

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
OF THE BOROUGH OF OGDENSBURG
14 HIGHLAND AVE. OGDENSBURG AT 7:00PM
November 12, 2024**

Mayor Hutnick called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

Mayor Hutnick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Ciasullo, Cowdrick, DeMeo, Poyer, Ruitenberg, Mayor Hutnick

Absent: Alvarez

Also, in attendance was Robert McBriar, Borough Attorney and Mike Marceau, CFO

STATEMENT BY MAYOR: “Notice requirements of P.L. 1975, Open Public Meeting Act, N.J.S.A.10:4-6 et.seq. have been satisfied with a schedule of all meetings, together with the time, location and agenda of same being sent to the NEW JERSEY HERALD and NEW JERSEY SUNDAY HERALD and posted on the bulletin board in the Borough Hall on January 3, 2024.”

Councilman DeMeo made a motion to approve the consent agenda with a correction ton umber 2 Block 38 should be amended to reflect Block 28. Seconded by Councilwoman Cowdrick.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of regular meeting minutes from October 28, 2024.
2. Approval of resolution 74-2024 to authorize an approval to tax exemption pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.30, ET. SEQ. 100% disable veteran Richard Predmore, Block 38 Lot 7.01.
3. Accept for filing letter from NJDOT dated October 23, 2024 re applications being accepted for the NJDOT Fiscal Year 2025 Local Freight Impact Fund.

Upon Roll call Vote:

Yeas: Ciasullo (abstain 1), Cowdrick, DeMeo, Poyer, Ruitenberg

Nays: None Absent: Alvarez Abstain None

RESOLUTION 73-2024

Councilman DeMeo made a motion to adopt resolution 73-2024 authorizing the hiring of two police officers through the Alternate Route Program provided for under the civil service act, N.J.S.A. 11A:1-1 ET SEQ. Seconded by Councilman Ciasullo.

Councilman Ciasullo commented he knows we went through this several times; if for some reason we have officers that decided not to leave at that point we would have to lay off officers. Does that make sense?

Councilman DeMeo commented the Chief is shaking his head so I think that answers your question.

Upon Roll call Vote:

Yeas: Ciasullo, Cowdrick, DeMeo, Poyer, Ruitenberg

Nays: None Absent: Alvarez Abstain None

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE 13-2024

Councilman DeMeo made a motion to adopt ordinance 13-2024 “AN ORDINANCE BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL AMENDING THE BOROUGH OF OGDENSBURG, CODE OF ORDINANCES TO REPEAL CHAPTER 20, SECTIONS 1-7; TO ADOPT A NEW CHAPTER 20, SECTIONS 1-18; TO ADOPT FLOOD HAZARD MAPS; TO DESIGNATE A FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.” Seconded by Councilman Poyer.

Prior to final roll call Mayor Hutnick opened the meeting to the public for any comments regarding Ordinance 13-2024.

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There were no comments regarding ordinance 13-2024.

Prior to final roll call Mayor Hutnick closed the meeting to the public for any comments regarding Ordinance 13-2024.

Upon Roll call Vote:

Yeas: Ciasullo, Cowdrick, DeMeo, Poyer, Ruitenberg

Nays: None Absent: Alvarez Abstain None

OLD BUSINESS

Lead Line Replacement Plan – Poyer/Ciasullo/Ruitenberg

Councilman Ciasullo commented everything is current as far as the reports.

Employee Handbook – No update

Councilman Ciasullo asked he missed the last meeting did anything happen with the water bill and adjusting the bill. Councilman Ciasullo explained his conversation with Maria regarding the water bill issue in question. Two meetings ago we had discussed we would look at the average of her billing because the meter was changed and thrown out. Nothing happened so he thinks we have to move on that and let Maria know we want her to look at the average bill.

Mayor Hutnick commented he will call Maria tomorrow.

There was a discussion on the water bill issue and a charge back.

NEW BUSINESS

Best Practices –

Mr. Marceau explained the best practices worksheet that was in the Council packets. There are 69 questions, 17 unscored, 52 scored questions, that maximum you could get was 46 ½ points, you needed to get 35 or better to have no State Aid withholding; we had a score of 39 ½. Mr. Marceau asked if the Council had any questions.

Councilman Ciasullo asked Mr. Marceau if there was anything that stood out to him that the Council should know; that is not in the norm.

Mr. Marceau commented they are really hitting hard on cyber security; that is going to be something we will have to look into. Another item is an electric vehicle. They really want us to put in electric charging station on Municipal property and have a policy.

There was a discussion on electric vehicles, surety bond for the tax collector and there was a lot of questions on lead paint but they were unscored.

Councilwoman Ruitenberg explained a recap meeting regarding the fall festival we had, how to proceed next year and maybe do this in the beginning of July and include Ms. Ogdensburg.

There was a discussion on the history of Ms. Ogdensburg, when to have the Ms. Ogdensburg, having fireworks, trying to schedule Ogdensburg day so it doesn't interfere with sports, as of now there is a representative from all areas of town and having a bigger 50/50.

