

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

December 5, 2016

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

PRESENT: Mayor Ashley, Councillors Davis, Mitchell,
Morley, Skamperle and Stevenson

ABSENT: Councillor Price

Mayor Ashley said Councillor Price asked to be excused because he is hospitalized. There was a consensus of Council to excuse Councillor Price.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. A public hearing regarding the submission of a FY2017 US EPA Assessment Coalition Grant Application was held. No one being present to speak, the hearing was declared closed.

2. A public hearing regarding the Preliminary 2017 Budget for the City of Ogdensburg was held. Tim Cryderman of Forsythe Rifles asked Council not to delete the allocation to Forsythe Rifles from the budget. Mr. Cryderman said the group's events bring people into the City to spend money locally.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Ashley moved that the claims as enumerated in General Fund Warrant #21-2016 in the amount of \$230,677.28 and Library Fund Warrant #21-2016 in the amount of \$0.00 and Capital Fund Warrant #21-2016 in the amount of \$0.00 and Community Development Fund Warrant #21-2016 in the amount of \$0.00 and Community Renewal Fund Warrant #21-2016 in the amount of \$0.00 as audited, be and the same are ordered paid and Councillor Skamperle seconded the motion.

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The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

1. Councillor Morley moved to take a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a Residuals Management Service Agreement with Waste Stream Inc. off the table, and Councillor Stevenson seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A
RESIDUALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE CITY AND WASTE STREAM INC.

WHEREAS, the City of Ogdensburg Wastewater Treatment Plant generates 825 wet tons of sludge residuals per year, and

WHEREAS, Waste Stream Inc., (d/b/a Casella Waste Services) will provide a comprehensive service for the removal and proper disposal of sludge residuals, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Manager, Sarah Purdy, is hereby authorized and directed to sign a Five (5) Year Residuals Management Service Agreement with the Waste Stream Inc., commencing on January 1, 2017.

The vote to take the resolution off the table was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

Mayor Ashley said he will not support an increase of \$20,000 for this service. Councillor Mitchell agreed and said he is concerned about entering into a five year contract. Councillor Davis reminded Council of the cost benefit analysis. Public Works Director Scott Thornhill said the net impact is zero, but the contract would free up one employee. Mr. Thornhill said if we factor the manpower back in, this contract is actually a savings.

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Mr. Thornhill explained the process would also be viewed favorably by DEC because we are not dumping our sludge in a landfill. Mr. Thornhill said the test run was very positive, and they were very receptive to our product. Mr. Thornhill explained he is planning to eliminate a position in the future, and this contract goes along with his long term plan. Councillor Stevenson asked if this contract only impacts the Sewer Fund, and Mr. Thornhill said yes. Mayor Ashley said he is concerned because we are already performing the service ourselves. Mr. Thornhill said we reduced staffing at the plant from 8 employees to 3 employees, and he would like to get it back to 5. Mr. Thornhill explained he is encouraging team work and cross-training at the plant rather than specific individuals assigned to specific duties. Mr. Thornhill said he is unsure if we would renew the contract after five years, but it is the best idea now. Mr. Thornhill stressed the cost would be a wash, and he would be able to reallocate the work force.

Councillor Stevenson asked if the benefit would increase if the price per ton increases. Mr. Thornhill said yes, and an increase is anticipated. Mayor Ashley said it is just bad timing. Councillor Stevenson said the contract supports long term planning, and she intends to support it. Mr. Thornhill asked if Council would support the contract if he was able to reduce his department's expenses by \$20,000. Councillor Stevenson asked if that reduction would be possible because we would no longer be using our own truck to provide the service, and Mr. Thornhill said yes. Mr. Thornhill explained one of the huge benefits is that the City will own the boxes after five years. Councillor Mitchell asked why Mr. Thornhill wouldn't just cut \$20,000 off his expenses, use that money to purchase the boxes and enter into only a 3 year contract instead. Mr. Thornhill said he could explore that option. Councillor Davis made a motion to table the resolution to allow Mr. Thornhill to research these options, and Councillor Skamperle seconded.

The vote to table was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

2. Councillor Morley moved a resolution to adopt the Preliminary 2017 Budget as amended, and Councillor Skamperle seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT
THE CITY OF OGDENSBURG'S 2017 BUDGET

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Ogdensburg adopts the 2017 Preliminary Budget as amended in the attached schedules,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following rates shall be in effect for 2017:

1. The City Real Property Tax Rate for 2017 shall be \$ _____ per thousand dollars of assessed valuation.

Mayor Ashley explained Council held a budget work session prior to the Council Meeting and discussed several amendments. After much discussion, Mayor Ashley called for a five minute recess to allow the City Comptroller Timothy Johnson and City Manager Sarah Purdy to calculate the outcome of the proposed changes. Upon returning, all members of Council were still present.

Ms. Purdy outlined the proposed amendments discussed pursuant to the General Fund Budget Options spreadsheet she provided to Council and summarized on the Budget Reductions Amendment statement. (Copies of the spreadsheet and statement follow these minutes.)

Councillor Stevenson made a motion to amend the preliminary budget pursuant to the Budget Reductions Amendment statement, and Councillor Mitchell seconded.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

As discussion continued, there was a consensus of Council for the following amendments:

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- Reduce travel expense for Mayor and Council (A1010.410) on page C-3 to \$500
- Reduce equipment maintenance for Assessments (A1355.440) on page C-9 to \$1,600
- Reduce consultants for Engineering (A1440.515) on page C-15 to \$17,000
- Reduce salaries for Recreation Department (A7140.110) on page G-8 by \$1,600 with the stipulation that all summer camps be maintained
- Reduce materials and supplies for Parks (A7110.490) on page G-5 to \$11,000
- Increase marina dock rental revenue for Parks (A2006) on page G-5 by \$2 per foot
- Reduce specialized equipment for Street Maintenance (A5110.240) on page E-5 by \$600
- Reduce tree removal for Shade Trees (A8560.472) on page E-16 by \$1,000
- Reduce professional training for Public Works Administration (A1490.510) on page E-3 to \$500
- Reduce overtime for Street Cleaning (A5115.120) on page E-7 to \$2,000
- Reduce gasoline for Public Works Garage (A5132.480) on page E-9 to \$70,000
- Reduce materials and supplies for Snow Removal (A5142.490) on page E-11 to \$70,000
- Reduce equipment maintenance for Snow Removal (A5142.440) on page E-11 to \$9,000
- Reduce building maintenance for Police (A3120.450) on page D-4 by \$25,000
- Reduce materials and supplies for Police (A3120.490) on page D-4 by \$4,000
- Eliminate office expense for Fire (A3410.420) on page D-10
- Reduce gasoline for Fire (A3410.480) on page D-10 by \$2,000

Councillor Davis made a motion to table the resolution, and Councillor Morley seconded. After some discussion, Councillor Davis withdrew his motion, and Councillor Morley withdrew his second.

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Discussion continued until Mayor Ashley called for a two minute recess for Mr. Johnson and Ms. Purdy to calculate the outcome of the additional proposed changes. Upon returning, all members of Council were still present.

Councillor Mitchell made a motion to table the resolution until the December 12, 2016 Council Meeting and Councillor Stevenson seconded.

The vote to table the resolution was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

PERSONAL APPEARANCE

1. Ron Latham, 315 Mansion Avenue, addressed Council regarding the 2017 budget. Mr. Latham questioned if the proposed tax rate is even legal and asked for an independent audit. Mr. Latham recommended an increase in the City sales tax rate and development of a program for the City to offer power to businesses. Mr. Latham added he would like to meet with the City Manager.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Councillor Skamperle explained he participated in an email exchange with Senator Gillibrand's office and State representatives regarding the Co-gen plant. Councillor Skamperle said it appears the State does not see the importance of moving this matter forward quickly. City Manager Sarah Purdy said she has also had several conversations concerning this issue and will update Council as the project moves forward. Councillor Stevenson suggested Council tour the facility and pass a resolution of support.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Director of Public Works Scott Thornhill addressed the City's solar project plan. Mr. Thornhill explained the benefits and drawbacks of the options with the Tri-County Energy Consortium and New Energy Equity, and added the need to move forward with one of them.

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Mr. Thornhill read an email he received from Ian Palmer, New Energy Equity LLC stating that they had found suitable land in the Camden region for the next City solar project. Mr. Thornhill added the email also stated:

- This land will support up to 1.2 MW, which would be well suited to fill out the solar capacity needs at the City of Ogdensburg;
- The site was recommended by National Grid because of the capacity at the local substation in the same Load Zone E;
- City will still need to go through final engineering studies by National Grid, but should pass easily based on their verbal confirmations;
- This project would comply with the PPA pricing terms that New Energy Equity LLC has already signed with the City.

Mr. Thornhill asked Council for a consensus on the solar power issue. After much discussion, there was a consensus of Council to withdraw from the Tri County Energy Consortium and move forward with New Energy Equity.

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

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BUDGET REDUCTIONS AMENDMENT

A1010.430	Printing and Advertising	(\$4,000)
A1420.515	Consultants	\$15,000
A1964.469	Refund	\$20,000
A3120.310	Capital Equipment	\$40,500
A3510.471	SPCA	\$2,500
A5110.110	Salaries	\$5,820
A5110.155	Clothing Allowance	\$425
A5110.550	Uniforms	\$180
A5110.830	Social Security Expense	\$477
A5115.110	Salaries	\$52,313
A5115.120	Overtime	\$1,000
A5115.830	Social Security Expense	\$4,078
A5410.330	Capital Construction	\$45,000
A8560.515	Consultants	\$5,000
A6410.420	Office Expense	\$1,000
A6410.498	Other Contractual Expense:	\$6,050
	Pride & Beautification	\$2,000
	OCP	\$2,400
	Garden Club	\$900
	Forsyth's Rifles	\$750
A7110.110	Salaries	\$32,592
A7110.330	Capital Construction	\$4,000
A7110.440	Equipment Maintenance	\$4,000
A7110.830	Social Security Expense	\$2,492
A7140.110	Salaries	\$2,096
A7140.830	Social Security Expense	\$160
A7180.110	Salaries	\$5,604
A7180.830	Social Security Expense	\$427
A9512.910	Contribution to Library	\$26,507
A9512.950	Contribution to Remington	\$7,538
A2006	Dock Rental Revenue	\$500
A2007	Pool Revenue	\$1,000

GENERAL FUND BUDGET OPTIONS							
Page	Budget	Line Item	Description	Amount Proposed	Levy Reduction	New Amount	Explanation/Consequence
C-3	Council	A1010.430	Printing & Advertise	\$0	(\$4,500)	\$4,500	Councilors have asked that the videoring of Council meetings be restored to the budget. Because this is an addition rather than a reduction it is expressed as a negative number.
C-12	Law	A1420.515	Consultants	\$85,000	\$15,000	\$70,000	2016 budgeted amount for City Attorney was \$70,000. Reduction may delay work on some legal matters.
C-19	Refund Real Property Tax	A1964.469	Refund	\$110,000	\$40,000	\$70,000	2016 budgeted amount for refunds was \$70,000. Reduction creates strong possibility of budget overrun due to anticipated settlements in 2017.
D-4	Police	A3120.310	Capital Equipment	\$40,500	\$40,500	\$0	Eliminates patrol car. One already was cut. Puts replacement cycle behind schedule, requiring cars to last even longer.
D-11	Animal Control	A3510.471	SPCA	\$22,500	\$2,500	\$20,000	SPCA has volunteered to make this reduction.
DPW			Brush Program				Eliminate weekly pickup & go to spring pickup, fall pickup & storm debris removal. Consequence is potential increase in complaints & dumping. Total savings is \$58,028 as follows:
E-5	Street Maint	A5110.155	Clothing Allowance	\$2,125	\$425	\$1,700	
E-5	Street Maint	A5110.550	Uniforms	\$900	\$180	\$720	
E-5	Street Maint	A5110.830	Soc Security	\$23,513	\$32	\$23,481	
E-7	Street Cleaning	A5115.110	Salaries	\$99,473	\$52,313	\$47,160	Reduction includes one summer help at \$5,820.
E-7	Street Cleaning	A5115.120	Overtime	\$4,000	\$1,000	\$3,000	
E-7	Street Cleaning	A5115.830	Soc Security	\$7,916	\$4,078	\$3,838	
DPW			Other Items				
E-5	Street Maint	A5110.110	Salaries	\$298,234	\$5,820	\$292,414	For years seasonal DPW help has managed filter cleaning, which is a 2-3 week process in spring and Fridays in summer. Diverting a full-time employee to this work has a serious negative impact on construction season.
E-5	Street Maint	A5110.830	Soc Security	\$23,513	\$445	\$23,068	Associated with elimination of Summer Help.

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Page	Budget	Line Item	Description	Amount Proposed	Levy Reduction	New Amount	Explanation/Consequence
E-14	Sidewalks	A5410.330	Capital Construction	\$50,000	\$42,000	\$8,000	Reflects decision to reduce City's reimbursement from 50% to 25%.
E-16	Shade Trees	A8560.515	Consultants	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	This is for Emerald Ash Borer treatment, not for an actual consultant. Consequence is limited prevention efforts. 167 ash trees on City property or City R-O-W's are susceptible to this infection.
F-1	Economic Development	A6410.498	P&B	\$4,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	Reduces recommended amount by 50%.
			OCP	\$2,500	\$1,250	\$1,250	Reduces recommended amount by 50%.
			Garden Club	\$1,000	\$500	\$500	Reduces recommended amount by 50%.
			Forsyth's Rifles	\$850	\$850	\$0	Eliminates recommended amount. Did not attend budget review to present request.
G-5	Parks	A7110.110	Salaries	\$183,344	\$15,520	\$167,824	Department employs 2 laborers, budgeted at \$7,760 each, as mowers for a total of 800 hours from May 1 to Sept 30 to maintain 65 acres of parkland. Consequence of elimination is diversion of full-time P&R employees from other work to mow & will not be able to provide other P&R services as often.
		A7110.830	Soc Security	\$14,568	\$1,187	\$13,381	Reduction associated with elimination of laborers.
G-5	Parks	A7110.110	Salaries	\$183,344	\$37,248	\$146,096	Department employs 6 laborers, budgeted at \$6,208 each, to trim, weedeat, pick up litter & provide general labor May 1-Aug 31 for total of 640 hours. Consequence of elimination is diversion of full-time P&R employees from other work and will not be able to provide other P&R services as often.
		A7110.830	Soc Security	\$14,568	\$2,849	\$11,719	Reduction associated with elimination of laborers.
G-5	Parks	A7110.110	Salaries	\$183,344	\$4,364	\$178,980	Department employs 2 marina workers, budgeted at \$2,182 each, for Friday-Sunday from Memorial Day weekend to end of summer, to assist boaters and maintain area. Consequence of elimination is diversion of full-time P&R employees from other work on Fridays only, and no service over weekends without incurring more overtime than the cost of the marina workers. Loss of service will result in unattractive marina.
		A7110.830	Soc Security	\$14,568	\$334	\$14,234	Reduction associated with elimination of marina workers.

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Page	Budget	Line Item	Description	Amount Proposed	Levy Reduction	New Amount	Explanation/Consequence
G-8	Recreation Activities	A7140.110	Salaries	\$42,596	\$2,096	\$40,500	Eliminates skateboard park monitor. Consequence is return to poor behavior experienced at park before monitor existed.
		A7140.830	Soc Security	\$14,568	\$160	\$14,408	Reduction associated with elimination of monitor.
Note: Total of reductions to salaries and Social Security in Parks & Rec budgets as described above is \$63,758							
G-5	Parks	A7110.330	Capital construction	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$0	Eliminates resurfacing of tennis courts. Consequence is greater risk of injury and subsequent liability.
G-5	Parks	A7110.440	Equipment maintenance	\$15,000	\$4,000	\$11,000	With newer vehicles and newer mowers, this line item can be reduced.
G-5	Parks	Rev A2006	Dock Rental Revenues	\$40,500	\$500	\$41,000	Raise transient slip fees at marina from \$.75 a foot for non-power to \$1.25 and from \$1 for power to \$1.50 per foot.
G-10	Pool	A7180.110	Salaries	\$39,182	\$3,868	\$35,314	Pool is open 7 days per week. Reduction reflects being open 6 days per week and closed Mondays.
		A7180.830	Soc Security	\$3,189	\$295	\$2,894	Reduction associated with reduced labor cost.
G-10	Pool	A7180.110	Salaries	\$39,182	\$1,736	\$37,446	Eliminates swim lessons each Friday of the 5-week program.
		A7180.830	Soc Security	\$3,189	\$132	\$3,057	Reduction associated with reduced labor cost.
Note: Total of reductions to salaries and Social Security in Pool budget as described above is \$6,031							
G-10	Pool	Rev A2004	Pool Revenues	\$4,500	\$1,000	\$5,500	Raise pool entry fees from \$.50 to \$1 for kids and from \$1 to \$2 for adults.
H-4	Non-Departmental Items	A9512.910	Library	\$530,142	\$26,507	\$503,635	Reduces recommended amount by 5%. Consequence is Library may lose "central" designation if not able to stay open 57 hours per week.
		A9512.950	Remington	\$150,757	\$7,538	\$143,219	Reduces recommended amount by 5%. Consequence is Museum's fundraising strategic plan may be jeopardized.
			Total Levy Adjustment		\$322,727		

