

CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

June 15, 2015

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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

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

1. Councillor Stevenson moved a resolution authorizing the City Manager to sign a Home Rule Request for the enactment of Senate bill #4481-B and Assembly bill #6519-A entitled “An act authorizing the Commission of General Service to convey real property at the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center to the City of Ogdensburg”, and Councillor Morley seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER
TO SIGN AN AMENDED HOME RULE REQUEST

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article IX of the State Constitution, the City of Ogdensburg requests the enactment of Senate bill #4481-B and Assembly bill #6519-A entitled “An act authorizing the Commissioner of General Services to convey real property at the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center to the City of Ogdensburg”, and

WHEREAS, this transfer of state property to the City of Ogdensburg will be for fair market value and follow any of the terms and conditions the Commissioner of General Services assigns; and

WHEREAS, the lands authorized by this act consist of one St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center parcel, in the City of Ogdensburg; and

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WHEREAS, the authorized property is Parcel B, which consists of 50 acres bounded by the St. Lawrence River to the northwest, on the south by River Drive, northeast of Bridgeview to include all of the surplus land abutting the St. Lawrence River between Bridgeview and Trinity buildings, but not to include building numbers 65,66,67.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Manager, John M. Pinkerton, is hereby authorized and directed to sign an Amended HOME RULE REQUEST for enactment of a Special Law to convey real property, Parcel B., at the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center to the City of Ogdensburg.

Councillor Stevenson explained the proposed amendment to the agreement is not a commitment by the City to accept the extra buildings. Councillor Stevenson said it simply adds the properties to the agreement for future negotiating.

Councillor Hosmer asked for an update from City Manager John Pinkerton, the person who has been negotiating the acquisition of property. Mr. Pinkerton provided Council with a detailed explanation of the negotiating process from the very beginning until the present time. Councillor Ashley asked for the City Manager's opinion regarding these extra buildings. Mr. Pinkerton said he is not in favor of adding the parcels to the agreement. Mr. Pinkerton explained he has been asked several times to include the properties for negotiating and denied each request. Mr. Pinkerton said acquisition of these buildings would not be beneficial to the City.

Mayor Nelson said he shares the same reservations as Mr. Pinkerton because there are too many unanswered questions about the extra properties. Councillor Stevenson said she presented the information to Council because it needed to be Council's decision to amend the agreement or not. Councillor Ashley said Mr. Pinkerton knows everything about the negotiations and what is in the best interest of the City. Councillor Ashley said Council put their trust in Mr. Pinkerton to handle the negotiations.

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Councillor Hosmer said Mr. Pinkerton is most familiar with the proposed agreement and should continue the negotiations. Councillor Skamperle thanked Councillor Stevenson for bringing the information to Council but also said he trusts Mr. Pinkerton's decisions.

After much discussion, Mayor Nelson called for a vote on the proposed resolution.

The vote was:

AYES: Councillors Morley and Stevenson

NAYS: Mayor Nelson, Councillors Ashley,
Hosmer, Mitchell and Skamperle

DEFEATED, 5 TO 2

City Manager John Pinkerton stated that he advised Mayor Nelson that he does not wish to continue his contract with the City after December 31, 2015. Mr. Pinkerton requested that Council begin the process of finding a new City Manager.

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