

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

Mayor Nelson stated that he would like to amend the agenda to include Agenda Bill #37. There was a consensus of Council to include Agenda Bill #37 under Items for Council Action.

PERSONAL APPEARANCE

1. Barbara O'Keefe, President of the Fort La Presentation Association, addressed Council and outlined the rationale for the proposed Interpretive Center construction. Ms. O'Keefe stated their new website will be launched soon, fort1749.org. (A copy of the informational packet presented to Council follows these minutes.)

2. Steve Rose, 1702 Montgomery Street, addressed Council and stated he reviewed the back page of the Stearns and Wheler report presented at the last Council meeting that mentions the Beaverbrook problem. Mr. Rose said the report states what happened on 01/25/10 in the Beaverbrook area was a once in 57-year event. Mr. Rose stated this problem has been going on since the conception of the Beaverbrook development. Mr. Rose questioned what level of service the City plans to provide the citizens of Beaverbrook. Mr. Rose stated the seven affected Beaverbrook homeowners are wondering what Council is going to do.

3. Wanda Middlemiss, Parents for Child Safety Committee, advised Council that a sign needs to be put up in front of the Mahnke home on the corner of St. Lawrence Avenue and Spring Street as the owner requires handicap van accessibility.

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Mayor Nelson stated Mrs. Mahnke needs to discuss this request with the City Manager and the Director of Public Works. Ms. Middlemiss also requested painted cross walks at the corner of Caroline and Washington Streets, and around the Greenbelt park area.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Nelson moved that the claims as enumerated in General Fund Warrant #10-2010 in the amount of \$433,808.72 and Library Fund Warrant #10-2010 in the amount of \$25,073.22, Capital Fund Warrant #10-2010 in the amount of \$1,075.01 and Community Development Fund Warrant #10-2010 in the amount of \$14,854.02 and Community Renewal Fund Warrant #10-2010 in the amount of \$45.00 and HOME Fund Warrant #10-2010 in the amount of \$0.00 and AHC Funds Warrant #10-2010 in the amount of \$11,053.00 and RESTORE Program Warrant #10-2010 in the amount of \$0.00 as audited, be and the same are ordered paid and Councillor Powers seconded the motion.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

APPOINTMENTS

1. Mayor Nelson moved the re-appointment of Donna Pirie to the Ogdensburg Civil Service Commission, term to expire June 1, 2016, and Councillor Morley seconded the motion.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

1. Mayor Nelson moved a resolution calling for a public hearing to amend Chapter 199 of the Ogdensburg Municipal Code entitled Taxation, and Councillor Vaugh seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION INTRODUCING A LOCAL LAW

BE IT RESOLVED that proposed Local Law No. 1 of the year 2010 entitled:

AMENDMENT TO THE CODE OF THE CITY OF OGDENSBURG
CHAPTER 199

be and it hereby is introduced before the City Council of the City of Ogdensburg, New York, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council hold a public hearing on said proposed Local Law to be held in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 330 Ford Street, Ogdensburg, NY on Monday, June 14, 2010 at 7:00 pm in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk give notice of such public hearing by publication, in the official newspaper, at least seven days before the hearing date, of a notice setting forth the time and place and describing the proposed Local Law in summary form.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

2. Mayor Nelson moved a resolution calling for a public hearing and public notice regarding the lease of municipal property, and Councillor Morley seconded to wit:

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A PUBLIC NOTICE AND PUBLIC HEARING
REGARDING THE LEASE OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTY IN
THE CITY OF OGDENSBURG

WHEREAS, the City of Ogdensburg requested proposals from qualified vendors to operate a seasonal food and beverage concession at the Dobisky Community Center

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WHEREAS, the City has received proposals from two separate interested parties; one of whom, Mark C. Morley, dba H.T. on the Water, provided a proposal to operate a profitable business; and

WHEREAS, H.T. on the Water has submitted a food and soft drink menu to meet the needs of families with children, seniors, downtown office workers, boaters and fishermen; and

WHEREAS, H.T. on the Water has demonstrated the experience and expertise to support this type of food service; and

WHEREAS, H.T. on the Water has offered \$600.00 per month as payment for the lease to operate the concession June 1, 2010 through October 1, 2010; and

WHEREAS, the City Council hereby accepts the proposal of H.T. on the Water to operate a concession located in the Dobisky Visitors' Center, subject to approval of lease;

WHEREAS, the City Charter mandates that a Lease be finalized only after giving public notice in a local newspaper and conducting a public hearing;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council shall hold a public hearing on the 2nd day of June, 2010 at 7:00 p.m., at the Council Chambers in the City of Ogdensburg, New York, regarding this proposed Lease of City-owned property; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk give notice of such public hearing by publication in the newspaper so designated by the City Council of the City of Ogdensburg for legal and public notices at least seven (7) days before the hearing date of a notice setting forth the time and place and describing the proposed ordinance in summary form.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

3. Mayor Nelson moved a resolution to call for a special Council meeting, and Councillor Vaughn seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED, that there will be a Special Council Meeting held on Wednesday, June 2, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers to consider a lease of municipal property at the Dobisky Visitors' Center.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

4. Councillor Vaughn moved a resolution in support of the construction of an Interpretive Center, and Councillor Skamperle seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE
CONSTRUCTION OF AN INTERPRETIVE CENTER FOR
FORT LA PRESENTATION

WHEREAS, the Fort La Presentation Association has announced plans to build a \$5 million Interpretive Center to precede construction of the replica 18th century Fort at Lighthouse Point, and

WHEREAS, interest in an Interpretive Center could stir more enthusiasm for the Fort project and inspire more donations to get it built, and

WHEREAS, building and opening one permanent structure would demonstrate the project can and will attract funding, and

WHEREAS, the Fort La Presentation Association is committed to reconstruction of the fort, having an interpretive center will establish Fort La Presentation as a functioning historic site faster, putting it in line for funding from grant programs that only support existing operating sites, and

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WHEREAS, the Fort La Presentation Association and the City of Ogdensburg wish to preserve the important history of Fort La Presentation, and

WHEREAS, the Interpretive Center will result in the education of the public, and

WHEREAS, these activities will generate culture tourism, and

WHEREAS, tourism will bring jobs to the area and generate economic development in general,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ogdensburg City Council supports the recreation of Fort La Presentation and urges everyone to support the Fort La Presentation Association in its efforts to honor the memories of the brave men who fought for our freedom and to insure that their sacrifices will be remembered for future generations, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to Barbara O'Keefe, President of the Fort La Presentation Association.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

1. Mayor Nelson asked City Manager Arthur Sciorra to update Council on the Beaverbrook storm sewer drainage problem. Mr. Sciorra stated we have asked Stearns and Wheler to review the upstream technical information regarding how much water is coming into the Beaverbrook subdivision area from outside and what is generating the water, as we need to look at where the water is coming from. Mr. Sciorra stated that depending on the amount of the water, we may need to go to the entities that control that property as it may need to be maintained upstream. Mr. Sciorra stated if there is a significant amount of water, we can alleviate some of the concerns of Beaverbrook; and if the amount of water is not significant, we need to go to other solutions. Mr. Sciorra stated Stearns and Wheler will provide possible solutions and steps to take to deal with the water problem.

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Mr. Sciorra also explained that when we refer to planning, we are talking about if we are satisfied with a 1 in 5-year storm that exceeds the capacity of the system, 1 in 10 or 1 in 20, as there has got to be some level of service that we accept in any of our neighborhoods in the community. Mayor Nelson stated Stearns and Wheler need to accelerate this study. Mayor Nelson also stated there are other remedies that other people have looked at as corrective action in the interim basis also. Mr. Sciorra stated they will also look at some of the water that may be retained within the subdivision itself as it doesn't need to be retained for a very long period of time. Mr. Sciorra stated when water goes up and the pipes fill up for a matter of minutes to hours, retaining some of that for that small amount of time may be sufficient to then release the water back into the system so it can be handled. Mr. Sciorra also stated Kit Smith and Joe LaGorga have been talking about this. Mr. Sciorra said at this point it is premature to suggest any particular remedy, as we do not know exactly where the water contributions are coming from, and added that in June Stearns and Wheler will give us their proposal. Mr. Sciorra also added that the DPW is using a camera throughout the pipes in Beaverbrook to determine the size of pipes, because he doesn't have an accurate description of the size of the pipes in that area. Mr. Sciorra explained after we use the camera we will know the capacity of the system based on the size of the pipes and based on the flow that the engineers are estimating.

2. Councillor Cilley stated the parking slips for boat trailers were supposed to be lengthened near the Visitors' Center and haven't been done yet. Councillor Cilley stated there is a traffic bottleneck on horseshoe night and boaters can't get to the launch. City Manager Arthur Sciorra stated that the parking extensions were not in the contract with this contractor and the DPW is going to do the extension for the boat trailer parking as that wasn't in the bid specifications with Fiacco. Mr. Sciorra also stated we are going to do it ourselves to save money.

