

**CITY OF ST. CLAIR
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2009**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Doug Westphal at 7:05 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 Westphal, Julie Spear, Mike Hughes, Jerry Phillips and Tom Karels, Sr. Council Members absent: None. City Staff present: Deb McCollum, Catherine Seys and Fire Chief Bill Fitzloff. Others present: Mark Schultz and Jeff Domras, Bolton and Menk.

ON-LINE MAPPING PRESENTATION

Mark Schultz, Bolton and Menk, was present to demonstrate the On-Line Mapping System using St. Clair data.

The minutes of the February 3, 2009 Regular City Council meeting were approved with a motion by Hughes, seconded by Phillips and carried with all in favor.

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

ZONING PERMIT REQUESTS

A Zoning Permit application submitted by Mike and Sherry Berry, 605 Miller Lane, to replace their sidewalk and to pour a new concrete slab to extend their driveway. Motion by Hughes, seconded by Phillips to approve the Zoning Permit request. Motion carried with all in favor.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Bill Fitzloff reported on the following:

1. Several firefighters will be attending SkyWarn (Tornado Awareness) Training at South Central College on March 12th.
2. Seven (7) firefighters and two (2) fire trucks from St. Clair will be participating in a training burn on March 7th at the corner of Co. Rd. 41 and 90.
3. One (1) application was received to fill the vacancy which exists on the Fire Dept.
4. New pagers have been ordered.
5. Two (2) hydrants were frozen. The Public Works Dept. used hydrant anti-freeze to thaw the hydrants.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. REPORT

Public Works Employee Deb McCollum reported on the following:

1. Eight (8) Waterous hydrants were repaired. The repairs were covered under warranty.
2. Ms. McCollum asked the Council if they had given further consideration to a generator for the Water Plant. The Council stated that while a permanent, on-site generator would be ideal with the current economy it isn't feasible. Ms. McCollum stated her concerns with regard to sharing a generator with other area cities (as discussed last month). In the event of a blizzard or an ice storm causing a wide-spread, long-term power outage, other cities would likely need the generator also. Maintaining the generator, storage location and transporting the generator were also noted as concerns. Mayor Westphal questioned the possibility of using a generator through a mutual aid agreement like the MnWARN (MN's Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network) program. Ms. McCollum reiterated her concerns about having a generator off-site. Council Member Phillips stated that if such an emergency were to occur, a generator would be available from just about any farmer in the area. Differences in voltage, etc. (480 volt, 3-phase) were briefly discussed. Council Member Phillips assured the Council that the re-wiring wouldn't be an issue. Council Member Hughes stated that a back-up plan is needed.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT

City Clerk-Treasurer Catherine Seys reported on the following:

1. Information on the Open Meeting Law was presented and discussed. Specifically relating to a quorum of the City Council at an EDA (Economic Development Authority) meeting. Currently two (2) Council Members are representatives on the EDA, if a third Council Member should attend an EDA meeting a quorum of the Council would be present. It was determined that an additional Council Member may be in attendance but may not participate.
2. The City Clerk-Treasurer has prepared the documentation necessary for participation in the MnWARN (Minnesota's Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network) Program. The MnWARN Program is on the agenda for Blue Earth County Mayors and Clerks meeting being held March 12th in Mapleton. MnWARN participation will be further discussed at the Regular April Council meeting.
3. The SCSC (South Central Safety Committee) is scheduled to meet on March 24th in Mapleton. (The SCSC meeting scheduled for January was cancelled due to inclement weather.
4. The City Clerk-Treasurer is planning to attend the League of MN Cities Loss Control Workshop being held in Mankato on April 1st.
5. A Council tour of City facilities will be scheduled in May.

WATER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPDATE

Jeff Domras, Bolton and Menk, was present and discussed that General Construction Services should be on-site in the near future to begin with welding, etc. necessary for erection of the water tower.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

1. Council Member Mike Hughes reported on the EDA meeting held Monday, March 2nd. The main topic of discussion was the Safe Route to School grant. Council Members were asked to consider sidewalk priorities. It was also noted that new City banner is featured in the Display Sales Banner Catalog.
2. Council Member Phillips attended the February School Board meeting. Items discussed included the formation of a committee to work on a Master Facility Plan. Council representation on the Committee was discussed. Council Members Karels and Hughes expressed interest in the committee. Council Member Spear will attend the March 23rd School Board meeting.
3. Mayor Westphal and the City Clerk-Treasurer Seys attended the Mayors and Clerks meeting held on February 12th at the MN Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV) facility in Mankato.
4. Council Members Phillips and Karels attended the Newly Elected Official Conference on February 20th and 21st.
5. Mayor Westphal attended the St. Clair Days Committee meeting on March 1st. A St. Clair Days Fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, April 4th from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the Uptown Tavern.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m. Motion to adjourn was made by Hughes, seconded by Karels and carried with all in favor.

Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer