

## CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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

PRESENT: Mayor Nelson, Councillors Ashley, Cilley, Morley,  
Skamperle, Hosmer and Stevenson

ABSENT: None

### PRESENTATION

1. Jerry Loch, Community Energy Educator/Auditor of Green New York made a presentation to Council on the NYSERDA Home Energy Audit and outlined the items of importance. (A copy of his presentation material follows these minutes.)

Councillor Skamperle asked how the program is funded. Mr. Loch explained a surcharge based on usage is collected on all National Grid accounts to fund the program. Councillor Skamperle asked if receiving a new roof under this program is common. Mr. Loch stated qualified participants usually receive a new refrigerator or stove or parts for a boiler, explaining the main focus is replacement of inefficient items with a secondary focus on weatherization. Councillor Morley asked how the City could promote the program. Councillor Hosmer suggested a Chamber of Commerce mailing, and Councillor Skamperle suggested a link on the City's website. Mr. Loch explained people are reluctant to try free programs and that he hopes to get them to participate and tell others. Interim City Manager Philip Cosmo stated the City could help distribute the information. Councillor Skamperle suggested putting information packets in the Code Enforcement Office, and Councillor Hosmer suggested placing information packets at the Public Library.

2. Interim City Manager Philip Cosmo made a presentation to Council on the 2011 Year End Closeout and summarized his written report. (A copy follows these minutes.)

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### CORRESPONDENCE

1. Deputy City Clerk Cathy Jock read a letter from American Legion requesting permission to hold a Memorial Day parade and ceremony on May 28, 2012. (A copy follows these minutes.)

2. Deputy City Clerk Cathy Jock read a letter from Larry Caufield regarding a request from the veteran's group, Operation...Veterans for support from Council regarding their proposal of the use of Pritchard Building and the old St. Joseph's Nursing Home as a veteran's service center of the North Country. (A copy follows these minutes.)

Councillor Morley asked if the old St. Joseph's Nursing Home is in good enough shape to be used by Operation...Veterans. Councillor Ashley stated it would need renovation, noting the building is in poor shape. Councillor Skamperle asked if the City has applied for a grant for asbestos removal at the building, and Interim City Manager Philip Cosmo said yes. Councillor Skamperle suggested after the asbestos removal, the City could be in a position to donate the building. Mr. Cosmo advised Council that the City cannot make donations. Councillor Skamperle noted that Kirsten Gillibrand's title is Senator, not Congresswoman as stated in the letter. Mayor Nelson said the City could work on a letter or resolution for the group. Mr. Cosmo stated he would get information from the group to prepare something.

3. A letter from Tristan Biggs was not read because the issues addressed in the letter do not concern the City's business or a matter over which Council has control.

### CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Nelson moved that the claims as enumerated in General Fund Warrant #8-2012 in the amount of \$486,714.67 and Library Fund Warrant #8-2012 in the amount of \$21,119.70 and Capital Fund Warrant #8-2012 in the amount of

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\$71,915.57 and Community Development Fund Warrant #8-2012 in the amount of \$27,347.57 and Community Renewal Fund Warrant #8-2012 in the amount of \$112,733.57 and HOME Fund Warrant #8-2012 in the amount of \$0.00 and AHC Funds Warrant #8-2012 in the amount of \$0.00, RESTORE Program Warrant #8-2012 in the amount of \$0.00 and NSP Funds Warrant #8-2012 in the amount of \$0.00 and NY Main St. Program Warrant #8-2012 in the amount of \$35,000.00 as audited, be and the same are ordered paid and Councillor Skamperle seconded the motion.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

### APPOINTMENTS

1. Mayor Nelson moved to appoint Sally Palao to a five-year term on the Arts Council, term to expire 12/31/2016, and Councillor Skamperle seconded the motion.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

2. Mayor Nelson moved to appoint Lauren Gilmour to a five-year term on the Arts Council, term to expire 12/31/2016, and Councillor Stevenson seconded the motion.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

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3. Mayor Nelson moved to appoint Misty Smith to a three-year term on the Arts Council, term to expire 12/31/2014, and Councillor Ashley seconded the motion.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

4. Mayor Nelson moved to appoint Cheryl Seymour to a three-year term on the Arts Council, term to expire 12/31/2014, and Councillor Morley seconded the motion.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

