

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

PRESENT: Mayor Nelson, Councillors Ashley, Cilley,
Morley, Skamperle, Hosmer and Stevenson

ABSENT: None

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Nelson read a proclamation naming April as Fair Housing month in the City of Ogdensburg. (A copy follows these minutes.)

PUBLIC HEARING

1. A public hearing regarding an ordinance to extend the lease of municipal property at 330 Ford Street (Basement) for the Satellite Office of Senator Patricia Ritchie was held. No one being present to speak, the hearing was declared closed.

2. A public hearing regarding an ordinance to amend Article VII, Industrial and Institutional District (I/I), of the City's Zoning Ordinance to allow Tavern/Club as a Special Permit Use was held. No one being present to speak, the hearing was declared closed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Nelson moved that the claims as enumerated in General Fund Warrant #6-2013 in the amount of \$594,511.92 and Library Fund Warrant #6-2013 in the amount of \$20,970.57 and Capital Fund Warrant #6-2013 in the amount of \$47,258.96 and Community Development Fund Warrant #6-2013 in the amount of \$4,877.50 and Community Renewal Fund Warrant #6-2013 in the amount of \$0.00 and HOME Fund Warrant #6-2013 in the amount of \$0.00 and AHC Funds Warrant #6-2013 in the amount of \$0.00, RESTORE Program Warrant #6-2013 in

the amount of \$0.00 and NSP Funds Warrant #6-2013 in the amount of \$27,407.45 and NY Main St. Program Warrant #6-2013 in the amount of \$0.00 as audited, be and the same are ordered paid and Councillor Stevenson seconded the motion.

Councillor Morley asked for an explanation of the NSP payment. City Comptroller Philip Cosmo said he will research it and notify Council.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

1. Councillor Cilley moved an ordinance to extend the lease of municipal property at 330 Ford Street (Basement) for the Satellite Office of Senator Patricia Ritchie, and Councillor Skamperle seconded to wit:

ORDINANCE #6 OF 2013
AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE A LEASE OF MUNICIPAL
PROPERTY

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

ITEM ONE: An ordinance to authorize a lease of municipal property at 330 Ford Street (Basement) for the Satellite Office of Senator Patricia Ritchie.

ITEM TWO: The City Manager has presented the attached proposed agreement to lease space at 330 Ford Street. The lease term shall be from January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2014, with an option to renew, unless either party provides prior written notice to the other of its intention not to renew.

ITEM THREE: The City Manager is hereby authorized to execute the attached lease agreement, hereby made part of this ordinance.

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ITEM FOUR: Passage of this ordinance shall be by a vote of three-fourths (3/4) of all members of the City Council.

ITEM FIVE: This ordinance shall take effect ten (10) days after publication of notice that shall give the title and describe same in summary form.

Councillor Stevenson asked for an update on the installation of blinds in Senator Ritchie's office. City Manager John Pinkerton said the blinds were purchased at Wal-Mart and have been installed. Councillor Morley said he originally thought the lease amount was too low, but now sees the benefits of having Senator Ritchie's office at City Hall. Councillor Skamperle said it is nice to walk in and talk to our Senator.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

2. Councillor Morley moved an ordinance to add Tavern/Club as a Special Permit Use to Section 221-24 of the City's Zoning Ordinance, and Councillor Hosmer seconded to wit:

ORDINANCE #7 OF 2013
ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 221 ENTITLED "ZONING"
OF THE CITY OF OGDENSBURG MUNICIPAL CODE

BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the City Council of the City of Ogdensburg, New York, as follows:

SECTION ONE

That Section 221-24 entitled "Special permit uses" is hereby amended to add the following:

C. Tavern/Club

SECTION TWO

This ordinance shall take effect ten (10) days after publication of a notice which shall give the title and describe same in summary form.

Councillor Skamperle asked if this resolution will open up every Industrial Zone, and City Manager John Pinkerton said yes. Councillor Stevenson said she will abstain from the vote since she has a transaction in the area that will be affected.

