

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

December 10, 2007

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

PRESENT: Mayor Nelson, Councillors Ericksen, Flynn, Hannan, LaMacchia, LaRose and Morley

ABSENT: None

Mayor Nelson presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Deputy Mayor Stephen C. LaRose, Councillor Kresten F. Ericksen and Councillor Samuel J. LaMacchia. Mayor Nelson read aloud each certificate and thanked each Councillor for their years of dedicated public service as a fellow member of the Ogdensburg City Council. (Copies of Certificates of Appreciation follow these minutes.)

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Nelson moved that the claims as enumerated in Warrant #22-2007 in the amount of \$1,220,245.70 and Library Warrant #22-2007 in the amount of \$1,206.52 and Community Development Fund Warrant #22-2007 in the amount of \$181,127.78 and Capital Fund Warrant #22-2007 in the amount of \$208,373.25 as audited, be and the same are ordered paid and Councillor Flynn seconded the motion.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

1. Councillor LaRose moved an ordinance to approve a Franchise Agreement between St. Lawrence Gas Company, Inc. and the city of Ogdensburg, and Councillor Morley seconded to wit:

ORDINANCE # 15 OF 2007  
AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE A FRANCHISE AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN ST. LAWRENCE GAS COMPANY, INC.  
AND THE CITY OF OGDENSBURG

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

ITEM ONE: That the City Council of the City of Ogdensburg approves the Franchise Agreement attached and authorizes the City Manager to execute the same and authorizes the submission thereof to the New York State Public Service Commission for approval pursuant to the provisions of Section 68 of the New York State Public Service Law.

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.

The vote was:

AYES: Mayor Nelson, Councillors Ericksen, Flynn,  
LaMacchia, LaRose and Morley

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Councillor Hannan

APPROVED, 6 TO 0

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2. Councillor Ericksen moved a resolution requesting the adjustment of the position of Building Maintenance Men to Senior Building Maintainers and authorizes the City Comptroller to transfer funds from the Contingency Account to accomplish this budget amendment, and Councillor LaMacchia seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION REQUESTING  
THE ADJUSTMENT OF THE POSITION  
OF BUILDING MAINTENANCE MEN TO  
SENIOR BUILDING MAINTAINERS

WHEREAS, following a review of staffing and job descriptions in the Parks & Recreation Department, the Parks & Recreation Director requested a listing of job descriptions and titles from the City Clerks Office, and

WHEREAS, The Ogdensburg Civil Service Commission adopted the title of SENIOR BUILDING MAINTAINERS on November 15, 2007 and NYS Civil Service approved the non-competitive promotion from Building Maintenance Men to Senior Building Maintainers, and

WHEREAS, the adjustment to the Senior Building Maintainers position will include an upgrade from grade 6 to grade 7 at a \$1,162.00 adjustment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the 2008 salary of Tim O'Reilly, is hereby adjusted, effective January 1, 2008, to \$38,136 as Senior Building Maintainers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Comptroller is hereby authorized to transfer funds from the Contingency Account to accomplish this budget amendment.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

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### OLD BUSINESS

1. Councillor LaMacchia said he would like Council to resolve the designation of the official newspaper tonight. Councillor LaMacchia moved to designate the Ogdensburg Journal as the official City newspaper, and Councillor Hannan seconded the motion.

Councillor Morley suggested letting the new Council decide. Councillor Flynn stated that this is a lose, lose situation and explained Watertown's paper will cost more for legal notices versus the Journal's bad journalism. Councillor Ericksen said his gripe with the Journal is not the news reporting, it's the editorials presented as news when they are only opinions and are not always accurate. Councillor LaRose said he learned in his fall of 1978 intro Journalism class that no news is worse than old news, vote and get over with it. Mayor Nelson said his vote has nothing to do with the election, it's about the Journal misreporting and he would like to let the next Council decide.

Councillor Ericksen moved to table the vote on the designation of the official City newspaper, and Councillor Morley seconded the motion.

The vote to table was:

AYES: Mayor Nelson, Councillors Ericksen, Flynn,  
and Morley

NAYS: Councillors, Hannan, LaMacchia and LaRose

### TABLED, 4 TO 3

2. Councillor LaRose stated that the Executive Compensation Committee previously presented Council with recommendations for a new performance-based compensation plan for non-represented employees. Councillor LaRose asked City Manager Arthur Sciorra how he is going to measure or rate the performance of non-represented employees.

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Mr. Sciorra said he will measure non-represented employees based on their strategic management work plan and their department's completed goals.

