

CITY OF OGDENSBURG, NEW YORK

CITY HALL • 330 FORD STREET • OGDENSBURG, NY 13669 • (315) 393-6100



Office of the Interim City Manager

TO: City Council

SUBJECT: Council Update

DATE: January 13, 2023

Governor Hochul's 2023 State of the State Address – On January 9th Governor Hochul delivered her State of the State address, detailing her policy priorities for the upcoming state budget. Among the Governor's priorities, described in detail here <https://tinyurl.com/3bj85x7h>, the following are of particular relevance to our community:

1. **Incentives to Build and Rehabilitate Housing** – Support the development of mixed-income housing outside of New York City, Governor Hochul will direct Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) to make \$5 million in State Low Income Housing Tax Credits (SLIHC) available to mixed-income projects.
2. **Address Childhood Lead Poisoning** – Given the average age of housing stock in communities like Ogdensburg, the risk of lead exposure can be higher. Increased blood lead levels in children can lead to pernicious health effects. The Governor proposes to develop and fund programs aimed to reduce the risk of lead exposure in rental properties.
3. **Reclaim Vacant and Abandoned Homes** – The Governor will propose legislation to make it easier for cities and towns to take ownership of dangerous multifamily properties for the purpose of rebuilding safe and habitable homes. The State of the State is unclear about the details of funding to help implement this legislative change, but is of interest and may present opportunities for partnership with the Ogdensburg Land Bank.
4. **Continuum of Care for Mental Health** – Governor Hochul acknowledges we are in the midst of a mental health care crisis and has set out a series investments and policy changes to “change the trajectory of the State’s approach to mental health, with the goal of fixing the entire continuum of care that is necessary to keep people healthy and safe.” The address states “the number of inpatient psychiatric beds in New York State has declined by 20 percent since 2014”. Last February, Governor Hochul announced an investment of “\$27.5 million to support increased reimbursement rates for inpatient psychiatric beds. Today, however, roughly 850 beds remain offline.” In 2023, the Governor will now direct Article 28 community hospitals to immediately bring inpatient psychiatric beds online. At the same time, she will propose legislation to allow OMH to fine hospitals for non-compliance with their operating certificate at a rate of up to \$2,000 per violation, per day. Additionally, the Governor will open 150 new adult beds in *State-run psychiatric hospitals*. While 100 these beds will be in New York City, 50 will open outside of New York City. This will build on the 50 new beds that the Governor announced in November collectively constituting the largest expansion of State inpatient capacity in decades.
5. **Improvements to the State’s Bail Laws** – Governor Hochul will work with the Legislature to make thoughtful changes to the bail law, consistent with the spirit behind its original passage: “to ensure that the size of someone’s bank account should not determine whether they sit in jail or return home”. For serious crimes (those that remain eligible for bail), Governor Hochul believes the “least restrictive” standard should be eliminated.

6. Expand EV Charging Infrastructure – New York State will receive \$175 million over five years in federal funds to establish an interconnected network of reliable charging for electric vehicles, which incentivizes EV purchasing. In 2023, the state will determine the most efficient and effective way to provide incentives that support the installation, operation, and maintenance of EV infrastructure.

Grant Updates

Upcoming Submissions and Deadlines

- January 27, 2023 – NYS Restore NY 7
 - Requesting up to \$2,000,000 for the demolition & redevelopment of 30 Main Street properties
 - Public hearing on this grant proposal will be January 23, 2023 at 6:00 PM
- January 9, 2023 FEMA Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG) opened
 - Deadline to submit: February 10, 2023
 - Objective: The objectives of the AFG Program are to provide critically needed resources that equip and train emergency personnel to recognized standards, enhance operational efficiencies, foster interoperability, and support community resilience.
 - City has reached out to a grant writing specialist who has written successful grants for Fire and EMS, including SAFER and AFG. A resolution to enter into a contract for specialized Fire/EMS grant writing services for the next 12 months will be presented for action at the January 23, 2023 City Council meeting.
- January 11, 2023 – Local Government Record Management Improvement Fund (LGRMIF) Grants opened
 - Deadline to submit: March 1, 2023
 - Objective: grant program provides funds to help local governments establish records management programs or develop new program components.
- Preserve NY Grant Program
 - Pre-application deadline – March 24, 2023
 - A pre-application has been submitted for consideration for the Oswegatchie Pump House for the development of a *Historic Structure Report*.
 - Deadline to submit – March 31, 2023
 - Objective: identify, document, and preserve New York’s cultural and historic buildings, structures, and landscapes. This program funds **consulting reports only** and will not fund capital repairs or construction costs, architectural plans and specifications, schematic designs, or construction documents.

Project Updates

9-1-1 Dispatch – The city has submitted an executed IMA to St. Lawrence County setting forth the protocols under which the St. Lawrence County PSAP will directly provide notice by radio of a public safety emergency to the on-duty personnel of the City of Ogdensburg. On January 12th the phone rollover system was tested with Westelcom. The test was successful and the design is very user friendly. OPD now has the ability to rollover 10-digit phone calls (315-393-1551) to central dispatch. The city is prepared to rollover dispatch from 11 PM to 7AM to St. Lawrence County Emergency Services.

****In case of emergency please dial 9-1-1****

Water Main Breaks – The city experienced a water main break earlier in the week in the 700 block of Proctor Avenue that required a boil water advisory for the 500-800 blocks Proctor Ave., 200 blocks William St., 500-700 blocks Lisbon St., 200 blocks Dearborne St., and Industrial Park.

The water main break has been repaired and the boil water advisory was lifted before noon today, January 13, 2023.