5. Mayor Nelson moved to appoint Dave Ferry to a two-year term on the Arts Council, term to expire 12/31/2013, and Councillor Skamperle seconded the motion.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

6. Mayor Nelson moved to appoint Jackie Foster to a two-year term on the Arts Council, term to expire 12/31/2013, and Councillor Ashley seconded the motion.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

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Councillor Skamperle questioned why there were so many appointments to the Arts Council. Mayor Nelson explained the City has never had an Arts Council. Councillor Stevenson asked for an explanation of the Arts Council. Recreation Director Matthew Curatolo explained the Arts Council's primary mission will be to formulate a plan to promote all arts in the City. Mr. Curatolo said ideas on how to do that will be discussed at the initial meeting. Councillor Skamperle asked that Council be advised of the meeting dates.

### ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

1. Mayor Nelson moved a resolution reinforcing support for the construction of the Interstate 98 multi-modal corridor and supporting improvements to US Route 11 and to give priority to the Canton, Potsdam and Gouverneur Areas, and Councillor Morley seconded to wit:

#### RESOLUTION REINFORCING SUPPORT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE INTERSTATE 98 MULTI-MODAL CORRIDOR AND SUPPORTING IMPROVEMENTS TO US ROUTE 11 AND TO GIVE PRIORITY TO THE CANTON, POTSDAM AND GOUVERNEUR AREAS

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Transportation has spent millions of dollars over the past five decades conducting feasibility studies relative to the construction of a four-lane, limited-access highway built to interstate standards through the North Country in addition to studies relative to needed upgrades and safety improvements along US Route 11, and

WHEREAS, funds spent include those used to advance, among others; the North Country Transportation Study (2002), the Northern Tier Expressway: Route 11 Corridor Study (2008) and the North Country Freight Needs Study (2010), and

WHEREAS, the study published in 2002 recommended, for the purposes of economic development, the construction of a four-lane, limited access highway

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built to interstate standards as part of a complete corridor development strategy for the US Route 11 corridor, and

WHEREAS, the study published in 2008 concluded that the construction of such bypasses and passing lanes in the Canton and Potsdam areas were not warranted because traffic flow patterns in those areas were lower than the standard established by the author, and

WHEREAS, the study published in 2010 reaffirmed the recommendation of the 2002 study and further advanced the concept of developing a multi-modal corridor including rail and port upgrades and the construction of a four-lane limited access highway built to interstate standards that was specifically referred to as the Interstate 98 Project, and

WHEREAS, all three of these studies and their respective recommendations were published by the same firm, Wilbur Smith Associates, and

WHEREAS, Federal Funds in the amount of \$6.301 Million were secured by Senators Schumer and Clinton and Congressman McHugh in 2005 for the purpose of advancing a tiered environmental impact review relative to the recommendations made in the study published in 2002 prior to the publication of the 2008 study, thereby establishing clear legislative intent for the use of those funds, and

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Transportation, Region 7, is not authorized to repurpose those funds without the approval of the United States Congress, and

WHEREAS, that Congressional approval has not been sought by any agency, and

WHEREAS, Senator Charles Schumer, one of the original Federal Legislators who requisitioned the \$6.301 million in question, has not expressed any intention of sponsoring legislation that would repurpose those funds, and

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WHEREAS, the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators and more than 550 other municipal and civic entities have adamantly supported the concept of the Interstate 98 project through resolutions and financial support on multiple occasions, and

WHEREAS, upgrades and safety improvements to US Route 11 are also desperately needed and long overdue, and

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Transportation allocates an annual operation and maintenance budget to its Region 7 Office for the purpose of making upgrades and safety improvements such as those described in the 2008 Northern Tier Expressway: Route 11 Corridor Study, and

WHEREAS, the Northern Corridor Transportation Group is advocating for the development of the multi-modal corridor that was recommended by the North Country Transportation Study and the North Country Freight Needs Study as well as necessary safety upgrades to US Route 11, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Ogdensburg maintains its position that the development of a multi-modal corridor, commonly referred to as Interstate 98, must remain a local, state and federal priority and encourage State and Federal Agencies to act with urgency in initiating the tiered environmental impact review with funds that were appropriated in 2005, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Ogdensburg recognizes the need to upgrade and improve US Route 11, especially in the areas of Canton, Potsdam and Gouverneur, and encourages the New York State Department of Transportation to prioritize those upgrades as part of its regional operations and maintenance plan, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Ogdensburg hereby urges the New York State Department of Transportation to provide meaningful opportunities for the involvement to local officials in the planning, design and implementation of both of the proposed projects, and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be forwarded to President Barack Obama, United States Senator Charles Schumer, United States Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, Congressman Bill Owens, Federal Highway Administration Administrator Victor Mendez, Governor Andrew Cuomo, State Senator Joseph Griffo, State Senator Patty Ritchie, State Senator Elizabeth Little, Assemblywoman Addie Russell, Assemblyman Kenneth Blankenbush, Assemblywoman Janet Duprey, New York State Department of Transportation Commissioner Joan McDonald, New York State Secretary of Transportation Karen Rae, and New York State Deputy Secretary of Transportation Yomika Bennett, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be forwarded to every elected representative body (such as Town/Village/City/County) in St. Lawrence, Franklin, Lewis, Clinton and Jefferson Counties and that it be accompanied by a letter requesting that they move for the adoption of the language contained therein by their respective Boards or Legislative bodies and that questions from these elected officials regarding this issue should be addressed or forwarded to Mr. Jason Clark, Chair of the Northern Corridor Transportation Group, for response or to Sallie Brothers, Chair of the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators.

Councillor Cilley questioned if the purpose of the resolution was to encourage repair to Route 11 while keeping funds intact for the Interstate 98 project. Councillor Morley said he understood the resolution to reinforce support for the Interstate 98 project and to make much needed improvements to Route 11. Councillor Skamperle added the resolution is not supporting the use of federal funds elsewhere.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL



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2. Councillor Skamperle moved a resolution establishing new fees for recreation activities, including the Summer Sports Program and other activities at the Elsa M. Luksich Municipal Pool and Richard G. Lockwood Civic Center, and Councillor Ashley seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING NEW FEES FOR  
RECREATION DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

WHEREAS, the City of Ogdensburg operates the Elsa M. Luksich Municipal Pool and the Richard G. Lockwood Civic Center for public recreation purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Ogdensburg City Council establishes the fees for recreation activities including the Summer Sports Program, and other activities at the Elsa M. Luksich Municipal Pool and Richard G. Lockwood Civic Center; and

WHEREAS, members of the Ogdensburg Recreation Commission recommend establishing “Specials” for recreational activities to try to increase participation in the Summer Sports Program and other recreational activities at the Lockwood Arena and Municipal Pool;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the new 2012 “Specials” are as follows:

Sports Special – Three sports camps for a price of \$60.

Swimming Special – Swimming lessons through the Summer Sports Program and a season swimming pass for a child for \$30.

Public Skating Pass (for children) – 20 entries to public skating for \$15. (Excludes Rock-N-Skates)

Public Skating Pass (for adults) – 20 entries to public skating for \$35. (Excludes Rock-N-Skates)

Pool Parties - \$40 an hour.

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Recreation Director Matthew Curatolo explained the standard rate for sports camps is \$25, adding the new rate is not a family maximum rate. Mr. Curatolo said participants would be required to pay and select camps at the time of registration. Councillor Morley asked if the regular fees still exist, and Mr. Curatolo said yes, adding he hoped the special rates would get some more people involved. Councillor Hosmer asked if any camps other than sports camps were offered. Mr. Curatolo said arts and crafts is offered three times per week for free at different locations, adding that a new program called Fun Fridays will offer free activities and sports. Councillor Morley asked if consideration had been given to eliminate under-used programs. Mr. Curatolo said weight-lifting had already been cut because there were very few participants last summer. Councillor Skamperle said he likes the idea of pool parties and asked if the Fire Department and PBA were still contributing funds for lower income participants for swimming passes. Mr. Curatolo said yes but added funds may be depleted before the end of summer. Councillor Stevenson said other groups may be interested in contributing funds. Mr. Curatolo explained St. Lawrence County gave scholarships in the past for other programs, but those scholarships have been eliminated. Mayor Nelson noted that the Fire Department and PBA funds are not drying up. Interim City Manager Philip Cosmo agreed, adding the funds exist from premiums paid by insurance companies outside of New York State. Mr. Cosmo explained the groups can use the funds for whatever they chose. Councillor Stevenson said it would be nice to see other groups contribute also.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

3. Councillor Ciley moved a resolution authorizing the Police Department to utilize funds from the Forfeiture of Criminal Proceeds Account to purchase thirty two Smith & Wesson M&P 40 Pistols and required associated accessories, and Councillor Stevenson seconded to wit:

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RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO PURCHASE  
THIRTY TWO SMITH & WESSON M&P 40 PISTOLS AND REQUIRED  
ASSOCIATED ACCESSORIES WITH FUNDS FROM THE FORFEITURE OF  
CRIMINAL PROCEEDS ACCOUNT.

