

CITY OF OGDENSBURG, NEW YORK

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Office of the Interim City Manager

TO: Mayor, City Council, and Public

SUBJECT: Monthly Update: August 2023

DATE: September 1, 2023 *ALS*

The intent of the update is to provide the City Council and members of the public with an update from departments recapping accomplishment, providing project updates, and announcements from the month of August 2023.

Grant Updates

Recent Awards

No grant awards were announced in August, 2023.

Pending Applications

- Department of State, Smart Growth Zoning Update
 - Submitted July 27, 2023
- Water and Wastewater for E. David Street: Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) – Intended Use Plan Listing
 - Submitted June 16, 2023
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Urban and Community Forestry Grant Application: seeking \$46,000 to update the city's Tree Inventory and Management Plan
 - Submitted June 21, 2023
- Preserve New York, Historic Structures Report for the Oswegatchie Pump House
 - Submitted March 2023
 - Project costs \$21,000
- FEMA Assistance to Firefighter Grant
 - Project: AFG funding to reestablish and broaden our Water Response Team, to include: open water rescue, SCUBA (Dive Team), EMS response to water emergencies, and an initial fire suppression response
 - Submitted February 2023

Upcoming Submissions and Deadlines

- September 29, 2023 – NYS DRI/NY Forward

Project Updates

REDI Ribbon Cutting – The ribbon cutting for the city's two REDI Projects: Maple City Trail and Morrisette Park is planned for Friday, September 29th. Details are being coordinated with state officials.

30 Main Street, Demolition – Final samples of the tanks and silos was completed on August 21, 2023. Initial laboratory results indicate no hazardous material. Therefore, the city is working with Paradigm Environmental to complete demolition specifications for the project.

Main Street Pump Station – The Main Street Pump Station rehabilitation project is underway.

- Abatement of asbestos containing materials (ACM) has been completed.
- Critical path items including the electric power and pump replacement is on target for quarter 1 of 2024.

Personnel & Department Updates

Planning, Assessments, Code Enforcement, Engineering & Recreation (PACER)

- The City of Ogdensburg is currently accepting applications for the position of **Recreation Director**. Civil Service applications are available here at City Hall and online <https://ogdensburg.org/Jobs.aspx>, for more information contact Director of Planning and Development, Andrea Smith at asmith@ogdensburg.org.
- The Department of Planning & Community Development is accepting applications to fill openings on both the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals. Terms to begin January 1, 2024 and run three-years. For more information contact the Planning Department at 315.393.7150, or asmith@ogdensburg.org.
- The Planning Board will meet on September 5th at 5:30 PM to complete the required LWRP Coastal Consistency Review for the proposed demolition of the Letchworth Building Complex. This meeting is open to the public.
- The Elsa M. Luksich Municipal Pool closed for the season as of August 27, 2023.
 - This year's swimming lessons provided swim education for 75 children.
 - The pool received multiple donations from generous donors, which allowed for free public swim for the entire season.
- The Lockwood Arena is available for non-ice rentals through Saturday, September 23rd. Work to prepare the Arena for ice will begin the week of September 25th.
- The city's Code Enforcement Office is conducting weekly rental inspections through the city's residential rental inspection program. To date, there have been approximately 130 parcels inspected, many of which are multiple units.

City Clerk and Comptroller – The City Council will hold a public hearing on September 11, 2023 at 6 PM on proposed charter amendments, specifically dates for the submission and approval of the city's budget and the billing and collection of city property taxes.

In summary, the proposed changes that would go into effect for the 2024 budget (if approved), are:

- a. August 15th – Department heads submit budget requests to City Manager
- b. October 15th – City Manager's submission of Preliminary Budget
- c. October 31st – City Council shall accept Preliminary Budget
- d. October 31st – City Council shall fix the time and date for a public hearing on the Preliminary Budget
- e. November 15th – Last day Council can hold public hearing on Preliminary Budget
- f. December 1st – Last day to adopt final budget

Additionally, the proposed changes would impact the payment schedule for city property taxes. Under the proposed changes, city residents would receive their city property tax bill on or around January 1st. "Upon receipt of the annual City real property tax bill, an owner of real property may elect to pay the total amount of the taxes set forth in such statement on or before the 31st day of January; or he/she may elect to pay such taxes in installments, as authorized by section 972 of the Real Property Tax Law." Proposed changes to §C-71 C states "Each installment other than the first shall be subject to interest at the rate determined pursuant to section 924-a of the Real Property Tax Law, up to and including the date on which it is to be paid. Such interest shall be amortized over all scheduled payments. If an installment is not paid on or before the date it is due, additional interest shall be added as provided by section 975 of the Real Property Tax Law." This schedule is consistent with the current town billing cycle throughout St. Lawrence County.

Department of Public Works and Recreation

In August there were three water main breaks. All of these breaks occurred on August 23rd and none required a boil water advisory. Two of the breaks were in the 4th ward (Curtis Street and Champlain Street, and one in the 2nd ward (Albany Ave).

On August 28, 2023 PESH conducted an unanticipated inspection of the wastewater treatment facility. The purpose of the inspection was to follow-up on items identified during 2019 PESH inspection. Items of concern included several items that have fully been remedied or removed through the renovation of the WWTP facility. The city anticipates full compliance of the 2019 concerns following this week's inspection.

During the month of August there were 7 metered combined sewer overflow (CSO) events within the system, containing 16 CSO points, compared 4 in the month of July. All events were reported utilizing the NY Alter electronic reporting system.

Police Department

All planned capital improvement projects are complete. The alarms system and the HVAC system are working with no issues.

On August 10th the Ogdensburg Police Department was tasked with the investigation of a homicide that occurred on the 400 block of Paterson Street. As a result of the investigation one Kenneth Durham was arrested and charged with Murder in the second degree. This investigation was collaborative effort with the New York State Police, the St. Lawrence County Sheriff, and the St. Lawrence County District Attorney. The Investigation remains on going. Anyone with information is asked to call Det. Jason Streeter at 315-393-1551.

From January 1st 2023 to present, the Ogdensburg Police Department has utilized the Child Advocacy Center of Northern New York for 30 forensic interviews of children who are alleged victims of sexual and physical abuse. Sex crimes continue to be the priority of the police department; currently, the department is investigating seven (7) sexual assaults.

Recent notable convictions; Clifford Mayette was sentenced to 140 years in prison for sexual abuse of a minor. William LaFlair was sentenced to 24 years in prison for sexual abuse of a minor.

Petit thefts continue to rise throughout the city. The public is reminded to lock their vehicles and secure bicycles in a building or use a bicycle lock. The department has handled over 400 larcenies year to date.

On August 24th 2023 one Thadcher Adams of Ogdensburg was arrested and charged with grand larceny in the 2nd degree and burglary in the 2nd degree for the theft of over \$150,000 from an Ogdensburg residence.

Sgt. Ryan Polniak, Patrolman Andrew LaFlair and Patrolman Ashley Streeter are ready to start the fall semester as school resource officers.

Fire Department

Hydrant Flushing:

The department has completed flushing all but 30 city hydrants; 2 hydrants were damage along with 2 water mains during this period.

Public Assembly and Business Inspections are in the process of being scheduling for the months of September and October.

Structure Fire (Washington St.):

The Department responded to a structure fire on August 24, 2023. Both on and off duty personnel along with our mutual aid partners (Heuvelton and Morristown Fire Departments) had the fire extinguished in less than an hour. There were no reported work-related injuries or equipment break downs. The fire is under investigation by our Fire and Police investigators. The point of origin has been identified and the department is awaiting results of interviews to determine the actual cause.