There was a second water main break at the intersection of Route 37 and Champlain Street on Wednesday, January 11th. This break did not require a boil water advisory and was repaired quickly.

Blizzard Impacts (update from January 6, 2023) – As noted at the City Council meeting on January 9th, the city is working with both New York State Department of Homeland and Emergency Services and St. Lawrence County Office of Emergency Services. The city has provided the estimated costs to both agencies along with backup documentation for overtime hours, equipment usage, and materials and supplies. With regard to the estimated damages (\$350,000) to the municipal docks, the full extent of damage has not been documented due to the winter weather conditions. We know that there is damage to the electrical conduit, water line, floats, the anchoring system and the docks themselves, however, a full engineers assessment will be required as weather permits, likely this spring.

Former Kiwanis Site Cleanup – New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) began remedial cleanup efforts at the former Kiwanis site in mid-November. NRC NY Environmental Services, Inc. is the contractor completing the work on behalf of the NYSDEC. The goal is to remove subsurface petroleum impacted soils and concrete that exists in the vicinity of the former main fueling, storage, and dispensing areas. The fuel dispensing and storage area adjacent to the former canopy structure to the east have been designated as the primary contaminated area. This is described by Barton and Loguidice (B&L) in the Remedial Investigation Report dated November 2016 and was confirmed by several excavated test pits performed by NRC in September 2022. This area has been marked out in the field by NRC and will serve as a starting point in the subsurface excavation. To date about 40% of soils categorized a moderately to heavily contaminated have been removed. The NYSDEC anticipates working through the winter unless or until we experience extended cold temperatures.

National Grid Streetlight Conversion – National Grid provides an Outdoor Lighting LED Conversion Program. The program provides an opportunity to enhance the lighting quality and achieve energy cost savings through a proactive conversion of the city's existing outdoor lighting luminaires to energy efficient LED luminaires. The LED conversion cost to facilitate this program is based on the city's billing account and corresponding reference number(s) information on record and represents the residual net book value (NBV) for the luminaires to be removed.

The benefits include cost reduction from energy consumption, decreased light trespass and dark-sky light pollution, and lower maintenance costs attributed to longer luminaire life. Furthermore, National Grid has provided an estimated energy efficiency incentive value based upon the available programs, including an energy-efficiency incentive for LED Roadway luminaire conversions (whether customer-owned or Grid-owned). The incentive ranges between \$50 and \$100 per luminaire, but is limited to Roadway luminaire conversions. Based on the city's current inventory the estimated value energy efficiency (EE) incentive is \$54,970.

A resolution to enter into an agreement with National Grid for this program will be on the agenda for City Council consideration on January 23, 2023.

City-Wide Re-Evaluation – It is anticipated that the City’s consultant, GAR, will provide a public presentation of the revaluation process and next steps at the upcoming March 13, 2023 City Council meeting.

Draft Comprehensive Development Plan – The draft comprehensive development plan was submitted for 239-m review by the St. Lawrence County Planning Office in October 2021. The review was returned “approved with conditions”. The two conditions were:

1. An implementation/prioritization matrix be added;
2. A map or series of maps that show where the areas of interest are located be added.

Staff was assigned to work on these revisions. In the fall of 2022 staff reported that next steps would require compliance with State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). The next step is the notification to all potentially involved agencies for the purpose of declaring a Lead Agency. Following the completion of the SEQRA process the document can be submitted for legal review, simultaneously a public comment period on the final draft can be established to accept public comment prior to adoption.

Personnel

City Historian – I am please to share that our City Historian, Julie Madlin, has recently been named First Vice President of the Association of Public Historians. The association is a New York State 501 (c) 3 non-profit profession organization that represents the 1,600+ government appointed historians across the state. Under state law, every county and municipality in New York is required to have an appointed historian to document, preserve, interpret, and share the history of their communities. It is part of the state’s commitment to ensuring that New Yorkers have access to quality educational experiences enriched by cultural heritage resources. You can learn more about the Association of Public Historians by visiting their website: <https://www.aphnys.org/>.

Police Department

- Earlier this week, our two newest officers took their oath of office surrounded by friends and family here at City Hall, Council Chambers.

Ogdensburg Fire Department

- 5-man coverage report, attached.

Sales Tax

- A comprehensive update on sales tax will be provided by Comptroller, Angela Gray at the January 23, 2023 City Council Meeting.

Recreation

- City Marina
 - At this time, we anticipate being able to open the Municipal Marina for the 2023 boating season.
 - Renewal Notices for the Municipal Marina will be distributed today, January 13, 2023 and must be returned to the Recreation Director on or before March 17, 2023.
 - All those interested in renewing their slip will be required to accommodate scheduled aquatic vegetation and weed removal. We are including this upfront this year to avoid any confusion or misunderstanding regarding the responsibility of renters to make accommodates to allow aquatic vegetation and weeds to be removed in a timely and cost-effective manner without jeopardizing damage to property.

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Office of the Fire Chief



Cost analysis of 5th man versus hiring December 2022

(Current) 31 days x 24 hours x \$51.00 an hr = **\$37,944.00**

(2 Hires) 5th man savings \$37944.00/2 = \$18,972.00

Hiring of 2 firefighters from list that can count toward minimum staff.

Hazard pay for two shifts: (2) \$6.00 x 4 x 168 hours = **\$8064.00**

Hazard pay for two shifts: (2) \$3.00 x 5 x 168 hours = **\$5,040.00**

Hazard pay savings: \$3,024.00

Total savings with two hires for one month (December) \$21,996.00

Average total monthly cost of two new firefighters: \$11,000.00

Total savings for month of December: \$10,996.00