WHEREAS, the Ogdensburg Police Department in its efforts to provide Law Enforcement Services to the Community, needs to be properly equipped to handle all situations including those involving the possible need to use deadly physical force, and

WHEREAS, the Department is currently equipped with specific firearms for this purpose, that are over twenty years old, no longer manufactured, more complicated to function, are of low capacity and in recent years, exhibiting wear and corrosion, resulting in an increased demand for repair and maintenance, and

WHEREAS, the manufacture and availability of repair parts for these particular firearms could immediately cease without notice, and

WHEREAS, over the past twenty years advancements in materials, design and engineering have made significant changes in the manufacture of firearms, that have improved upon wear ability, dependability, reduced maintenance, capacity and ease of functionality, and

WHEREAS, these superior firearms are readily available to the general public and typically a preferred choice of those inclined to engage in violent criminal behavior, thus placing our Police Officers at a disadvantage, and

WHEREAS, possession of firearms with the latest technologies may provide officers of the Ogdensburg Police Department with a better opportunity to protect the innocent, while attempting to control and survive a potential deadly physical force situation, and

WHEREAS, the new Smith & Wesson model M&P 40, is one of the newer technology firearms and is currently available for purchase at a reduced price, through a trade in program for our older model firearms, and

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WHEREAS, it is permissible by the Equitable Sharing Program Guidelines to utilize funds from the Forfeiture of Criminal Proceeds fund to pay for such purchases,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ogdensburg Police Department is hereby authorized to purchase thirty two Smith & Wesson M&P 40 Pistols and required associated accessories and that monies in the amount of \$13,356.00 be appropriated from the Forfeiture of Criminal Proceeds Account, Line A2626 General Fund Revenues, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the \$13,356.00 be transferred from the Forfeiture of Criminal Proceeds account to the Specialized Equipment Account Line A3120.240.

Councillor Cilley questioned if the model being purchased was offered at a discount because it would be discontinued soon. Chief Richard Polniak stated the M&P 40 is a newer, more popular model, adding that the current model is no longer available. Chief Polniak said production of parts for the current model can be discontinued at any time. Councillor Cilley asked if the old guns will be traded in. Chief Polniak explained the new guns are approximately \$600 each and are being offered at \$391 with a \$191 trade-in allowance. Councillor Ashley asked for the age of the current guns, and Chief Polniak advised they are 20 years old, adding the new guns will carry 15 rounds versus the current 8 rounds. Councillor Hosmer asked if the Police Department budgeted for guns this year, and Chief Polniak said no, adding they intended to use these funds. Councillor Morley questioned the balance after the purchase of these guns, and Interim City Manager Philip Cosmo advised there will be about \$27,000 remaining. Mr. Cosmo explained these funds cannot be used to purchase items that are included in the budget. Chief Polniak said these funds have been used in the past to purchase vehicles, bullet proof vests and other items.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

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4. Mayor Nelson moved a resolution introducing an ordinance for a public notice and public hearing to lease city-owned property at the Dobisky Visitors' Center to Trevor Brunet, and Councillor Morley seconded to wit:

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A PUBLIC NOTICE AND PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE LEASE OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF OGDENSBURG

WHEREAS, the City of Ogdensburg requested proposals from qualified vendors to operate a seasonal food and beverage concession at the Dobisky Community Center

WHEREAS, the City has received a proposal from Trevor Brunet to operate a profitable business; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brunet has submitted a food and soft drink menu to meet the needs of families with children, seniors, downtown office workers, boaters and fishermen; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brunet has demonstrated the experience and expertise to support this type of food service; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brunet is amenable to discussing the terms of the lease to operate the concession for a full year; and

WHEREAS, the City Council hereby accepts the proposal of Mr. Brunet to operate a concession located in the Dobisky Visitors' Center, subject to approval of lease;

WHEREAS, the City Charter mandates that a Lease be finalized only after giving public notice in a local newspaper and conducting a public hearing;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council shall hold a public hearing on the 14th day of May, 2012 at 7:00 p.m., at the Council Chambers in the

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City of Ogdensburg, New York, regarding this proposed Lease of City-owned property; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk give notice of such public hearing by publication in the newspaper so designated by the City Council of the City of Ogdensburg for legal and public notices 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.