3. Councillor LaRose handed out a copy of the 2006 City audit, last page, Comments and Recommendations. (A copy follows these minutes.) Councillor LaRose asked City Manager Arthur Sciorra to answer the following questions before the end of his Council term:

1. Has there ever been a payment made by the Postal Service to the Growth Fund?
2. Where is the punch list?
3. What is on punch list?
4. Who is responsible to complete the punch list?
5. What are the other outside issues that are talked about in the auditor's response.
6. When is this going to be taken care of?

4. Councillor Ericksen stated that a couple of months ago Council discussed designing a new footbridge to cross the Oswegatchie River and questioned the timetable. City Manager Arthur Sciorra explained that a sub-water study was done by engineers and we haven't received their report which is needed to proceed. R. Sciorra said he is hoping to receive it by 1/1/08.

Public Works Director Kit Smith stated that tests on lead paint and asbestos have been done on the bridge and we should receive the engineers' reports by the last week of January or early February.

5. Councillor Flynn asked for an update on the progress of extending the Maple City Trail. Mr. Sciorra said we are waiting for an appraisal of this property which will connect us to the trail. City Attorney Katherine Wears said a meeting is scheduled tomorrow with one of the property owners.

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6. Councillor Hannan questioned the status of the concession stand proposals for the new Dobisky Center. City Manager Arthur Sciorra stated that he received one proposal. Councillor Hannan said we need to re-advertise and questioned if the theme will be nautical. Mr. Sciorra said the planner was working on a design and looking for grant money for the design work, but he will be overseeing that work until a new planner is chosen. Mr. Sciorra advised the deadline for Planner applications is Friday, December 14. Councillor Hannan questioned if the additional LRP's received for the Diamond property are waiting for the new planner. Mr. Sciorra stated we received no new LRP's but have the three original proposals.

### ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Heuvelton, Lisbon, Ogdensburg, Oswegatchie Joint Water System.

City Manager Arthur Sciorra advised Council that the we have approached the Joint Water Committee, Towns of Oswegatchie, Lisbon and the Village of Heuvelton, with a proposal to supply water and sewer services to the Ogdensburg International Airport (OBPA). (A copy of the concept summary for phase 1 information sheet follows these minutes.)

Mr. Sciorra stated that the group will meet again on December 20 to discuss the five points at the bottom of the proposed plan. Mr. Sciorra stated that he is looking for consensus of Council to put together a water/sewer district for that area. Mr. Sciorra said he has been meeting with this group for the last 18 months and they are all looking to their boards to see if they are in agreement to proceed with a preliminary engineering study.

After much discussion amongst Council, there was a consensus of Council to proceed to the next step.

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2. Councillor Morley stated that Council is provided with a paper copy of the City Council Minutes. Councillor Morley requested a draft of the minutes be provided via email instead of paper. City Manager Arthur Sciorra said he will ask each member of Council what they prefer.

3. Councillor Hannan questioned if we have heard from the County regarding a sales tax meeting. Mayor Nelson said we have a December 28 meeting set up with the County. Mayor Nelson said Mr. Sciorra, Phil Cosmo, Mike Morley and himself will meet with Legislator Sam Burns, County Administrator Karen St. Hilaire, Legislator Chairman Pat Turbett and County Treasurer Robert McNeil.

4. Councillor LaMacchia said he feels bad that the old Dobisky building will be demolished. City Manager Arthur Sciorra reported that the water has been shut off

Councillor Morley said that Public Works Director Kit Smith will demolish this building when his men are available.

5. Councillor LaMacchia stated that it has been an honor to serve the citizens of Ogdensburg for the last eight years. Councillor LaMacchia added that it was a great experience and he hopes this Council made a difference. Councillor LaMacchia wished Mayor Nelson a good next four years.

6. Councillor LaRose said he had many thanks and reminded Council and audience that when he was first elected, Bill Nelson had just beaten his father-in-law in the race for Mayor, and Bill treated him with respect. Councillor LaRose thanked the Mayor and said he always respected him for his handling of the situation. Councillor LaRose wished the Mayor and Council good luck.

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7. Councillor Ericksen said Ogdensburg has grown tremendously with this Council and it took teamwork. Councillor Ericksen thanked the citizens of Ogdensburg, Council, Manager and staff, and added that after his serving on Council for twenty years, it is time for new blood.

8. Mayor Nelson said he would not mind being in a battle or foxhole with this Council and added that he appreciates each and every member. Mayor Nelson added that the City has grown tremendously and we have a lot to be proud of.

9. Mayor Nelson wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a healthy and safe New Year, and looks forward to 2008.

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