The vote was:

AYES: Mayor Nelson, Councillors Ashley,
Cilley, Hosmer, Morley, Skamperle

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Councillor Stevenson

CARRIED, 6 TO 0

3. Mayor Nelson moved a resolution to approve the issuance of a Capital Improvement Bond to cover a Firefighting vehicle, Library improvements and Ice resurfacing machine, and Councillor Morley seconded to wit:

BOND RESOLUTION DATED MARCH 25, 2013.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF AN AGGREGATE \$550,000 SERIAL BONDS OF THE CITY OF OGDENSBURG, ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY, NEW YORK, TO PAY THE COST OF CERTAIN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND ITEMS IN AND FOR SAID CITY.

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WHEREAS, all conditions precedent to the financing of the capital items hereinafter described, including compliance with the provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act, have been performed; and

WHEREAS, it is now desired to authorize the financing of such capital projects;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Common Council of the City of Ogdensburg, St. Lawrence County, New York, as follows:

Section 1. For the object or purpose of paying the cost of certain capital improvements and items in and for the City of Ogdensburg, St. Lawrence County, New York, there are hereby authorized to be issued an aggregate \$550,000 serial bonds of said City pursuant to the provisions of the Local Finance Law, apportioned among such capital improvements in accordance with the maximum estimated cost of each. The capital improvements and capital items to be financed pursuant to this bond resolution, the maximum estimated cost of each, the amount of serial bonds to be authorized therefor, the period of probable usefulness of each and whether said capital improvements or items are each a specific object or purpose or a class of objects or purposes is as follows:

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- (a) The purchase of a fire fighting vehicle, at a maximum estimated cost of \$325,000. It is hereby determined that the plan for the financing of such specific object or purpose shall consist of the issuance of \$325,000 serial bonds of the \$550,000 serial bonds of said City authorized to be issued pursuant to this bond resolution. It is hereby determined that the period of probable usefulness of the aforesaid object or purpose is 20 years pursuant to subdivision 27 of paragraph a of Section 11.00 of the Local Finance Law;
- (b) Improvements to the library, at a maximum estimated cost of \$102,450. It is hereby determined that the plan for the financing of such specific object or purpose shall consist of the issuance of \$102,450 serial bonds of the \$550,000 serial bonds of said City authorized to be issued pursuant to this bond resolution. It is hereby determined that the period of probable usefulness of the aforesaid object or purpose is at least 15 years, pursuant to subdivision 12 of paragraph a of Section 11.00 of the Local Finance Law;
and
- (c) The purchase of an ice resurfacing machine, at a maximum estimated cost of \$122,550. It is hereby determined that the plan for the financing of such specific object or purpose shall consist of the issuance of \$122,550 serial

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bonds of the \$550,000 serial bonds of said City authorized to be issued pursuant to this bond resolution. It is hereby determined that the period of probable usefulness of the aforesaid object or purpose is 15 years, pursuant to subdivision 28 of paragraph a of Section 11.00 of the Local Finance Law.

Section 2. The aggregate maximum estimated cost of the aforesaid objects or purposes is \$550,000, and the plan for the financing thereof is by the issuance of the \$550,000 serial bonds authorized by Section 1 hereof, allocated to each of the objects or purposes in accordance with the maximum estimated cost of each as stated in Section 1 hereof.

Section 3. Subject to the provisions of the Local Finance Law, the power to authorize the issuance of and to sell bond anticipation notes in anticipation of the issuance and sale of the serial bonds herein authorized, including renewals of such notes, is hereby delegated to the City Comptroller, the chief fiscal officer. Such notes shall be of such terms, form and contents, and shall be sold in such manner, as may be prescribed by said City Comptroller, consistent with the provisions of the Local Finance Law.

Section 4. The faith and credit of said City of Ogdensburg, St. Lawrence County, New York, are hereby irrevocably pledged for the payment of the

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principal of and interest on such obligations as the same respectively become due and payable. An annual appropriation shall be made in each year sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such obligations becoming due and payable in such year. There shall annually be levied on all the taxable real property of said City, a tax sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such obligations as the same become due and payable.

Section 5. Such bonds shall be in fully registered form and shall be signed in the name of the City of Ogdensburg, St. Lawrence County, New York, by the manual or facsimile signature of the City Comptroller and a facsimile of its corporate seal shall be imprinted or impressed thereon and may be attested by the manual or facsimile signature of the City Clerk.

Section 6. The powers and duties of advertising such bonds for sale, conducting the sale and awarding the bonds, are hereby delegated to the City Comptroller, who shall advertise such bonds for sale, conduct the sale, and award the bonds in such manner as the City Comptroller shall deem best for the interests of the City.

Section 7. All other matters, except as provided herein relating to such bonds, including determining whether to issue such bonds having substantially

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level or declining debt service and all matters related thereto, prescribing whether manual or facsimile signatures shall appear on said bonds, prescribing the method for the recording of ownership of said bonds, appointing the fiscal agent or agents for said bonds, providing for the printing and delivery of said bonds (and if said bonds are to be executed in the name of the City by the facsimile signature of the City Comptroller, providing for the manual countersignature of a fiscal agent or of a designated official of the City), the date, denominations, maturities and interest payment dates, place or places of payment, and also including the consolidation with other issues, shall be determined by the City Comptroller. It is hereby determined that it is to the financial advantage of the City not to impose and collect from registered owners of such serial bonds any charges for mailing, shipping and insuring bonds transferred or exchanged by the fiscal agent, and, accordingly, pursuant to paragraph c of Section 70.00 of the Local Finance Law, no such charges shall be so collected by the fiscal agent. Such bonds shall contain substantially the recital of validity clause provided for in section 52.00 of the Local Finance Law and shall otherwise be in such form and contain such recitals in addition to those required by section 52.00 of the Local Finance Law, as the City Comptroller shall determine.

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Section 8. The validity of such bonds and bond anticipation notes may be contested only if:

- 1) Such obligations are authorized for an object or purpose for which said City is not authorized to expend money, or
- 2) The provisions of law which should be complied with at the date of publication of this resolution are not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of such publication, or
- 3) Such obligations are authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution.

Section 9. This resolution shall constitute a statement of official intent for purposes of Treasury Regulations Section 1.150-2. Other than as specified in this resolution, no monies are, or are reasonably expected to be, reserved, allocated on a long-term basis, or otherwise set aside with respect to the permanent funding of the object or purpose described herein.

Section 10. This resolution, which takes effect immediately, shall be published in summary form in the official newspaper of the City, together with a

notice of the City Clerk in substantially the form provided in Section 81.00 of the Local Finance Law.

City Comptroller Philip Cosmo explained the amount for the library repairs was increased to round off the total figure to \$550,00. Mr. Cosmo reminded Council that a 2/3 affirmative vote of Council is required to pass this resolution. Councillor Morley asked if we have selected a fire truck. Fire Chief Michael Farrell said we have selected all of the specs for the new fire truck. Chief Farrell said the department will get all of the options it needs while remaining within the stated price range.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

4. Mayor Nelson moved a resolution authorizing new fees for Recreation Department facilities, and Councillor Hosmer seconded to wit:

**RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING NEW FEES
FOR RECREATION DEPARTMENT FACILITIES**

WHEREAS, the City of Ogdensburg operates the Dobisky Visitors' Center, Richard G. Lockwood Civic Center and the Elsa M. Luksich Municipal Pool for public recreation purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Ogdensburg City Council establishes the fees for recreation activities and use of facilities; and

WHEREAS, after a review of the rate schedule by the Ogdensburg Recreation Department, the Recreation Commission recommends the following increases in fees at city recreation facilities:

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RICHARD G. LOCKWOOD CIVIC CENTER

Youth (Resident) - \$65

Youth (Non-Resident) - \$80

Adult (Resident) - \$75

Adult (Non-resident) - \$90

Birthday Parties - \$65

Non-Prime hours (Monday –Friday before 3 p.m.) - \$60 (Excludes holidays and school breaks)

Non-Ice hours – \$40 per hour for non-profit events/\$400 for the day of profit events

DOBISKY VISITORS' CENTER

Large Room - \$55 for 4-hour booking

Small Room - \$35 for 4-hour booking

Both Rooms - \$90 for 4-hour booking

ELSA M. LUKSICH MUNICIPAL POOL

Pool Parties - \$50 an hour.

As directed by City Council last fall, the Ogdensburg Recreation Commission reviewed rates for all department activities and facilities. At this time, the commission recommends not raising rates for any winter/summer programs or camps as well as admittance rates at the Elsa M. Luksich Municipal Pool.

However, recommendations for rate changes are as follows:

Richard G. Lockwood Civic Center

The following are current rates for the arena, set during the 2009-2010 year:

Minor Hockey (residents) - \$60 per hour;

Figure Skaters (non-residents) - \$60 per hour;

Non-Prime Hours after 10 p.m. - \$55 per hour;

Youth Groups (non-residents) - \$75 per hour;

Adults Groups/Young Timers and Old Timers - \$70 per hour;

Adult Groups (non-residents) - \$85 per hour;

Birthday Parties (residents) - \$55 per hour;

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Birthday Parties (non-residents) - \$65 per hour;

Non-ice rental fees are \$400 for the day. Events that are just starting up are allowed to pay \$200 until they make money and then are charged \$400.

As seen by rates from surrounding arenas, the city arena has the lowest rates around. It was recommended that a small increase and changing of the fee schedule be made. The Commission's recommendation is as follows:

Youth (Resident) - \$65 (This would include Minor Hockey and Figure Skating)

Youth (Non-Resident) - \$80

Adult (Resident) - \$75 (This would include Young and Old Timers Hockey groups)

Adult (Non-resident) - \$90

Birthday Parties - \$65

Non-Prime hours (Monday –Friday before 3 p.m.) - \$60 (Excludes holidays and school breaks)

Non-Ice hours – \$40 an hour for non-profit events; it would remain as current rate of \$400 for the day of profit events.

Dobisky Visitor's Center

There is a \$75 rental fee for a 3 ½ hour event (which includes set up and clean up time) for both rooms. Maximum capacity for both rooms is 100. Use of the large room (Marina View) is \$45 for a 3 ½ hour event and the small room (Generals View) is \$25.

The commission recommends changing the time slot rented to 4 hours from 3 ½ hours to make it easier for staff to book events. It also recommends changing the fees to \$35 for the small room, \$55 for the large room and \$90 for both.

Elsa M. Luksich Pool

To avoid raising rates at pool, it was recommended raising the cost of pool parties from \$40 an hour to \$50. In 2012, the department had nine pool parties over the course of the summer.

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Recreation Director Matthew Curatolo explained that these changes are as per Council's directive last fall. Mr. Curatolo said he has met with the Recreation Commission and City Manager. Mr. Curatolo explained the proposal includes a small increase of \$5 per hour and one major change by adding non-prime ice hours of Monday through Friday before 3 p.m. Mr. Curatolo explained there is currently no hourly charge for non-ice, and the plan is to institute a \$40 per hour fee for that use. Mr. Curatolo said the proposal also includes a change in the fee and length of rental time for the Dobisky Center and a \$10 increase per hour at the pool for birthday parties. Councillor Skamperle asked if \$50 per hour will cover the lifeguard fees, chemicals, cleanup, etc., and Mr. Curatolo said yes, with a small profit. Councillor Skamperle said the proposal states the arena has the lowest rates around and asked what other communities charge. Mr. Curatolo said some communities have a flat fee per hour, while others have variable rates. Mr. Curatolo said the average rate is \$70-\$85 per hour, and the proposed rate would be above the school's rate of \$61. Councillor Skamperle said he likes that we offer residents a deal. Mr. Curatolo explained we are still losing money, but he is hopeful. Mr. Curatolo said revenue was increased this past season by a few Canadian groups that rented the ice.

The vote was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

5. Councillor Hosmer moved a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a labor contract with the Police Supervisory Unit for 2012-2013, and Councillor Stevenson seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE
THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A LABOR CONTRACT
WITH THE POLICE SUPERVISORY UNIT
FOR 2012-2013

WHEREAS, a tentative labor contract has been negotiated between the City Manager and representatives of the Police Supervisory Unit for 2012 through 2013, and

WHEREAS, said agreement has been authorized by the membership of the Police Supervisory Unit,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Manager is hereby authorized to execute said labor contract with the Police Supervisory Unit, as negotiated in the tentative agreement.

Mayor Nelson asked City Manager John Pinkerton to brief Council on the resolution. Mr. Pinkerton requested Council move this discussion to Executive Session. Mayor Nelson made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session, and Councillor Hosmer seconded the motion.

The vote to move to Executive Session was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

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

The vote on the resolution was:

CARRIED, AYES ALL

6. Councillor Hosmer moved a resolution authorizing the City Manager to sign an agreement between the City of Ogdensburg and the Ogdensburg Volunteer Rescue Squad, and Councillor Stevenson seconded to wit:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER
TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF OGDENSBURG
AND THE OGDENSBURG VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD

WHEREAS, the City desires to recognize OVRs as a provider of ambulance/rescue squad service within the boundaries of the City of Ogdensburg;
and

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WHEREAS, OVRS is willing to provide said service within the boundaries of the City of Ogdensburg and will bill the users of the service directly for their services; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this Agreement is for the parties to exchange services to their mutual benefit; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Manager is authorized to sign the attached agreement between the City of Ogdensburg and the Ogdensburg Volunteer Rescue Squad.

Mayor Nelson confirmed that Deputy Mayor Morley moved to table this resolution at the March 11, 2013 Council Meeting, and Councillor Skamperle seconded the motion.

Mayor Nelson moved to take this resolution from the table, and Councillor Hosmer seconded the motion.

The vote was:

AYES: Mayor Nelson, Councillors Ashley, Hosmer,
Morley, Skamperle and Stevenson

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Councillor Cilley

CARRIED, 6 TO 0

Councillor Stevenson thanked City staff for the information gathered for this contract. Councillor Ashley said he is concerned about the snow removal section in the contract because the new building's parking lot is considerably larger. Councillor Ashley stated he is also concerned about the lack of charges for water and sewer services despite all other residents paying for water and sewer; and the workers' compensation payments paid by the City.

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City Comptroller Philip Cosmo said the volunteers at the Rescue Squad are covered under the City's workers' compensation. Mr. Cosmo explained the workers' compensation budget is actually covered under the County's tax rate that we collect within the City. Mr. Cosmo explained there is no impact on the City's tax rate for workers' compensation coverage. Mr. Cosmo said St. Lawrence County charges the participants based on assessments and uses the history to determine the next year's rate. Mr. Cosmo said he cannot give the specific expense for the Rescue Squad's workers' compensation coverage. Councillor Morley said he received an email today indicating the amount was \$15,000. Councillor Cilley said for the past 21 years the average claims for the OVRs have been \$4,469 which is a total of \$98,062 for 21 years. Councillor Cilley explained if you factor in a 30% loss percentage, it averages to less than \$400 per year. Mr. Cosmo said it is hard to determine what a certain group costs the City.

Ken Gardner, a member of the OVRs, stated they would only like the area plowed where the ambulances park, the ramps for entering/exiting and the area near the old Hackett's rental area where the public will enter the building. Councillor Hosmer asked if the Rescue Squad has a plow, and Mr. Gardner said no. Councillor Ashley asked how the other areas of the parking lot would get plowed, and Mr. Gardner said they are not looking to use the entire parking lot at this time. Mr. Gardner explained the tenants would hire someone to plow their own areas. Councillor Skamperle said if the entrances to and from the ramps and the visitor's entrance are plowed by the City, there may be a conflict with the tenant's snow removal process.

Mr. Gardner said OVRs has always been looked at as the third bit in the emergency services field of fire, EMS and police. Mr. Gardner said OVRs would like to be considered on the same level as the other service providers and acknowledged it is not the City's responsibility to provide certain services to OVRs. Mr. Gardner said the City plows the fire department and the police department and asked that OVRs also be plowed so they can get out and service the community. Councillor Morley said the bone of contention seems to be that OVRs initially looked for donations from the community and now bills \$800 for a one block ride. Councillor Morley said the Rescue Squad's revenue source is different from when we started this type of contract.

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Mr. Gardner said the Rescue Squad now pays staff, buys ambulances and equipment and asks for minor in-kind services from the City. Councillor Morley said that is not what costs City residents extra money and pointed out that churches pay water and sewer. Mr. Gardner said the water and sewer bills were approximately \$500 last year. Mr. Gardner said the City has the best of both worlds for emergency medical services and asked Council to pass this resolution. Councillor Morley said there were approximately 1,700 to 1,800 calls where we sent two firemen to each call. Councillor Stevenson asked if there will be water/sewer meters in the new building to calculate the amount of water being donated. Mr. Gardner said yes, and separate meters will be installed for each section of the building. Councillor Stevenson said during the last budget session Council was advised that all departments are operating with fewer people and older equipment and finding it more and more difficult to do their jobs. Councillor Stevenson said Council continually asked DPW why bridges were not plowed for pedestrians and other work was not completed during the winter. Councillor Stevenson said she is concerned that we are now going to ask DPW to do even more work and still cut back on costs. Mr. Gardner said it takes the DPW ten minutes to plow, noting there are now only two more bays to plow.

Councillor Morley said he wants the clause indicating the City agrees not to have an ambulance service removed. Councillor Morley said the City will probably not establish an ambulance service but does not like to limit our abilities to generate a revenue service. Councillor Skamperle asked for the term of the agreement, and Mr. Gardner said five years. Councillor Morley said he thought plowing was taken out of the last contract, but Mr. Gardner said the plowing was never removed from the contract. Mr. Gardner said it was a pleasure negotiating with the current City Manager. Mr. Gardner explained during the last negotiations, fuel was taken off the table which cost the Rescue Squad \$14,000. Mr. Gardner said the Rescue Squad had to purchase the fuel and therefore billed City employees for services, adding it was not the Rescue Squad's idea.

Mayor Nelson asked if City Attorney Andy Silver reviewed the agreement, and City Manager John Pinkerton said yes. Mayor Nelson said there is a 90 day out clause, and Mr. Pinkerton confirmed.

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Councillor Morley asked if the rest of the building will be metered for water and sewer. Mr. Gardner said he will check with the architect tomorrow to make sure it is set up separately. Mr. Gardner said any other entity that is brought into that building will not cost the City anything. Councillor Skamperle asked what percentage of the building the Rescue Squad will be using. Mr. Gardner said they will use 1/3 of the new building. Mr. Gardner explained the building is 54,000 square feet and they can rent out 25% of the building. Mayor Nelson said under Real Property Tax Law, the rented area can be taxed. Mayor Nelson asked City Assessor Bruce Green if an unused portion of the building not rented out can be taxed, and Mr. Green said no. Mr. Green explained renting out a portion of the building for income makes that rented portion taxable. Mr. Gardner said it is their intention to rent out part of the building. Councillor Cilley said the taxes on the building had not been paid in four years. Councillor Cilley said the removal of the property from the tax rolls should not be an issue since the City received over \$400,000 that it would not have received if the property had not been purchased by OVRs. Councillor Cilley said when OVRs first began looking for property they were told by the former City Planner that it wasn't in the City's plans for a Rescue Squad to be located in the City. Councillor Cilley said OVRs contacted the former City Manager requesting assistance to find a place to build within the City limits and never received a reply. Councillor Morley said Council never received a copy of that letter. Mayor Nelson said he is happy the Rescue Squad is located in the City. Mayor Nelson said it is an asset to the City and they are top-notch professionals.

Councillor Skamperle asked if the City will continue to go to every call or wait for requests if OVRs is short-handed to save money. Mr. Pinkerton said they would need to have a way to determine beforehand if they will be needed. Fire Chief Michael Farrell said there is no way to triage a 911 call, but advised that the Fire Department does not go to medical facilities, prisons or nursing homes. Mr. Gardner said the Rescue Squad does borrow medics or drivers from the Fire Department if they are short-handed due to multiple calls. Councillor Skamperle asked if the Fire Department goes for all calls except the three types of facilities mentioned.

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Chief Farrell said yes, but they do not leave the City limits. Mr. Gardner said there is no way to know what type of call it is until they are on scene. Councillor Skamperle asked if this contract will increase or decrease the burden to the City taxpayer. Mr. Pinkerton said decrease, as there will be no charge to City staff, retirees and dependents. Councillor Morley asked if Medicare is billed first for retirees. City Comptroller Philip Cosmo said yes.

The vote was:

AYES: Mayor Nelson, Councillors Hosmer,
Morley, Skamperle and Stevenson

NAYS: Councillor Ashley

ABSTAIN: Councillor Cilley

APPROVED, 5 TO 1

OLD BUSINESS

1. Councillor Morley said he received notification from Senator Ritchie that the City's CHIPS funding has been increased by about \$61,500 and would like to see curbs installed. City Manager John Pinkerton said he will discuss the use of that money at the staff meeting.

2. Councillor Morley asked for a report showing the arena revenue for the 2012/2013 season, showing a comparison of the rental hours and if the solar power has reduced the costs. Mr. Pinkerton said he will gather that information for Council.

3. Councillor Stevenson asked if the Oddfellow's Club can be put on a water flush schedule to help alleviate their water problems. City Manager John Pinkerton said yes.

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4. Councillor Skamperle said that at a previous meeting the City Manager talked about speaking with different parties regarding economic development, addressing the needs of industry and bringing together all of our North Country resources. Councillor Skamperle asked if those meetings with the various companies and schools have begun yet. Mr. Pinkerton said he attended a meeting at BOCES last week, and unfortunately they don't have the resources to connect employers to employees. Mr. Pinkerton said employers do not realize we have skilled students, and BOCES doesn't have the resources to connect the skilled students with employers. Mr. Pinkerton said he has not yet met with SUNY Canton but has been to Clarkson three times. Mr. Pinkerton said Clarkson studied a small turbine, and they want to try to replicate one at our Waste Water Treatment Plant which he has offered as a pilot for that program. Mr. Pinkerton said he is also working with Clarkson on a program to convert sludge to carbon, water and fuel oil and helped them apply for a grant from Centers for Growth in Syracuse. Mr. Pinkerton explained that almost 50% of the electricity in the City is demand charge, and they are looking at a program using natural or methane gas to charge the turbine. Mr. Pinkerton said the City has also been talking with industries.

5. Mayor Nelson asked for an update on the agreement with Clarkson for economic strategy. Mr. Pinkerton said the contract was never signed, and he is working with them.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Councillor Morley requested security for the Maple City Trail and suggested bike or foot patrols. Mr. Pinkerton said he would also like to see a solar powered telephone on the trail and will talk to Police Chief Richard Polniak.

2. Councillor Hosmer said he has reviewed the memo presented to Council by Gil Jones. Mayor Nelson said the issue is not a Council action item. Councillor Stevenson said she would like City Manager John Pinkerton to look at the matter and determine if the City can offer any assistance.

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Mayor Nelson said applicants must meet certain requirements. Councillor Stevenson asked if Council received a copy of the revised Growth Fund by-laws, and Mayor Nelson said yes.

3. Councillor Morley said the marquee at the cinema was lit up today and asked for an update on the cinema. Councillor Hosmer said he believes Mr. Jones turned on the marquee but won't open the movie theatre without funding from the Growth Fund. Mayor Nelson said Mr. Jones has a loan request with the Growth Fund.

4. Councillor Hosmer asked if the Spring DPW cleanup schedule is available. Mr. Pinkerton said he will check with the Department of Public Works Director Kit Smith.

5. Councillor Skamperle asked if the City could recognize our famous people such as Jimmy Howard, Mark Valley and April Sargent with signs at the City entrances. Mr. Pinkerton said the City applied for a Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) for the intersection of Routes 68 and 37, but it was unsuccessful. Mr. Pinkerton said he believes the Planning Department will apply for more CFA's in the future.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. City Manager John Pinkerton said he received a telephone call from the State Street ARC to utilize the City Hall auditorium in the event of an emergency evacuation from their building until their clients can be picked up. Mr. Pinkerton said their current evacuation place is listed as the Elks Club, but the club is not open during the day. There was a consensus of Council for a memorandum of understanding to be prepared.

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2. Councillor Morley asked when the next Housing Grant application is due and who will prepare it. Mr. Pinkerton said the CDBG application is due April 15th and DANC will complete the application. Councillor Morley asked when new housing grant applications will be filed, and Mayor Nelson said those applications are usually due in August. Mr. Pinkerton said he will find out when new applications are due.

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