Councillor Morley said he will support the Public Hearing on this matter but added he will not support the lease as long as alcohol will be sold. Councillor Hosmer agreed, adding he would not agree to the lease as long as the tenant will be given free rent. Councillor Ashley said it is unfair to give incentives when there are many other businesses in the community that could use incentives. Interim City Manager Philip Cosmo explained the proposed agreement is not in final form and can be amended, adding that negotiations need to be done in executive session. Mr. Cosmo said Mr. Brunet was the only person interested. Councillor Ashley questioned if the agreement should be in final form before the Public Hearing. Mr. Cosmo explained the Public Hearing will be held and the agreement negotiated before Council votes on the matter. Mayor Nelson added that the Public Hearing to lease City-owned property must be held first and then Council will negotiate the terms of the agreement in executive session before voting.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

Councillor Stevenson questioned the reading of a letter included in the agenda. Mayor Nelson explained the letter was not read because the issues addressed in the letter do not concern the City's business or a matter over which Council has control. Councillor Stevenson said she felt the letter should be acknowledged.

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### OLD BUSINESS

1. Councillor Morley asked for an update on the 819 Knox Street and 2 Grove Street sales. Interim City Manager Philip Cosmo explained recertification of the buyers was necessary since six months had passed.

2. Councillor Morley asked for an update on the gasoline budget. Interim City Manager Philip Cosmo advised we are over budget due to the increased cost of gasoline and diesel fuel. Councillor Morley suggested yard waste be picked up every other week instead of weekly and the dumping area be opened Wednesday, Thursday and Friday for residents to drop off their own yard waste to try to keep costs down. Mayor Nelson said the community looked terrible when that was tried in the past. Mr. Cosmo added every community does it differently, adding there was backlash when changing pickup frequency was tried in the past. Mayor Nelson and Councillor Stevenson stated they do not support a change in the weekly pickup schedule. Councillor Morley said the gas budget is going out of control and suggested looking at other things to do to save such as composting for the City gardens. Councillor Skamperle said he was given a tour of the City dumping area when he first became a Councillor and DPW Director Kit Smith explained the area would be filled at some point. Councillor Skamperle asked if the waste could be burned, keeping the area from filling and giving the Fire Department training. Mr. Cosmo said it had been considered in the past but he was unsure if it is allowed in the City. Councillor Stevenson suggested requiring composting bags.

3. Councillor Morley said he has already heard complaints about the grass at St. Joseph's Nursing Home and asked if it can be kept mowed. Interim City Manager Philip Cosmo said he will check on it.

4. Councillor Ashley asked for an update on the microphones. Interim City Manager Philip Cosmo advised the microphones have been received and will be installed soon.

5. Councillor Hosmer asked for an update on the Oddfellow's water situation. Interim City Manager Philip Cosmo said a copy of the engineer's

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report was mailed to the Oddfellow's and he has not heard anything. Mr. Cosmo said he will check with DPW Director Kit Smith.

6. Councillor Hosmer asked for an update on cameras in the parks. Interim City Manager Philip Cosmo said nothing has been funded. Councillor Hosmer asked who owns the old post office building on Ford Street that was just vandalized. Mr. Cosmo advised it is owned by the Growth Fund. Councillor Hosmer asked if the Growth Fund paid for the cleanup of the vandalism, and Mr. Cosmo said yes.

7. Councillor Hosmer asked for an update on the Beaver Brook area damage. Interim City Manager Philip Cosmo said the clean-up work is being done now, adding the parent wants to make sure it is repaired to the satisfaction of DPW Director Kit Smith.

8. Councillor Hosmer asked if the Community Garden dedication ceremony will be held this Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. Interim City Manager Philip Cosmo said yes, and Councillor Stevenson added the ceremony begins at 8:30 a.m.

9. Councillor Hosmer asked for an update on the Town Hall meetings. Mayor Nelson said he plans to just schedule the first meeting because trying to work around schedules is not working. Mayor Nelson said he plans to have two department heads attend each meeting to discuss issues. Councillor Stevenson asked for a proposed date, and Mayor Nelson said he is looking at the middle of May on a Saturday when people are off work.

