

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

June 13, 2011

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

PRESENT: Mayor Nelson, Councillors Cilley, Morley,
Powers, Sholette, Skamperle and Vaugh

ABSENT: None

PROCLAMATION

1. Mayor Nelson signed and read a Proclamation declaring June 14th as Flag Day. (A copy of the proclamation follows these minutes.)

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Nelson moved that the claims as enumerated in General Fund Warrant #11-2011 in the amount of \$1,208,090.08 and Library Fund Warrant #11-2011 in the amount of \$44,622.58 and Capital Fund Warrant #11-2011 in the amount of \$19,589.75 and Community Development Fund Warrant #11-2011 in the amount of \$2,325.43 and Community Renewal Fund Warrant #11-2011 in the amount of \$1,464.79 and HOME Fund Warrant #11-2011 in the amount of \$0.00 and AHC Funds Warrant #11-2011 in the amount of \$0.00, RESTORE Program Warrant #11-2011 in the amount of \$0.00 and NSP Funds Warrant #11-2011 in the amount of \$0.00 and NY Main St. Program Warrant #11-2011 in the amount of 0.00 as audited, be and the same are ordered paid and Councillor Vaugh seconded the motion.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

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APPOINTMENTS

1. Mayor Nelson moved to appoint Ted Abbott to the Frederic Remington Art Museum Board of Trustees, term to expire December 31, 2013, and Councillor Vaugh seconded the motion.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

1. Councillor Powers moved a resolution authorizing award of contract for roof repairs at the Cheese Plant, and Councillor Morley seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF CONTRACT
FOR ROOF REPAIRS AT THE CHEESE PLANT

WHEREAS, a portion of the roof of the cheese plant was blown off during high winds in May; and

WHEREAS, the City as owner of this property is under an agreement with Tubroburg who has to date not repaired the roof and has therefore failed to fulfill it's obligations to repair and maintain the property under that agreement thereby forcing the city as owner to make the repairs and bill Tubroburg for the cost; and

WHEREAS, failure to complete these repairs in a timely manner could compromise the structure and lead to further damage; and

WHEREAS, the City solicited three quotes and received two responses for emergency roof repairs at the cheese plant; and

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WHEREAS, City staff have evaluated the quotes and recommended the contract be awarded to the responsible low bidder;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Arthur J. Sciorra, City Manager, is authorized to enter into the following contract, for a sum not to exceed \$14,360.00, on behalf of the City; and

<u>CONTRACTOR</u>	<u>QUOTE AMOUNT</u>	<u>CONTINGENCY</u>
Gouverneur Roofing 606 CR 11, P.O. Box 306 Gouverneur, NY 13642	\$11,860.00	\$2,500.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the funds to pay for this work shall be derived from the City Self Insured Property Liability Insurance Fund.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

OLD BUSINESS

1. Mayor Nelson stated that June 2nd through the 6th the Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall was a fantastic event in Ogdensburg and was viewed by a number of people. Mayor Nelson said at the same time in the Greenbelt area, the Ogdensburg Chamber of Commerce sponsored the Car-B-Que and Farmer's Market which also drew many people. Mayor Nelson added that FISHCAP also sponsored a well attended Wounded Warrior fishing day in the Greenbelt. Mayor Nelson stated that the FISHCAP volunteers did a great job organizing the event and many future events are being planned. Mayor Nelson added that the Flag Day Parade was held yesterday and was also a well attended event. Mayor Nelson stated that Rick Carlisle, an Ogdensburg/Lisbon resident, was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame, and his team, the Dallas Mavericks, won the 2011 NBA championship last night.

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Mayor Nelson added that Rick is the son of Preston and Joan Carlisle. Mayor Nelson asked City Manager, Arthur Sciorra to assist him in putting together a celebration to recognize his accomplishments.

2. Councillor Vaugh stated Council received a memo from Comptroller, Philip Cosmo regarding an update on sales tax and health insurance costs. Councillor Vaugh stated Mr. Cosmo mentioned in his report that with the cost of health insurance being over \$400,000., the City may need to look at possible cutbacks. Councillor Vaugh asked Mr. Cosmo if he has a plan for cutbacks. Mr. Cosmo stated he did not have a plan, but he wanted to get the issue on the table as it will need to be addressed in the future.

3. Councillor Morley asked City Manager, Arthur Sciorra when the construction will begin on the Beaver Brook project. Mr. Sciorra stated the project was held up because of recent weather conditions and is due to start later this week.

4. Councillor Morley stated he was told the roof is leaking at the Visitors' Center. Recreation Director, Matthew Curatolo stated during the high wind and rain storm last week some water was blown in through the roof vents, but there was no damage.

5. Councillor Powers asked Director of Planning and Development, Justin Woods for an update on the economic development strategies that were discussed with Dadras Brothers prior to the September 2009 economic summit. Mr. Woods stated he is currently working on this with the City Manager and plans to have a report ready by the end of the month. Councillor Skamperle also requested an updated presentation from Mr. Woods on the current City-owned property and economic development within the City. Mr. Powers also requested an update on the Dadras Brothers report. Mr. Woods stated that is just getting wrapped up and will be provided to the City Manager this month. Councillor Powers requested a copy of the report and an address for Dadras Brothers so he may voice his concern with their services. Councillor Powers also stated he has received a complaint about the housing program as people are being told there is no money left. Mr. Woods stated the money the City had is all committed at this time. Mr. Woods also stated there is an active waiting list and seven or eight different housing applications have been written for additional grant funds.

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Councillor Powers asked about the status of the Main Street Grant and working together with the Chamber on this program. Mr. Woods stated there are posters in each window where projects are being funded. Councillor Powers asked if these posters could also be put up in local businesses to promote our downtown. Mr. Woods stated he would look into this.

6. Councillor Skamperle stated recently two businesses have closed in the Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority's industrial park and asked if the City was working with OBPA on economic development to market those buildings. Mr. Woods stated the City works together with the OBPA, the IDA and Empire State Development.

7. Councillor Skamperle asked if the City has applied for the permit to clear the clogged pipe in the marina. Mr. Sciorra stated the permit was easier to obtain than once thought as the work is considered maintenance, and Director of Public Works, Kit Smith stated the work will begin soon.

8. Councillor Skamperle stated he was impressed with the City's new website and was glad to see the entire tax role posted.

9. Councillor Skamperle asked if the City has received the permit from the Coast Guard to start the Lake Street Bridge project. Mr. Sciorra stated the permit is expected within the next two weeks.

10. Councillor Sholette stated there is tall grass on City-owned property on Commerce Street near the arterial bridge along the fort property that needs to be cut. Councillor Sholette stated tall grass also needs to be cut at the property in between Advanced Auto and McDonald's. Mayor Nelson stated he believed that property was located in the Town of Oswegatchie. City Manager, Arthur Sciorra stated he will look into this and if necessary call the Town of Oswegatchie about the property. Councillor Sholette also stated that when properties are demolished within the City, the area is finished off with grass or gravel. Councillor Sholette stated he did not feel the plaza is finished as it does not have either of those. Mr. Sciorra stated he would talk to Code Enforcement about the property.

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NEW BUSINESS

1. Mayor Nelson stated he would like to discuss the topic listed under Items for Discussion as new business. Mayor Nelson asked Mr. Sciorra to explain the request for an intergovernmental loan from the Brownfield revolving loan fund to finance the Shade Roller demolition and remediation. Mr. Sciorra stated in 2010 Council approved an application to the EPA for the revolving loan fund for \$1,000,000. and a \$200,000. EPA loan which the City received. Mr. Sciorra added that one was for the revolving loan and one was a grant for the partial cleanup of Shade Roller. Mr. Sciorra stated an independent administrator is required, such as with the CDBG loans which were given to the Growth Fund. Mr. Sciorra stated that like the CDBG, the Growth Fund would not be the ones that would control the allocation or subgrants for the funds, but the City would. Mr. Sciorra stated a Memorandum of Understanding will need to be established from the Growth Fund about this administration before proceeding. Mr. Sciorra added City Attorney, Andy Silver will be obtaining approval from the EPA to make sure the Growth Fund is a legitimate administrator. Mr. Sciorra stated subsequently the Growth Fund would be looking to give the funds back to the City for the cleanup of Shade Roller. Mr. Sciorra added at this time the Shade Roller demolition is going out to bid, so we will have a firm number on the cost of cleanup. City Manager, Arthur Sciorra stated at this point the City doesn't know how much money is going to be needed in addition to the \$700,000 through the RESTORE NY grant and the \$200,000 EPA grant to complete the demolition. Mr. Sciorra added that the money can also be available for other Brownfield cleanups including nonprofit organizations and other polluted properties. Mayor Nelson stated the City would be able to lend this money to local businesses as decentralized money with less federal regulations attached to it.

