

**CITY OF ST. CLAIR  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER 2, 2008**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Brian Lynch at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the Meeting Room of the St. Clair City Hall, 304 Main Street West, St. Clair, Minnesota. Council Members present: Mayor Lynch, Doug Westphal, Julie Spear and Mike Hughes. Council Members absent: None. City Staff present: Dennis Seys, Catherine Seys and Fire Chief Bill Fitzloff. Others present: Jeff Domras, Rich Murry, Mark Frahm and Jerry Phillips.

The minutes of the November 6<sup>th</sup> Regular City Council meeting were approved with a motion by Hughes, seconded by Westphal and carried with all in favor.

The bills for the month of November were approved with a motion by Westphal, seconded by Hughes and carried with all in favor.

**COUNCIL VACANCY**

A vacancy exists on the City Council due to the resignation of Council Member Sharon Miller. Four residents (John Hennek, Dick Fitzloff, Brian Pierson and Julie Spear) submitted letters of intent to the Council expressing interest in the appointment. It was noted that Council Member Julie Spear's current term on the Council expires December 31, 2008. Ms. Spear stated that she didn't file for office this fall due to uncertainties with her job, but since that time her job situation has become more secure. The Council Members read the letters and discussed the applicants. With the election of two new Council Members this fall, the need for continuity on the Council was discussed. Motion by Hughes, seconded by Westphal to appoint Julie Spear to the Council vacancy due to her many years of experience on the City Council. Motion carried with all in favor. Mayor Lynch expressed appreciation to the other residents who expressed interest in the appointment.

**BLUE EARTH COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT.**

Captain Rich Murry, Blue Earth County Sheriff's Dept. was present to discuss police protection within the City. The Sheriff's Dept. responded to 212 calls for service in St. Clair in 2008. Thirty (30) citations were written in the City. Captain Murry stated that the Sheriff's Dept. makes an effort to keep track of City and School events and have a deputy in town at those times. Captain Murry also expressed his thanks to the St. Clair Fire Dept., stating his appreciation for the good working relationship maintained between the departments. Varying patrol times and open burning were among other items discussed. Captain Murry also emphasized that it's important for residents to call 9-1-1 even with minor issues.

**WATER PROJECT UPDATE**

Jeff Domras, Bolton and Menk discussed the following:

1. Only a few minor items need to be completed at the Water Treatment Plant.
2. Construction has been suspended on the Water Tower project due to the extreme cold weather.
3. A timer/sensor for the lighting on the outside of the Water Treatment Plant building was discussed. Motion by Spear, seconded by Hughes to accept an estimate from Fitzloff Electric to install optical sensors on the lights on the outside of the Water Treatment Plant building at a cost of \$153.00. Motion carried with all in favor.
4. Phosphate issues at the Wastewater Treatment Plant were discussed. A significant amount of phosphate is coming into the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Public Works Supervisor, Dennis Seys, will contact local businesses to determine what type of products they are currently using and discuss the need to use phosphate free products.
5. A Special City Council meeting will be held on Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. to discuss the request by MEI to haul waste to the St. Clair Wastewater Treatment Plant.

### FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Bill Fitzloff reported on the following:

1. The Fire Dept. has received a \$2,500.00 DNR grant. The grant money will be used towards replacing Fire Dept. pagers.
2. The Fire Dept. has received a \$1,500.00 donation from MEI. Motion by Hughes, seconded by Spear to approve acknowledged and accepted with gratitude a donation of \$1,500.00 from MEI to be designated towards the St. Clair Fire Dept. Motion carried with all in favor.
3. The Fire Dept. has responded to 89 calls so far in 2008.
4. Fire Dept. trucks will be going in for maintenance.

### PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. REPORT

Public Works Supervisor Dennis Seys reported on the following:

1. Fourteen (14) trees will be purchased from Ron Winter for Memorial Park. The trees are nicely formed, with a trunk approx. 4" in diameter. Twelve (12) trees are a variety of oak and maple. Two (2) trees are purple crab trees. Trees will be moved with a large tree spade. Trees will need to be watered after planting. Mr. Seys will coordinate with Fire Chief Bill Fitzloff for watering the trees with a Fire Dept. tanker.
2. Proposals for the purchase of a sander to be mounted on the back of the City truck were discussed. Motion by Westphal, seconded by Spear to accept the proposal submitted by Crysteel for a 2.1 cubic yard, stainless steel sander for \$4,949.00 plus tax. Motion carried with all in favor.

### CITY CLERK'S REPORT

City Clerk-Treasurer Catherine Seys reported on the following:

1. The City Clerk-Treasurer presented the Council with a letter from Matt Maes, Waste Management. Per the garbage and recycling collection contract between the Waste Management and the City of St. Clair, Waste Management is requesting a rate increase. The proposed increase is in line with the provisions of the contract and follows the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for MN. The proposed rate increase for garbage is \$.33 per month. The proposed rate increase for recycling is \$.09 per month. Motion by Hughes, seconded by Westphal to approve the proposed rate increase for garbage and recycling collection as presented. Motion carried with all in favor. It was noted that the garbage and recycling fee that the City currently charges residents will not change (garbage rate \$11.00 per month; recycling \$3.00 per month).
2. The 2009 Budget and Levy were discussed. Motion by Spear, seconded by Hughes to approve the final 2009 Budget and Levy. Motion carried with all in favor.
3. Renewal of Liquor Licenses for 2009 was discussed. Motion by Spear, seconded by Hughes to approve the 2009 liquor license renewal for the St. Clair American Legion Club (Club and Sunday Liquor Licenses) and the Uptown Tavern (On-Sale, Off-Sale and Sunday Liquor Licenses). Motion carried with all in favor.
4. The City Clerk-Treasurer briefly discussed MN WARN (Minnesota Water/ Wastewater Agency Response Network). MN WARN is a network of utilities helping utilities respond to and recover from emergencies and disasters. The City Clerk-Treasurer will provide additional information to the Council at the January meeting.

### COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS AND UPDATES

1. Julie Spear reported on the EDA meeting held on Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 p.m. Items discussed included the Water Project, trees for Memorial Park, a large slide for Memorial Park will be ordered in March, Welcome Packet update and grant writing.
2. Mayor Lynch attended the November School Board meeting. Items discussed included positive recognition, a thank you to the community for voting for the referendum, snow week, toys for tots and transportation quotes.
3. St. Clair hosted the Blue Earth County Mayors and Clerks meeting on November 13<sup>th</sup>. The Mayors and Clerks will be touring the new Justice Center in January.

4. The Council discussed the new On-Line Mapping System. The City Clerk-Treasurer will arrange to have Mark Schulz (Bolton and Menk) make a presentation to the Council on the On-Line Mapping System using St. Clair's mapping information.
5. The Council discussed the purchase of a notebook computer for the Public Works Dept.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m. Motion to adjourn was made by Spear, seconded by Hughes and carried with all in favor.

Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer