

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

February 23, 2015

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

PRESENT: Mayor Nelson, Councillors Hosmer, Mitchell, Morley, Skamperle and Stevenson

ABSENT: *Councillor Ashley

Councillor Stevenson advised that Councillor Ashley was parking his vehicle and would arrive shortly.

PRESENTATION

1. Director of Planning & Development Andrea Smith made a Complete Streets presentation to Council. Ms. Smith described the program and said Ogdensburg ranked #1 in the nation, scoring 92.8. Ms. Smith thanked the Complete Streets committee members.

Councillor Morley asked if there is a plan for Paterson Street to be included in the program. Ms. Smith said our policy was adopted after the Paterson Street Reconstruction Project was implemented. Ms. Smith explained there have been discussions to include complete street provisions in that project.

Mayor Nelson recognized the following Complete Streets committee members: Karlyen Manke, Scott Wright, Wayne Miller, Michele Catlin, Gary Hammond and Kathryn Rhinebold.

*Councillor Ashley arrived during the presentation.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Nelson moved that the claims as enumerated in General Fund Warrant #4-2015 in the amount of \$819,397.80 and Library Fund Warrant #4-2015 in the amount of \$22,749.86 and Capital Fund Warrant #4-2015 in the amount of \$11,604.90 and Community Development Fund Warrant #4-2015 in the amount of \$0.00 and Community Renewal Fund Warrant #4-2015 in the amount of \$0.00 and NSP Funds Warrant #4-2015 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 Ashley moved a resolution authorizing the City Manager to extend a Shared Highway Services Agreement with the following municipalities: The Village of Gouverneur, Village of Waddington, Village of Massena, Village of Morristown, Town of Morristown, Town of Oswegatchie, Village of Heuvelton, Town of Lisbon, Village of Potsdam, Village of Canton and St. Lawrence County Highway, and Councillor Stevenson seconded to wit:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN A
CONTRACT EXTENDING SHARED HIGHWAY SERVICES ON
BEHALF OF THE CITY OF OGDENSBURG**

WHEREAS, the City of Ogdensburg entered into a five-year Inter-Municipal Agreement effective February 24, 2010 for shared highway services as detailed in the attached Resolution which was duly adopted by the City of Ogdensburg City Council on February 24, 2010; and

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WHEREAS, the terms agreed to in Item 14 of said contract stated that the City of Ogdensburg City Council may extend or renew the contract at the termination thereof for an additional five-year period;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Ogdensburg City Council hereby authorizes extension of the contract on behalf of the City of Ogdensburg for an additional five year period; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to file a copy of this Resolution, along with a copy of the original Resolution adopted by the City of Ogdensburg City Council on February 24, 2010 and a copy of the original contract with the Chief Executive Officer of the following municipalities:

The Village of Gouverneur, Village of Waddington, Village of Massena, Village of Morristown, Town of Morristown, Town of Oswegatchie, and Village of Heuvelton and Town of Lisbon, Village of Potsdam, Village of Canton, St. Lawrence County Highway

This resolution shall take effect immediately.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

2. Mayor Nelson moved a resolution calling for a public notice and public hearing with regard to the sale of City-owned property located at 801 Washington Street, and Councillor Ashley seconded to wit:

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that Ordinance No. entitled "An Ordinance to Offer for Sale at Public Auction City-Owned Property " 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 9th day of March, 2015, 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

3. Mayor Nelson moved a resolution calling for a public notice and public hearing on a proposed ordinance amending Chapter 73, Animals, Article II, Dog Licensing, §73-6 entitled "Fees for Licensing Dogs" 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 2015, regarding an ordinance amending Chapter 73, "Animals", Article II, "Dog Licensing", §73-6 entitled "Fees for Licensing Dogs" 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 9th day March of 2015, 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

OLD BUSINESS

1. Councillor Stevenson thanked Recreation Director Matthew Curatolo and Head Facility Maintenance Worker Matthew Denner for the tour of the Lockwood Arena.

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2. Councillor Hosmer asked for an update on zoning issues excluding the ARD. Director of Planning & Engineering Andrea Smith explained the Planning Board and the subcommittee met last week and will submit their final recommendations with proposed redistricting at the March 24, 2015 Planning Board meeting. Ms. Smith said one more work session will be scheduled.

Councillor Hosmer asked if Mr. Basta has been contacted. City Manager John Pinkerton stated that he has met with Mr. Basta and discussed the required steps. Ms. Smith said she has corresponded with Mr. Basta and his project is currently on hold. Ms. Smith added Mr. Basta is not waiting on the City.

3. Councillor Skamperle said the Council update indicated snow banks around the City would be removed. City Manager John Pinkerton advised that 26 homes had frozen water lines and there have been several water main breaks. Mr. Pinkerton explained we are running two crews to thaw frozen water lines. Councillor Skamperle said the area between the sidewalk and street in the new construction area of Paterson Street has been narrowed. Councillor Skamperle said citizens were assured last year that the City would remove the snow banks in that area, and he is concerned it is not being done as promised. Mr. Pinkerton explained he has addressed complaints and we are trying to keep the roads as wide as possible. Councillor Skamperle asked if the snow blower has been used on Paterson Street. Director of Public Works Scott Thornhill said the entire length of the east side of Morris Street and the Canton Street area towards the school has been cleared of snow banks. Mr. Thornhill said his crews can cut about one mile of snow banks per night. Mr. Thornhill explained the Expo is in March so his crews will try to work on State Street next if they can get a break from frozen water lines.

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4. Councillor Morley said the Ogdensburg Rescue Squad building has been rented out on numerous occasions, and asked if they are being billed for their taxable usage. City Manager John Pinkerton said he believes they are donating the space, but he will check into this. Mr. Pinkerton explained the building did not meet code requirements in the past and he will send Code Enforcement to re-inspect the building.

5. Mayor Nelson thanked Director of Public Works Scott Thornhill and the DPW crews for their hard work with snow removal this year. Mayor Nelson said they did a great job on the water main break at the intersection of Green and Morris Streets. Councillor Morley said there have been 20+ calls for frozen pipes as well as a water main break near Park Street Agway Saturday morning, and the DPW crews are working nonstop. Mayor Nelson said our City staff does a great job. City Manager John Pinkerton explained Gregg Harland was proactive last year with requesting we put line items back in the capital expenditure budget that Council had cut, and his suggestions made a big difference for us this year. Councillor Morley said if our winters continue like the last couple of years, we may need to hire part-time plow help. Councillor Stevenson said residents often question the use of their water rate funds, but explained that the water fund allows us to offer these types of services and purchase the required equipment. Mayor Nelson said the frost is five feet into the ground and urged residents to let their water trickle.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Councillor Skamperle explained he has received complaints from residents having difficulty getting their vehicles moving after stopping for the stop sign on the Lake and Grove Streets hill. Councillor Skamperle asked staff to review this three-way stop intersection. City Manager John Pinkerton said he will ask the Department of Public Works and Police Department to evaluate that intersection.

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2. Councillor Hosmer asked to be excused from the March 9, 2015 Council Meeting because he will be out of town.

3. Councillor Stevenson said we need to educate business owners on snow removal in front of their businesses and establish a City policy. City Manager John Pinkerton said if a business owner places snow on a corner, Director of Public Works Scott Thornhill speaks with the owner. Mr. Pinkerton explained if there is no other place to put the snow, it is removed. Mr. Pinkerton asked Council for the names of concerned business owners so Mr. Thornhill can speak with them. Councillor Morley asked why we remove snow for some businesses but not others. Mr. Pinkerton explained they have private haulers, and we only take snow from the edge of the road. Mr. Thornhill said his department has a snow priority list which he uses for different parts of the City. Mr. Thornhill explained that the snow banks from the intersection of Ford and Paterson Streets up to State Street are on the snow priority list. Mr. Thornhill said that list includes schools and churches for each type of snow event, but he is open to suggestions and recommended changes. Councillor Morley asked for Council to receive a copy of the snow priority list. Councillor Stevenson said we must remove snow for every business in the City or none at all. City Manager John Pinkerton said he will discuss this with staff in the morning.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. City Manager John Pinkerton asked Council to review the 2014 Yard Waste Pickup Policy and send recommended changes to him by email. Councillor Skamperle suggested the DPW pick up the first ward on the first week of the month. Mr. Pinkerton said the first ward is small and needs to be combined with Proctor Avenue. Councillor Morley said crews should cover one ward per week and residents should be able to call in large loads. Mr. Pinkerton said a “special call in” would need to be defined. Director of Public Works Scott Thornhill said our current policy only calls for the removal of yard waste.

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Mr. Thornhill explained homeowners are responsible for tree removal, drop offs and large brush. Councillor Morley said we have picked up large brush for years, especially when a resident removes a tree. Councillor Ashley asked if brush will be picked up from lanes. Councillor Stevenson recommended we include all streets and lanes. Mayor Nelson suggested all ideas be emailed to Mr. Pinkerton.

2. Mayor Nelson said an individual chastised our City staff and Council last week indicating there has been a significant drop in the City's census. Mayor Nelson explained the population dropped when the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center was downsized but increased when the prisons were built. Mayor Nelson said it was determined in 1990 that the prison inmates should not be included in the census which resulted in a decrease. Mayor Nelson said we have maintained our census for the past ten years. Mayor Nelson explained we are the cheerleaders for our area and we should be encouraging development in our City. Mayor Nelson said only factual, positive information should be released to the public.

Mayor Nelson said there was a need for Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter, and Councillor Morley seconded.

The vote to adjourn to Executive Session was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

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