Councillor Vaugh stated the memo Council received from Mr. Woods stated the City met with several prospective users, but they did not meet the stipulations; and he would like to know who they are. Director of Planning and Development, Justin Woods stated the purpose of the intergovernmental loan is to defederalize the funds. Mr. Woods also stated the grants are both reimbursement grants, meaning the City has to spend out of pocket before getting the money back; and with the size of the projects that might have required the City to borrow additional funds, we can borrow from the loan and set the terms ourselves including the timeline of payback.

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Mr. Woods added that the City can close the grant out; so when the money comes back, it comes with less restrictions. City Attorney, Andrew Silver stated he reviewed the contract and agrees with Mr. Woods' interpretation of the revolving loan. Mr. Silver stated he felt it prudent to first get the written approval from the EPA staff but also the EPA counsel to utilize the Growth Fund as the administrator before the City proceeds. Mayor Nelson stated grants such as these involve a long process with slow steps, and the general public needs to understand that the wheels move slow but progress is being made.

2. Councillor Cilley congratulated the Chamber of Commerce and the crew of Lynx as he heard nothing but positive feedback about the ship's visit to the City, especially from the people that took the two-hour sailing tour.

3. Councillor Cilley asked Mr. Sciorra when paving will begin on the City streets that have been recently milled. Mr. Sciorra stated he would check on the schedule.

4. Councillor Vaugh asked Mr. Sciorra for an update on the progress of the program managers recently hired in the Planning Department, the office's focus and Justin's departmental progress thus far in 2011. Mayor Nelson also requested an update on the deliverables and goals of the Planning Department.

5. Mayor Nelson asked Mr. Sciorra if the new website will have a secure portal for the Council to tie into. Mr. Sciorra stated there is, and Council will be provided with usernames and passwords.

6. Councillor Skamperle stated he read in the library meeting minutes that the library's roof has substantial problems. Councillor Skamperle asked if the City will be able to leverage funds from the state or federal government to get a grant to fix the roof. City Manager, Arthur Sciorra stated the City has been trying to work with them on grant funding sources. Mr. Sciorra also stated if they are not able to secure funds, it will come back on the City taxpayers through a bond because the library may not be able to handle the cost of that major repair.

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7. Councillor Skamperle asked what the City does with the millings derived from its construction projects. Mr. Sciorra stated the City stockpiles these and uses them in various ways.

8. Councillor Skamperle stated there was a Recreation Commission meeting the other night and complaints were received from boaters renting slips at the City's marina regarding their inability to have a place to load and unload their vehicles near their boats. Director of Recreation, Matthew Curatolo stated driving on the lawn in the Greenbelt area is not allowed. Councillor Skamperle asked if the City could purchase a cart or wagon for the boaters to use. Mr. Sciorra stated space was set aside at the Visitors' Center parking lot near the marina for boaters to use for this purpose. Mayor Nelson stated the safety of pedestrians should be the first concern when addressing this issue. Mr. Curatolo stated the boaters should use the Visitors' Center parking lot.

9. Councillor Skamperle stated a steel rail is broken at the gazebo in the marina. Mr. Curatolo stated he and Director of Public Works, Kit Smith are aware of this, and it will be addressed.

10. Councillor Cilley stated when boaters took a slip in the City's marina they knew they were going to have limited parking access, and most of the complaints he heard came during the Car-B-Que when the Greenbelt was extremely crowded. Councillor Cilley stated he is more concerned with the attitude of the boaters as they feel the marina is their private camp. Councillor Cilley added the boaters are drinking alcohol on the docks and leaving their coolers and chairs on the docks when they leave which is an inconvenience to other boaters. Mr. Curatolo stated the boaters are supposed to be leaving their coolers and chairs on their boats. Mr. Curatolo also stated if these issues are reported, he will address them.

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