

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

November 1, 2022

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

PRESENT: Mayor Skelly, Councillors Dillabough, Fisher,
Kennedy, Powers and Skamperle

ABSENT: Councillor Rishe

PRESENTATION

1. City Manager Stephen Jellie made a presentation to Council regarding the 2023 Preliminary General Fund Budget. (A copy of his presentation follows these minutes.)

PERSONAL APPEARANCE

1. Margaret Haggerty addressed Council and read a prepared statement. (A copy of her statement follows these minutes.)

2. Jeremiah Evans addressed Council and read a prepared statement. (A copy of his statement follows these minutes.)

3. Michael Tooley address Council and encouraged Council to obtain an updated projected fund balance for next year. Mr. Tooley requested that the full 2023 preliminary budget be posted on the City website tomorrow so the public can review it.

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

1. Mayor Skelly moved a resolution to accept the 2023 Preliminary General Fund Budget and direct that the Preliminary Budget be filed with the City Clerk and the Comptroller of the City of Ogdensburg, and Councillor Fisher seconded to wit:

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RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE
2023 PRELIMINARY GENERAL FUND BUDGET

WHEREAS, as required by the City Charter, the City Manager has submitted a preliminary general fund budget for fiscal year 2023 to the City Council on or before November 1, 2022,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council hereby accepts the preliminary general fund budget and directs that the preliminary general fund budget be filed with the City Clerk and the City Comptroller.

Councillor Fisher read City Charter section C-61 and noted if the presented preliminary budget is accepted and Council fails to adopt a budget by December 20, 2022, this preliminary budget would become the 2023 budget. Councillor Fisher said he believes Council needs to take a look at the budget, put everything aside and get to work.

Councillor Fisher made a motion to table the resolution, and Councillor Dillabough seconded the motion.

Councillor Skamperle agreed with Councillor Fisher but said staff should have an input. Councillor Fisher said staff can have input at any time that Council decides. Councillor Skamperle said City Manager Stephen Jellie reported at the October 3, 2022 meeting that staff had eliminated about \$1 million of the deficit, and he asked for that budget but never received it. Councillor Skamperle said we need all department heads to come together. Councillor Fisher noted there is a very limited opportunity to make amendments to the preliminary budget for acceptance. Councillor Fisher suggested Council be given a few days to review it and then meet. Councillor Powers said he agreed with Councillor Fisher. Councillor Powers explained we need a whole new outlook, noting Councillor Rishe was able to eliminate about \$1 million during the meeting. Councillor Powers said he does not agree with a lot that was presented tonight, noting he would like to talk with department heads and the City Comptroller. Councillor Powers said he is not a numbers guy, but he could have put the presented preliminary budget together. Councillor Skamperle suggested Council start Thursday evening.

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Councillor Powers said he has questions regarding spending and suggested the State Comptroller come in to review everything. Councillor Fisher said we do not have time to wait for a review by the State Comptroller, noting December 20, 2022 is going to come fast. Councillor Skamperle agreed with Councillor Fisher. Councillor Fisher explained by tabling the resolution it leaves the option open to amend the budget that was presented, and Council meets on November 14, 2022. Councillor Skamperle suggested staff put together a better preliminary budget. City Manager Stephen Jellie said Councillor Skamperle is making up the \$2 million comment, and the State Comptroller was sent a copy of the preliminary budget today.

The vote to table was:

AYES: Councillors Dillabough, Fisher, Kennedy and Skamperle

NAYS: Mayor Skelly and Councillor Powers

CARRIED, 5 TO 2

Mayor Skelly said there was a need for Executive Session to discuss the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation, and Councillor Fisher seconded the motion.

The vote to adjourn to Executive Session was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

Upon returning from Executive Session, all members of Council were still present.

Councillor Skamperle moved a resolution to appoint an interim City Manager, and Mayor Skelly seconded to wit:

A RESOLUTION TO APPOINT AN INTERIM CITY MANAGER

WHEREAS, a vacancy will exist in the position of City Manager following the resignation of Stephen P. Jellie effective November 4, 2022, and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to appoint an Interim City Manager for 120 days or up to and until the effective appointment date of a permanent City Manager.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Andrea Smith is hereby appointed Interim City Manager effective November 4, 2022, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a stipend of \$9,000.00 per month above her regular salary is hereby established for the full term of the Interim City Manager.

Councillor Skamperle said the stipend calculates to a little less than the amount the current City Manager is making, noting Ms. Smith is very dedicated to the City. Councillor Kennedy said the next forty-five days are going to be hectic, and we need someone to steer the ship.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

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

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Margaret Haggerty

How's this for LEGACY?! We have a growing homeless population, increased crime on our streets, and even citizens taking matters into their own hands. Let's not forget Jellie tells a downstate newspaper all about how significant our drug problem is. There was public outcry when he wanted to cut our overnight policing and have the county pick up the slack.

I'm very curious to hear from council what their considerations are. Some have businesses in the city, or families that have businesses in the city. All have family/friends in the city. Will new businesses choose to come here to our city under the conditions, above? Will our youth choose to come home to roost with their own families? Will our current population choose to stay here? Way to mess with our tax base.

Good evening, Mayor and council,

My name is Jeremiah Evans I am the President of the CSEA Local 8401 Blue Collar.

As I was looking at tonight's agenda the slide "Work Force Strength" caught my eye. It shows that Public Works has 33 employees in 2022 and will be cut to 23 employees in 2023. I would like to make sure that it is clear to the public and council what actual 10 positions are being cut from the general fund.

As of 2022 there are 6 employees combined between the Water and Waste Water Treatment Plants. They have NO general fund allocations.

There are 23 NON plant employees that broken down to 5.2 charged to the water fund, 4.65 charged to the sewer fund, and 13.5 employees are split between separate accounts of general fund work.

There are 4 admin employees that are split in thirds between Water, Sewer and General Fund accounts.

As of 2023 there are 6.5 employees combined between the Water and Waste Water Treatment Plants. They have NO general fund allocations.

There are now 12.5 NON plant employees that broken down to 5.2 charged to the water fund, 4.65 charged to the sewer fund, and 2.66 employees are split between separate accounts of general fund work.

There are 4 admin employees that are split in thirds between Water, Sewer and General Fund accounts.

Looking at these numbers how are 2.66 people supposed to do a years' worth of general fund work? Are you allowed to take money from your water and sewer fund to pay for general fund work or what general fund programs will we be eliminating?