

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

August 31, 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, Mitchell,
Morley, Skamperle and Stevenson

ABSENT: Councillor Hosmer

City Manager John Pinkerton thanked Council members for attending this special meeting. Mr. Pinkerton said Council previously authorized an evaluation of the Wastewater Treatment Facility. Mr. Pinkerton explained that Governor Cuomo has introduced a program for municipalities to make required improvements, and the application must be submitted by September 4, 2015. Mr. Pinkerton introduced Kevin Feuka of Capital Consultants Architecture and Engineering.

Mr. Feuka distributed an information sheet to Council explaining the Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) Asset Management Plan/Fiscal Sustainability Plan. (A copy of this information follows these minutes.) Mr. Feuka explained the Governor's program and the recommended application category for the City. Mr. Feuka said this is simply an opportunity to capture funding, and the City is under no obligation to accept the funds or advance the project.

Councillor Ashley questioned the City's portion of funding for this project. City Comptroller Philip Cosmo explained we could apply for a 20-30 year borrowing plan and the repayment amount would determine the sewer rates. Councillor Stevenson stated if these improvements are required then this is in the best interest of the City. Mayor Nelson said the current plant is not running efficiently and asked Mr. Pinkerton how much the City could save by improving efficiency. Mr. Pinkerton said we are looking into the potential savings, and added that if we can reduce the amount going into the tank, we may be able to install smaller tanks. Mr. Pinkerton said we are also looking into obtaining other grants, but we would like approval for this funding first.

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Councillor Stevenson asked if the improvements would require any new employees. Mr. Pinkerton said no new employees would be required. Mayor Nelson asked if this would resolve the issues with the mixing system. Mr. Feuka said it would and we could also capture the methane gas off the digesters. Councillor Skamperle questioned when is the best time to borrow these funds, and if zero percent financing would be available. Mr. Feuka explained the State will review applications, score them and depending on how they are ranked, will determine if your grant will be funded. Mr. Feuka said he feels confident the City will qualify for the zero percent financing.

Councillor Ashley questioned when we will be notified if we receive the grant. Mr. Feuka said sometime in October or November. City Manager John Pinkerton cautioned it sometimes takes longer than anticipated to receive a response.

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

1. Mayor Nelson moved a resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit a NYS Water Infrastructure Improvement Act Grant application to fund 25% of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project, and Councillor Stevenson seconded to wit:

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT A NEW YORK STATE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT ACT GRANT FOR THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT PROJECT

WHEREAS, the City of Ogdensburg contracted with C2AE, who conducted an evaluation of the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and developed a capital improvement plan (CIP); and

WHEREAS, C2AE has identified all equipment on site, expected useful life, condition and what impact each piece would have on system if it was non-functioning; and

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WHEREAS, C2AE has provided a priority list of projects for Waste Water Treatment Plant;

WHEREAS, the cost of the project is \$5,189,380., and

WHEREAS, the New York State Water Infrastructure Improvement Act Grant is a grant for 25% of the project cost.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ogdensburg City Manager is hereby authorized to submit a grant application with the New York State Water Infrastructure Improvement Act Grant Assistance through the CSO/SSO Projects Application.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

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