10. Mayor Nelson said he did not recall a consensus of Council to purchase cameras for the parks. Councilor Stevenson said she did not remember a consensus of Council to not purchase cameras either but that Council had discussed options and the quality of the photos. Interim City Manager Philip Cosmo said people need to report what they see and hear and be cautious of what is going on around them. Councillor Hosmer asked if solutions and alternatives are being looked at, and Mr. Cosmo said the Police Department's Neighborhood Watch Officer is getting information out to people.



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Councillor Ashley asked what the City's position is on vandalism. Mr. Cosmo said it depends on the type of vandalism and the damage done, adding if it is fixable the City lets the person fix it. Councillor Ashley said we are not sending the right message, adding if someone destroys City-owned property they should be prosecuted. Mayor Nelson asked who makes the determination to allow the damage to be repaired. Councillor Ashley said the private property owner of the Beaver Brook area filed criminal charges. Councillor Hosmer said the property looks awful. Chief Richard Polniak said the decision to prosecute depends on if the damage was intentional. Chief Polniak added he does not believe there was intention to damage the Beaver Brook property and that the person just got stuck. Councillor Morley said it looks like the person made more than one pass. Chief Polniak explained a second vehicle tried to get the first vehicle out. Chief Polniak added the private owner wanted the damage fixed immediately and decided to go with criminal charges. Chief Polniak said the City does prosecute for intentional damage and Family Court processes the juveniles, adding his department has possible suspects for the recent vandalism around the City. Chief Polniak asked for eyes and ears in the area to assist his department, explaining someone was seen on top of the old post office building but the witness followed a patrol car to report it instead of calling the police station. Councillor Morley said the occurrence of vandalism is going to get worse. Chief Polniak said it is a select few who commit these crimes.

11. Councillor Hosmer said Council had just heard another proposal on the hiring of a new City Manager and asked to meet to go over all of the proposals. Mayor Nelson said he plans to schedule a meeting after receipt of the most recent proposal. Councillor Hosmer asked if the Mayor planned to call a special meeting, and Mayor Nelson said yes.

12. Councillor Hosmer asked for an update on the availability of Council Meetings on the City's website. Interim City Manager Philip Cosmo advised he is having the City's IT person look over the information.

13. Councillor Cilley said the City is waiting for a permit from New York State to remove the Lafayette Street fire debris and added he wanted the

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community to know the delay is not caused by the City. Interim City Manager Philip Cosmo said the private owner could have removed the debris within a few days, but the City is required to obtain a permit. Mr. Cosmo added that an emergency permit has been requested from New York State. Councillor Cilley noted New York State has cut positions to save money and there are not enough people remaining to do the job.

14. Councillor Skamperle asked who was doing the paperwork to recertify the buyers for the 819 Knox Street and 2 Grove Street properties. Interim City Manager Philip Cosmo advised it is C.W. Augustine, Inc. Councillor Skamperle stated Mark Jones had appeared at a Council meeting with questions and asked if Mr. Jones had received answers. Mr. Cosmo said yes. Councillor Skamperle asked if Mr. Jones should FOIL for the scope of work, and Mr. Cosmo said yes.

15. Councillor Skamperle asked for an update on the boat launch and grant, asking if we need so many transient slips now that gas will not be sold. Interim City Manager Philip Cosmo said we may need to re-number the grant award. Councillor Morley said the original number was 65, and Councillor Hosmer added it looked like the actual number was doubled. Mr. Cosmo advised the point system may change the amount of the award. Councillor Skamperle said we have \$50,000 in grant money, and Mr. Cosmo explained we have to match those funds. Councillor Skamperle asked if it is being done, and Mr. Cosmo said we have been waiting for a total.

16. Councillor Skamperle asked if the Patterson Street boat launch work has been budgeted. Interim City Manager Philip Cosmo said it is included in the Recreation Department's budget. Councillor Skamperle asked if this project has been started. Mr. Cosmo said it is moving forward but it is a long process.

17. Councillor Skamperle asked for an update on the Cheese Plant in Executive Session.

18. Councillor Skamperle asked for an update on the City arena, asking if the property is being marketed for new events. Interim City Manager Philip

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Cosmo said we are trying everything and ideas will be brought to Council as they come in.