Councilman Poyer explained he met with an electrical contractor for the Ogdensburg Historical Society and we went over everything that needs to be done; a florescent light with an LED fixture, running some outlets, running a new light to make the stairwell safer when it gets dark outside. The cost for this work is \$1,000.00.

Mayor Hutnick commented he needs to get a drain cleaning company in we have a clogged area on North Clark that nobody can seem to figure out. The last quote was five thousand for the day to have them come [to town]. We don't know where the pipes go and explained that area.

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There was a discussion on the cost for drain cleaning.

Mayor Hutnick explained we have a quote for new lap tops that the police department needs, the lap tops are approximately ten years old. Mayor Hutnick asked if they had a quote on that.

Sgt. Sanfilippo replied fifteen thousand because he included mounts as well and explained why they needed new mounts.

Councilman Ciasullo asked if this was something we had in the budget?

Councilwoman Ruitenberg commented this is something we should be doing on an ongoing basis not every fifteen years.

Sgt. Sanfilippo commented we are lucky they lasted this long.

Councilwoman Ruitenberg commented we should be always updating technology but to do it all at once is more costly.

Chief Gordon explained the computer we use is Panasonic they are not the fastest computers but they are made to last, these computers are water proof, dust proof you can actually run over it with a car, drop it and it won't break. That is how we got ten years out of them.

There was a discussion on the computers needed for the police department.

Mayor Hutnick commented he was just reminded about having a Christmas Party. Last year it was at the fire department; there were suggestion to move it elsewhere. Mayor Hutnick commented he would like to keep it in town.

Councilman Ciasullo asked how was the party all those years at the manor; how did that work out? Is it financially do able?

Mayor Hutnick commented it is not.

There was a lengthy discussion on the Christmas Party, day, time and where.

PUBLIC SESSION

Councilman DeMeo moved, Councilwoman Cowdrick seconded motion to open the public session of the meeting. All were in favor.

Mayor Hutnick explained to Jeanie Ortiz he didn't get an answer for her issue with the tax bill. Jeannie Ortiz, 26 Willow Grove Court commented fine if nobody charges any additional interest, that is her only fear.

Mayor Hutnick explained he will contact the tax collector to find out the answer.

Mrs. Ortiz explained at the post Ogdensburg Day meeting the committee held it was suggested to restart the tradition of having fireworks.

Mayor Hutnick commented he is in agreeance with that and explained he would like to reach out to the State Fire Marshall; the only place we should have fireworks is at the mine and explained.

There was a brief discussion on having fireworks and the mess that was left last time at the mine.

Sgt. Sanfilippo asked you talked about layoffs; what are we fully staffed at, what is our number.

Councilman Ciasullo asked what do you have as a number?

Sgt. Sanfilippo explained [we have our traditional number] but it is not enough.

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Councilman Ciasullo commented then we should talk about it; he has talked to a lot of people about it the process that we are doing right now and the one question is what happens [if they don't retire].

Sgt. Sanfilippo commented he knows they are going to retire so he isn't worried about it. What he is saying is future wise what is our number.

Councilman Ciasullo commented the best thing to do is to talk about it; you and the chief can present something to us. We can talk about that later; his thought is if we hire these guys to make this process go through without an issue and for some reason the guys don't leave his thought is we are going to have to lay guys off. He is one person, it is up to everybody (on the council). What you are talking about is a bigger picture as to what is a full staff. We should have that conversation and eventually be memorialized somehow. If the chief and yourself can get together and come up with something we can consider and figure out how we have to do it and if it is part of the contract or not.

Sgt. Sanfilippo commented we are in a transition period it is going to be tough for the next two years or so.

Councilman DeMeo commented he would think whatever the TO is going to be we need to memorialize it and back into a budget with that. We are budgeted for what we have. If the TO isn't the same; you said traditional we have seven. We need to budget long term for what that number will be.

Chief Gordon commented he is only here for another year; he will sit down with all the dynamics of law enforcement area that they are throwing on us now especially in 2024 with licensing and ways of doing things and statistics that go to Trenton. There are more administrative demands, reports and explained the changes.

Chief Gordon commented we will sit down and put together a ten-year plan, where we want to bring this department and what is going to have to be to met the current needs that the State is mandating on us. With the training alone.

Sgt. Sanfilippo commented the officer training alone is 96 hours a year starting in 2025; that is a lot of training.

Chief Gordon explained you will probably have to eventually see a lieutenant in this department; that lieutenant would be a training lieutenant aka scheduling etc. and that would be the man or woman that would step in and out of the Chief spot as needed. The lieutenant would also be somebody that can step down and do the sgt. position and cover shifts as needed. Right now, you have the Chief covering the road which has become a liability that you don't want to see and explained. Having that lieutenant position and make it to an eight-man department would also free up a person to maybe have a detective here which is more of a networking thing with a wealth of information that comes from that. Sgt. Sanfilippo is taking his time on his own to try and get that information about things that are happening that we don't know about because we are not in the loop because we don't have that extra guy here. We will put together a plan; three years, five years, eight years, ten years this is where we hope to be and see if we can make it work.

