

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, Hosmer, Mitchell, Morley, Skamperle and Stevenson

ABSENT: None

PERSONAL APPEARANCE

1. Ogdensburg Bridge & Port Authority Chairman, Sam LaMacchia, addressed Council regarding the airport runway expansion. Mr. LaMacchia explained the expansion process and the benefits of moving forward with the project. Mr. LaMacchia said our location and the Ogdensburg-Prescott International Bridge make Ogdensburg the best choice. Councillor Skamperle asked if we still need a water line at the airport. Mr. LaMacchia explained the airport wants to be operational by November 2016 and the water line will be a key component when the time comes.

PRESENTATION

1. Mike Roach of Larsen Engineers/RER Energy and Ian Palmer with New Energy Equity, LLC made a presentation to Council regarding solar array. (A copy of their presentation material follows these minutes.)

Mayor Nelson said there was a need for Executive Session and Councillor Morley seconded the motion. Upon returning from Executive Session, all members of Council were still present.

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2. Director of Planning and Development Andrea Smith read the St. Lawrence County Zoning Board of Appeals report regarding the use variance request for 616 St. Lawrence Avenue to Council. Ms. Smith provided Council with the recommendations for the former Washington School. (A copy of the report follows these minutes.)

PUBLIC HEARING

1. A public hearing regarding an ordinance to amend Chapter 209, Section 209-57 Schedule XX: "Handicapped Parking" of the Ogdensburg Municipal Code was held.

No one being present to speak, the hearing was declared closed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Nelson moved that the claims as enumerated in General Fund Warrant #13-2014 in the amount of \$1,457,368.56 and Library Fund Warrant #13-2014 in the amount of \$24,675.59 and Capital Fund Warrant #13-2014 in the amount of \$73,156.06 and Community Development Fund Warrant #13-2014 in the amount of \$0.00 and Community Renewal Fund Warrant #13-2014 in the amount of \$47,892.00 and HOME Fund Warrant #13-2014 in the amount of \$0.00 and AHC Funds Warrant #13-2014 in the amount of \$0.00 and NSP Funds Warrant #13-2014 in the amount of \$0.00 as audited, be and the same are ordered paid and Councillor Ashley seconded the motion.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

1. Councillor Skamperle moved an ordinance to amend Chapter 209, Section 209-57, Schedule XX: “Handicapped Parking” of the Ogdensburg Municipal Code, and Councillor Morley seconded to wit:

ORDINANCE # 9 OF 2014

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 209 ENTITLED
"VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC"
OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF OGDENSBURG

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
OGDENSBURG, NEW YORK, AS FOLLOWS:

ITEM ONE:

That Section 209-57, Schedule XX: “Handicapped Parking” is hereby amended to delete the following:

Name of Street	Side	Location
Caroline Street	West	1 space in the 200 block in front of the southernmost entrance to City Hall

ITEM TWO:

This ordinance shall take effect ten (10) days after publication of notice which shall give the title and describe same in summary form.

Councillor Ashley asked why the handicapped parking spot is being removed. City Manager John Pinkerton said there is a concern about the spot being located on a one-way street and people exiting their vehicles into traffic.

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Mr. Pinkerton explained a second handicapped parking spot is being added to the back parking lot. Councillor Ashley said the parking lot is an inconvenient location for handicapped individuals. Director of Public Works Scott Thornhill explained he received a complaint that the site on Caroline Street is not ADA compliant. Mr. Thornhill said individuals must be able to exit the vehicle from their side and the curb height must be compliant. Mr. Thornhill explained there is not enough space available to make the Caroline Street handicapped parking spot ADA compliant. Mr. Thornhill said the City is not required to have a handicapped parking spot on the street as long as we have two spots in the parking lot. Councillor Hosmer asked if the current spot will be illegal if this ordinance does not pass. Mr. Thornhill said yes. Mr. Thornhill said other handicapped parking spots are under review.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

2. Mayor Nelson moved a resolution supporting the OBPA expanded Ogdensburg International Airport runway and upgrade of the terminal, and Councillor Morley seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE EXTENSION OF RUNWAY 27 AT THE OGDENSBURG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

WHEREAS, the Ogdensburg International Airport is an important commercial and transportation asset located in St. Lawrence County, which serves the City of Ogdensburg and the greater region with daily commercial air service to travelers flying into and out of northern New York and southeastern Ontario, Canada; and

WHEREAS, the Ogdensburg International Airport is conveniently located within an hour's drive to important Northern New York attractions such as the 1000 Islands, the St. Lawrence River, the St. Lawrence Seaway, and the historic Seaway Trail, as well as renowned education institutions

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such as St. Lawrence University, Clarkson University and SUNY Potsdam, and important commercial centers, such as the Port of Ogdensburg and Canada's capital, Ottawa, and also New York's Adirondack Mountains as well as the City of Ogdensburg; and

WHEREAS, a partnership between a private-sector commercial air carrier and the Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority (Authority) exists for up to \$1 million to encourage economic development and job growth by leveraging private capital investment and attracting tourists to the North Country Region through creating an expanded Terminal facility at Ogdensburg International Airport; and

WHEREAS, the Ogdensburg International Airport proposes to extend Runway 27 from 5,200' to 6,400', which will allow the airport to accommodate larger passenger planes and bring in 40,000 additional tourists to the area and St. Lawrence County annually; and

WHEREAS, this extension will occur on Airport property and will be funded by the Federal Aviation Administration, New York State Department of Transportation, and private sector and Ogdensburg International Airport funds; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ogdensburg unanimously endorses the runway extension proposal submitted by the Authority as a location for an expanded runway in St. Lawrence County; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ogdensburg strongly promotes the 1,200' proposed runway expansion at Ogdensburg International Airport to attract additional tourists and associated economic benefits of 150+ passenger planes and enhanced travel destinations to and from St. Lawrence County, New York.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Ogdensburg strongly supports the efforts of the Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority in partnership with a private-sector commercial air carrier and the

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Federal Aviation Administration to expand the Runway 27 by 1,200' for the economic benefit of the City of Ogdensburg and St. Lawrence County and further endorses efforts of the Ogdensburg Bridge & Port Authority to attract additional tourist enplanements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Ogdensburg extends its appreciation to the Federal Aviation Administration and New York State Department of Transportation for the funds that will be provided to the Runway Extension Project at Ogdensburg International Airport; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to the Federal Aviation Administration in Washington, D.C., U.S. Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, U.S. Representative Bill Owens, N.Y. Governor Andrew Cuomo; N.Y. Senator Joseph Griffo; N.Y. Senator Patricia Ritchie; N.Y.S. Senator Elizabeth Little; N.Y.S. Assemblywomen Addie Jenne Russell and Janet Duprey; and Assemblymen Kenneth Blankenbush and Marc Butler; North Country Regional Council Co-Chairs Collins and Douglas.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

3. Councillor Ashley moved a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement between the City of Ogdensburg and Tisdell Associates for the creation of the bid, award process and construction oversight, which includes all construction compliance in connection with the repair of the Water Plant Vault, and Councillor Skamperle seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
CITY OF OGDENSBURG AND TISDELL ASSOCIATES FOR
ENGINEERING SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH THE REPAIR OF
THE OGDEN STREET WATER PLANT VAULT

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WHEREAS, the City of Ogdensburg wishes to perform maintenance work at the Ogden Street Water Plant Vault; and

WHEREAS, Tisdel Associates will be responsible for the creation of the bid, award process and construction oversight, which includes all construction compliance in connection with the repair of the Ogden Street Water Plant Vault; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Manager is hereby authorized to execute an agreement with Tisdel Associates to prepare the above said documents in connection with the repair of the Water Plant Vault.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the funds to pay for the above mentioned plans will be appropriated from the Water Fund Balance and shall not exceed \$200,000.

Councillor Morley asked if \$200,000 covers all expenses. City Manager John Pinkerton said yes. Councillor Morley asked if we will have bypass lines set up during the construction. Director of Public Works Scott Thornhill explained the vault was drained last November and the chlorination equipment from the pool was used to bypass the vault. Mr. Thornhill said there will be no impact on the water supply during the two to three weeks required to complete the project.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

4. Mayor Nelson moved a resolution calling for a public hearing and public notice on a proposed ordinance amending Chapter 209, Section 209-40, Schedule III: "School Speed Limits" of the Code of the City of Ogdensburg, and Councillor Morley seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION OF CITY COUNCIL INTRODUCING AN ORDINANCE
AND PROVIDING FOR PUBLIC NOTICE AND PUBLIC HEARING

BE IT RESOLVED, that Ordinance No. ___ of 2014, entitled, Chapter 209, Section 209-40, Schedule III: “School Speed Limits” of the Code of the City of Ogdensburg, be and it hereby is introduced before the City Council of the City of Ogdensburg, New York, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council shall hold a public hearing in the matter of the adoption of the aforesaid Ordinance to be held at the Council Chambers in the City of Ogdensburg, New York, on the 11th day of August, 2014 at 7:00 p.m., and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk give notice of such public hearing by publication in the official newspaper 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.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

5. Councillor Stevenson moved a resolution authorizing the City Manager to sign an agreement, regarding a sidewalk on the west side of Plover Hill Avenue, between the City of Ogdensburg and the Ogdensburg City School District, and Councillor Hosmer seconded to wit:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER
TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF OGDENSBURG
AND THE OGDENSBURG CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Manager is authorized to sign the attached Agreement, regarding the Plover Hill Avenue sidewalk, between the City of Ogdensburg and the Ogdensburg City School District.

City Manager John Pinkerton said the Kennedy School Principal has expressed concern about children walking on the 300' foot strip of land owned by the City on Plover Hill Street. Mr. Pinkerton said the east side of the street is overgrown and the police department is located on the west side of the street. Mr. Pinkerton explained the school has agreed to maintain the sidewalk if the City builds it. Mr. Pinkerton said the cost for materials is approximately \$2,000.00 and the Department of Public Works will do the labor. Councillor Stevenson said according to the contract the school could end the maintenance of the sidewalk after thirty days. Mr. Pinkerton said he is taking them at their word. Councillor Stevenson asked if there is school property available to build a sidewalk. Mr. Pinkerton said no but the children could take an alternate, longer route to and from school. Councillor Stevenson said Council should approve the project for the safety of the children.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

6. Councillor Mitchell moved a resolution authorizing the set-up of a Capital Fund for the Linden Street Water Loop Project for Linden and Champlain Streets, and Councillor Stevenson seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SET-UP OF A
CAPITAL FUND FOR THE LINDEN STREET – CHAMPLAIN STREET
WATER LOOP PROJECT

WHEREAS, the City is in need of establishing a Water Loop in the Linden Street – Champlain Street area of the City for the purpose of improving water quality; and

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WHEREAS, the City's Director of Public Works has reviewed the scope of the project, determined that the project is within the ability of the Public Works Department and developed a budget for the project:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that a Capital Project in the amount of \$85,300. is to be established and set-up as H834202.518; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the funds for this project will be appropriated from the following sources:

Water Fund T&D Capital	
Construction Account - F8340.330	\$30,000
Capital Fund – Fund Balance - H909	
Water Tower painting \$14,495	
Mansion Ave Transmission Main \$40,805	
Total H909	\$55,300.

Councillor Stevenson asked if this project will correct the Oddfellow's Social Club water problem. City Manager John Pinkerton said yes unless a problem exists with their lateral pipe. Councillor Ashley asked if it will also correct the water problem at National Grid. Mr. Pinkerton said yes, but they too would need to replace their own lateral pipe if necessary. Mr. Pinkerton explained we already have the signed easement agreement from Tim Horton's but we are still waiting on National Grid. Councillor Skamperle asked what the financial impact would be. Mr. Pinkerton said he has been assured funds are available for this project and a grant application for \$20,000 has been filed. Councillor Morley asked if this project will be done in-house, and Mr. Pinkerton said yes. Councillor Hosmer asked why the cost is so different from when we looked at the project in the past. Mr. Pinkerton said the cost was estimated last year at \$100,000.00 but now the project is down to \$85,000.00. Mr. Pinkerton explained the total amount accounts for labor but no fringes.

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Councillor Stevenson said she would like a breakdown of expenses on future projects. Department of Public Works Director Scott Thornhill explained the original estimate was based on \$100 per linear foot for a total of \$100,000.00, but the actual material and labor costs are lower. Mr. Thornhill said it is a three week project and will employ three workers. Mr. Thornhill said we are just waiting for the signed easements to begin the project. Councillor Morley asked if 8" pipe will be used, and Mr. Thornhill said yes. Mayor Nelson asked if the General Fund will be reimbursed from the water fund. City Comptroller Philip Cosmo said the Project Fund will reimburse the Water Fund and no General Funds will be used. Mr. Cosmo said some of the funds we are using are remaining money from completed projects.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

7. Councillor Skamperle moved a resolution opposing Fort Drum Army workforce reductions, and Councillor Ashley seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION OPPOSING FORT DRUM ARMY REDUCTIONS

WHEREAS, the Department of Army has completed a Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Assessment for Army 2020 force structure realignment and is making a draft Finding of No Significant Impact available for public comment; and

WHEREAS, the Ogdensburg City Council wishes to voice their opposition to any Fort Drum Army reductions; and

WHEREAS, reducing the Fort Drum Army workforce would have a devastating effect on the economy of Northern New York; and

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WHEREAS, reducing the Fort Drum Army workforce would lead to a considerable decrease in demand for housing and vacant units on Fort Drum and result in a reduction in median home values with impacts on the real estate market and foreclosures. This reduction would lead to a loss of revenue and income necessary to maintain existing housing units, could potentially cause a raise in property taxes, and force investors to default on loans; and

WHEREAS, reducing the Fort Drum Army workforce would significantly impact the financial stability of school districts in the Fort Drum area. These cuts would result in students not receiving a basic education; and

WHEREAS, reducing the Fort Drum Army workforce would also have consequences to health care and public services for the communities in Northern New York.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Ogdensburg City Council strongly opposes any reduction in the Fort Drum Army workforce due to its impact on Northern New York.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be sent to: U.S. Army Environmental Command, Attn: SPEA Public Comments, Secretary of the Army John M. McHugh, U.S. Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, U.S. Representative Bill Owens, N.Y. Governor Andrew Cuomo; N.Y. Senator Joseph Griffo; N.Y. Senator Patricia Ritchie; N.Y.S. Senator Elizabeth Little; N.Y.S. Assemblywomen Addie Jenne Russell and Janet Duprey; and Assemblymen Kenneth Blankenbush and Marc Butler, U.S. Army Environmental Command, Attn: SPEA Public Comments, 2450 Connell Road, Building 2264, Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234-7664

Mayor Nelson said the resolution should also be sent to other representatives.

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City Manager John Pinkerton said he will get in touch with the Fort Drum liaison to obtain a complete list of appropriate representatives.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

OLD BUSINESS

1. Councillor Ashley said there are no recreation programs for older people such as concerts in the park. Councillor Ashley explained we spend money on the young people while there are two hundred people living in the towers. Councillor Ashley said he believes some of the service groups would donate to programs for older people. Councillor Stevenson agreed and asked if Council receives the minutes from the Recreation Commission meetings. City Manager John Pinkerton said he will follow-up with Recreation Director Matthew Curatolo.

2. Councillor Morley said he received a brush pickup complaint. Councillor Morley explained a person who was gone for the weekend put his brush curbside on Monday morning was told it would not be picked up because the street had already been done. Councillor Skamperle agreed and added residents are complaining about holes in their front yards. Councillor Skamperle said he wants to discuss the law concerning the placement of brush in the street. Councillor Skamperle he believes the law relates specifically to littering. Councillor Skamperle asked how many complaints have been received. City Manager John Pinkerton said his office has not received any complaints in the past three to four weeks. Mr. Pinkerton explained we are trying to make the brush removal process more efficient and effective. Councillor Mitchell said the lanes are overloaded. Councillor Ashley said we have been picking up lanes for the past fifty years and he doesn't understand why we cannot continue to do so.

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Councillor Stevenson explained the lanes are narrower than streets and it is not effective and efficient to bring our equipment into the lanes. Councillor Stevenson suggested crews wait until Tuesday to start pickups. Councillor Skamperle said he appreciates the drop off point for brush on Saturdays. Councillor Stevenson explained we agreed to work with the new process for a year and suggested we speak with the City Attorney for his legal opinion on how to deal with violations. Councillor Stevenson asked that Councillors share complaints as they are received.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Mayor Nelson said the Planning Board has discussed industrial zoning in the City. There was a consensus of Council to recommend that the Planning Board apply for industrial zoning.

2. Councillor Stevenson asked if the handicapped parking spots around the City require any alternative labeling. Councillor Stevenson explained many spots do not have the space required to become ADA compliant and asked that this issue be reviewed.

3. Councillor Stevenson asked for our policy and procedures regarding City-owned property and paper streets. City Manager John Pinkerton said he will provide that information to Council.

4. Councillor Stevenson asked if there will be an upcoming City-owned property sale. City Manager John Pinkerton said a sale will be scheduled after parcels are combined. Councillor Stevenson suggested signs be placed on the parcels that will be offered for sale. Mr. Pinkerton said the parcels available for sale will also be listed on the City website.

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5. Councillor Ashley explained some communities are trying to collect taxes from tax exempt property owners for police and fire services. City Manager John Pinkerton said he will obtain more information on this subject. Mayor Nelson said he can obtain information from NYCOM also. Councillor Hosmer asked if a basic fire charge is included in the water rates. Councillor Skamperle said there is a fire protection fee included.

6. Councillor Morley recommended the City-owned property on Lake Street along the Oswegatchie River as another site for solar power. City Manager John Pinkerton said he will look into it.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Mayor Nelson said there is a City Council/Planning Board work session scheduled for Wednesday night at 5:30pm at the Dobisky Center to discuss design guidelines for the waterfront. Director of Planning and Development Andrea Smith said the meeting is open to the public.

2. Director of Planning and Development Andrea Smith provided Council with a LWRP status update. Ms. Smith said the August Council Meeting Agenda will call for the public hearings for the local laws required to move forward with the project. (A copy of Ms. Smith's memo follows these minutes.)

3. City Manager John Pinkerton said he has been contacted by the Kiwanis Club concerning the no parking area on Gates Street by Montroy Park. Mr. Pinkerton explained people are parking in the no parking zone and Kiwanis members are allowing it. Mr. Pinkerton said we need to enforce the law or remove the sign. Mr. Pinkerton explained he has a meeting scheduled with Kiwanis representatives on Wednesday and will bring a recommendation to Council. Councillor Ashley asked if there is handicapped parking in the area. Mr. Pinkerton said yes, but they want more handicapped parking near the concession stand area. Mr. Pinkerton explained future spots must be ADA compliant.

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Police Chief Richard Polniak cautioned there had been an issue with parking on both sides of the street and said he is concerned that same issue will present itself again if the no parking signs are removed. Councillor Skamperle asked if we can reduce the speed limit in that area. Chief Polniak said parking has been the main concern, not speeding. Mr. Pinkerton said he will have City staff review the issue.

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