19. Councillor Ashley asked if when the 819 Knox Street and 2 Grove Street properties are sold and the money goes back into the NSP program if there will be enough funds to finish the Adams Avenue property. Councillor Ashley also asked if 505 New York Avenue can be removed from the program. Interim City Manager Philip Cosmo said he is not sure if 505 New York Avenue can be removed from the program. Interim Planning Director Andrea Smith advised 505 New York Avenue is slated for renovation. Mrs. Smith said she has spoken with the representatives of the NSP program and asked that 505 New York Avenue to be moved from rehabilitation to demolition, adding the property cannot be removed from the program. Councillor Skamperle asked if there are enough funds to renovate 505 New York Avenue. Mrs. Smith said it depends on how other properties sell and what program income is available to be used to rehabilitate or demolish. Councillor Ashley asked if the Bigelow Street property is out of the NSP program, and Mrs. Smith said yes. Councillor Ashley asked if the City is currently renovating any NSP properties. Mrs. Smith indicated all renovations are on hold until the sale of the 819 Knox Street and 2 Grove Street properties, adding she is waiting for the NSP representatives to respond. Mrs. Smith explained if less than \$25,000 is invested in a property that the property does not need to stay in the NSP program, adding we need to make sure we do not spend \$25,000. Councillor Ashley asked for a list of properties included in the NSP program, and Mrs. Smith said she would get that information to Council.

Councillor Morley asked if there is an estimate to finish 113 Adams Avenue, and Mrs. Smith said not to her knowledge. Councillor Morley asked for an update on the properties that have already been torn down. Mrs. Smith said she has talked to the NSP representatives and she is waiting for clarification, adding it is contingent upon what is spent on the property. Mrs. Smith said she will advise Council when she receives written clarification.

20. Mayor Nelson asked for an update on the methane digester at the Energy Plant. Interim City Manager Philip Cosmo said he would get an update.

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### NEW BUSINESS

1. Mayor Nelson said Interim Planning Director Andrea Smith has a waterfront planning meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Mayor Nelson said he cannot be present due to a previous commitment and asked Mrs. Smith to speak about the meeting. Mrs. Smith said the meeting will be the second public workshop for waterfront development, adding the objective of the meeting will be to review conceptual plans for three districts: Diamond/Shade District, Augsburg District and Marina District as well as a proposal for Gateway. Mrs. Smith added the plans to be presented are a result of the feedback following the first workshop, noting this will be an opportunity for the public to see design ideas on paper.

2. Councillor Skamperle complimented Interim Planning Director Andrea Smith on the news clip on YNN regarding waterfront development.

3. Mayor Nelson said he attended the ceremony on Saturday at the Dobisky Center. Mayor Nelson noted there was a good turnout and it was a very nice dedication to Mr. Dobisky. Councillor Stevenson suggested a light be focused on the plaque. Recreation Director Matthew Curatolo said he will look into it.

3. Councillor Morley reminded everyone of the April 30<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Dobisky Center to discuss the Rescue Squad moving to the old Hackett's building. Councillor Morley urged everyone to attend the meeting and voice their concerns or support, adding the meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.

4. Mayor Nelson asked if there could be a Committee of the Whole Meeting on April 30<sup>th</sup> to go over the three proposals to recruit the City Manager. Councillor Stevenson suggested an earlier meeting time, and Councillor Morley recommended the meeting begin at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Nelson confirmed the meeting for next Monday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Councillor Stevenson advised she will not be present for the May 14<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting. Councillor Morley noted Council could be voting on the lease of the Dobisky Center at that meeting. Interim City Manager Philip Cosmo reminded Council the vendor will need time to get permits.

2. Councillor Hosmer said he learned John Buckholz is leaving the Planning Office and asked if there is any money left from the grant. Interim City Manager Philip Cosmo said the estimate of what was available under the grant was not correct and we will probably not replace Mr. Buckholz. Councillor Hosmer asked if all of Mr. Buckholz's issues are wrapped up, and Mr. Cosmo said Mr. Buckholz is working part-time until May. Councillor Hosmer asked if Interim Planning Director Andrea Smith has enough support in the Planning Office. Mr. Cosmo advised projects will not be completed as quickly unless the City wants to spend more money.

Mayor Nelson stated there was a need for Executive Session to discuss a potential contract for the lease of the concession stand at the Dobisky Center, an update on the union negotiations and the legal aspects of the Cheese Plant, and his motion was seconded by Councillor Skamperle.

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