Director of Public Works, Kit Smith explained he was asked by Director of Planning and Development, Justin Woods to expand the parking area. Mr. Smith stated it was taken out of the project, because we felt we could do it cheaper. Mr. Smith also stated when his department put in the parking lot he had planned to do the extension but had other priorities at the time. Mr. Smith stated this extended section will contain parking for 15 cars/trailers.

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Councillor Skamperle questioned the timeline on this project. Mr. Smith stated he would like the Visitors' Center project completed for Memorial Day and the parking spaces extended within the next two to three weeks.

3. Councillor Cilley stated at the last Council meeting he requested a tentative list of the summer events planned at the arena. Mr. Sciorra stated he will forward this information to Council.

4. Councillor Morley asked for an update on the progress to allow public access at the Diamond property. Mr. Smith stated the fencing has been approved and will extend from the entrance down to the area along the sheet piling. Mr. Smith stated Op-Tech has developed a plan to fill in along the sheet piling to make it safe. Mr. Smith stated parking spaces will be fenced off to the right going down the hill; and the area that will be useable, will be fenced in. Director of Planning and Development, Justin Woods stated we reviewed the Op-Tech proposal and Barton and Loguidice is now reviewing it from a technical standpoint. Mr. Woods also stated that the DEC is reviewing it for approval based on the budget that is remaining in this project. Mr. Woods stated a change order will be required to allow for the 10% match. Councillor Skamperle asked about the economic development aspect of the Diamond property. Mr. Woods stated the City was awarded a very large grant by the Department of New York State to put together a marketing plan for that. Mr. Woods advised that the State sent us the contract and we signed it; but they won't send it back until the State's budget is passed.

5. Councillor Morley asked if grant funds are being used to reface the City dock. City Manager Arthur Sciorra stated funds from the Visitors' Center project, in the lighting area of the contract with Fiacco, saved us \$70,000. and allowed funds for the dock repairs.

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6. Councillor Skamperle requested an update on the City's new website. Councillor Skamperle asked if the tax assessment information will be available on the website. Mr. Woods stated he is working with department heads on the content and development of the website, and the assessment information will be displayed in a PDF format.

7. Councillor Skamperle asked if the City is considering participating in the St. Lawrence County Health Care District. City Manager Arthur Sciorra stated City Comptroller Philip Cosmo is on this committee with the County. Mr. Sciorra also stated Mr. Cosmo has attended each meeting, but we are not at the point where we have seen any information showing a savings for the City.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Councillor Sholette stated he was approached by Post Office employees who stated there are major traffic problems behind the Post Office, between Knox and Spinner Streets. Councillor Sholette said the employees would like to see the street made into a one-way street, going south. Mayor Nelson stated this will be turned over to staff for their recommendation.

2. Councillor Powers stated both the City and School District are anticipating another struggling financial year in 2011 and asked if there has been recruiting or input from the previous owners of property such as the old post office. City Manager Arthur Sciorra said we have received inquiries. Councillor Powers stated Council should be updated mid year, in July or August, with a list of vacant properties. Mr. Sciorra stated the City has recently contacted the owner of the Holiday Inn property, to see what we can do to assist with that property sale.

3. Councillor Skamperle asked what the impact of selling Alliance Energy will be on Ogdensburg Correctional Facility, and if part of that contract is to carry on the agreement with the State. Mr. Sciorra stated this company, already known as Eagle Creek Ogdensburg Power Generating Company, is nationally and internationally committed to green energy, and Alliance appears to be a really good acquisition for them. Mayor Nelson added that the State has a contract for free steam for eight-plus years.

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4. Councillor Skamperle asked if the current owner of the Alliance Marina is trying to sell the property and for how much. Mr. Sciorra advised this should be discussed in Executive Session.

5. Mayor Nelson congratulated Councillor Nicholas Vaugh on his recent graduation from Clarkson University.

6. Councillor Vaugh congratulated Mayor Nelson on his appointment as the Vice President of NYCOM.

7. City Manager, Arthur Sciorra stated an informational session for homeowners regarding the new housing rehab program will be held on May 27th at 7:00 pm at City Hall. Mr. Sciorra stated the housing rehab program will be explained. Mr. Sciorra added that we have \$400,000. available in that program and are looking for interested, eligible homeowners.

8. Mayor Nelson stated the City was recognized by NYCOM with one of the Local Government Achievement Awards in the Economic Development Segment. Mayor Nelson stated our third place award was due to the successful recruiting of a business to operate the cheese plant. Mayor Nelson congratulated Mr. Sciorra and City staff on their hard work.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Councillor Powers stated he would like to acknowledge the Ogdensburg Fire Department and the Public Works Department for their donations to help offset the cost for the kids in the community to use the pool and ice arena. Councillor Powers stated it is good to have our employees give back to the children of the City.

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