Councilman DeMeo commented that guidance would be good.

Mrs. Ortiz, 26 Willow Grove Court asked at the last meeting you discussed additional parking in down town Ogdensburg.

Mayor Hutnick commented that will be an ongoing discussion.

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Councilman DeMeo commented Robin had sent out information on that. It is at the attorney's office being looked at. We are also waiting for the State who was helping the Borough with planning with the Land Use Board there is supposed to be an overlay with them.

Mayor Hutnick explained just because it isn't on the agenda it doesn't mean it isn't being worked on in the background.

Referring back to the Christmas Party discussion. Mayor Hutnick commented the fire house only has the 21st and 22nd open. There as a discussion on which day. It was decided Saturday, December 21st at 5:00pm.

There being no further business from the public, Councilman DeMeo moved, Councilwoman Cowdrick seconded motion to close the public session of the meeting. All were in favor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was not executive session.

PAYMENT OF VOUCHERS

Councilman DeMeo made a motion to review payment of vouchers and review departmental finance reports. Seconded by Councilwoman Cowdrick.

Upon Roll call Vote:

Yeas: Ciasullo, Cowdrick, DeMeo, Poyer, Ruitenberg

Nays: None Absent: Alvarez Abstain: None

CURRENT

DATE	CHECK #	PAID TO	AMOUNT
11/12/202	4	35073 Action Data Services, Inc.	472.47
11/12/202	4	35074 Blue Diamond Disposal, Inc.	21,868.45
11/12/202	4	35075 Complete Security Systems, Inc.	29.2
11/12/202	4	35076 County of Sussex	61.34
11/12/202	4	35077 Creative Management Inc.	444.16
11/12/202	4	35078 Edmonds GovTech, Inc.	3,804.00
11/12/202	4	35079 FF1 Apparatus, LLC	393.98
11/12/202	4	35080 Fire Fighter One LLC	1,620.64
11/12/202	4	35081 General Code	1,195.00
11/12/202	4	35082 Gordon, Stephen	123.54
11/12/202	4	35083 Home Depot	182.72
11/12/202	4	35084 Horizon BC/BS of NJ	2,666.51
11/12/202	4	35085 IIA - Fire Department Testing	4,142.04
11/12/202	4	35086 JCP&L	140.12

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11/12/202				
4	35087	JCP&L		1,819.07
11/12/202				
4	35088	Kuiken Brothers		57.18
11/12/202				
4	35089	LINA		256.5
11/12/202				
4	35090	Michel Marceau		67.45
11/12/202				
4	35091	Montague Tool & Supply Co		45.38
11/12/202				
4	35092	Napa Auto Parts		161.25
11/12/202				
4	35093	NJ Division of Alcoholic Beverage		12
11/12/202				
4	35094	Ogdensburg Board of Education		229,058.50
11/12/202				
4	35095	One Call Concepts, Inc.		25.74
11/12/202				
4	35096	ReadyRefresh		3.39
11/12/202				
4	35097	Staples Business Advantage		281.74
11/12/202				
4	35098	Sussex County Clerk		8
11/12/202				
4	35099	Sussex County Treasurer		304,028.00
11/12/202				
4	35100	Sussex County Treasurer		24,371.05
11/12/202				
4	35101	Sussex County Treasurer		1,114.03
11/12/202				
4	35102	Township of Sparta		10,000.00
11/12/202				
4	35103	Verizon Business		113.7
11/12/202				
4	35104	Verizon Wireless		122.11
11/12/202				
4	35105	Wallkill Valley Regional H.S.		94,847.84

				703,537.10
				=====
				703,537.10

WATER OPERATING

DATE	CHEC K #	PAID TO	AMOUNT
11/12/202			
4	5405	Genserve, LLC	7,685.78
11/12/202			
4	5406	Hamburg Plumbing Supply Co	31.99
11/12/202			
4	5407	Morris, Terry	2,625.00
11/12/202			
4	5408	Reliable Restoration Logistics	2,000.00

			12,342.77
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12,342.77

RCA VERNON

DATE	CHEC K #	PAID TO	AMOUNT
11/12/202			
4	163	Community Action Services	6,550.00

			6,550.00
			=====
			=
			6,550.00

GENERAL CAPITAL

DATE	CHEC K #	PAID TO	AMOUNT
11/12/202			
4	1208	Edmonds GovTech, Inc.	5,483.33
11/12/202			
4	1209	Rogut McCarthy LLC	1,854.60

			7,337.93
			=====
			=

7,337.93

Unemployment Trust

DATE	CHEC K #	PAID TO	AMOUNT
11/12/202			
4	130	State of NJ Division of Employer Accounts	4,879.00

			4,879.00
			=====
			=
			4,879.00

There being no further business, Councilman DeMeo moved, Councilman Ciasullo seconded motion to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50p.m.

Robin Hough, Borough Clerk

George P. Hutnick, Mayor

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