of the St. Lawrence County People Project; Tom Luckie, Executive Director of the Ogdensburg Boys & Girls Club; Ogdensburg City School District Superintendent Kevin Kendall; Anthoni Pope, a recent college graduate and resident of the City; and Tyler Carrow, a Registered Nurse who works in the mental health field and resident of the City. The Stakeholder Committee developed a plan entitled the “City of Ogdensburg Police Reform Collaborative”, setting forth the goals and procedures for developing an action plan. A subsequent meeting of the Stakeholder Committee was held on February 17, 2021. The Stakeholder Committee developed a draft police reform action plan which it offered for public comment. The Stakeholder Committee held two open meetings for community input, the first on March 9, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. and the second on March 9, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. A Stakeholder Committee meeting was held on March 18, 2021 to review the draft action plan which was made available to the Ogdensburg City Council and the public (via the City website) on March 19, 2021. A duly noticed special City Council meeting was held on March 29, 2021 to receive public comment and feedback on the “Police Reform and Collaborative Action Plan”, and those wishing to be heard were given the opportunity to speak; and

WHEREAS, the Stakeholder Committee’s proposed “Police Reform and Collaborative Action Plan” was considered by the Ogdensburg City Council at its March 29, 2021 Special City Council meeting. The Action Plan identifies a process for implementation of reform items; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has reviewed and considered the Committee’s proposed “City of Ogdensburg Police Reform and Collaborative Action Plan policy drafted in response to Executive Order No. 203;

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council hereby ratifies and adopts the City of Ogdensburg Police Reform Collaborative Action Plan at its meeting, a copy of which is attached to this Resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Ogdensburg Police Reform Collaborative Action Plan be filed with the New York State Governor's office by April 1, 2021.

Councillor Rishe said he had the opportunity to review the responses to the survey for the Police Reform Collaborative Action Plan along with the comments regarding our patrols interacting with the public, and he was happy to see that subject addressed under community relations. Councillor Rishe recognized that officers cannot leave their vehicles too far away and said he would like to see officers interact more with people or stop at businesses and/or residences. Councillor Rishe questioned if under the training section of the plan, item 3 identified as "expand de-escalation training" and item 4 identified as "expand less than lethal weapons options and defensive tactics training" (which are classified as medium terms goals, meaning three-to-four-year goals) could be changed to short term goals given the emphasis on and importance of those topics. Police Chief Robert Wescott said that was feasible.

Councillor Rishe made a motion to amend the Police Reform Collaborative Action Plan to change items 3 and 4 under the training section from medium term goals to short term goals, and Mayor Skelly seconded the motion.

The vote to amend the plan was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

The vote on the resolution and amended plan was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

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