

CITY OF ST. CLAIR
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 5, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Doug Westphal 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 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: Dave Webb and Jeff Domras.

The minutes of the April 7, 2009 Regular City Council meeting were approved with a motion by Karels, seconded by Phillips and carried with all in favor.

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

BUILDING PERMIT PROCEDURE

The City Clerk-Treasurer presented a memo submitted by Dan Murphy (City Building Inspection Services). The memo clarified a number of procedural issues relating to issuance and approval of Building Permits. The review, approval or denial of a Building Permit Application is solely the duty of the designated Building Official. The review, approval or denial of a Zoning Permit Application (including Variances, Conditional Use Permits and Zoning Amendments) is the duty of the City Council. The City Clerk-Treasurer will notify the City Council of Building Permit Applicants.

ZONING PERMIT REQUESTS

1. A Zoning Permit Application submitted by Jon Born, 108 Park Street North to build an 8' X 10' storage shed was approved by Hughes, seconded by Phillips and carried with all in favor.
2. Motion by Spear, seconded by Karels to schedule a Public Hearing for Wednesday, May 20, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss a Variance Application submitted by Will and Laura Hoosline, 403 Pilgrim Street.

WATER PROJECT UPDATE

1. Jeff Domras (Bolton and Menk) and Dave Webb (General Construction Services) were present to discuss progress on construction of the Water Tower. Construction (welding, etc.) of the tower has been taking place at the tower site. It is expected that the tower will be erected within the next week. A large crane will be moved in for the erection of the tower. Painting of the tower will take approx. 10 days to 2 weeks. Temperatures must be a constant 50 degrees for painting.
2. Tower color options were discussed. Due to condensation, which is more obvious on a light color water tower, Mr. Webb recommended that the City consider a darker color for the water tower base, column and the bottom portion of the tower bowl. Mr. Webb will have color options incorporating the City logo e-mailed to the City Clerk for Council review.
3. General Construction Services, Pay Estimate # 4 for \$66,215.00 was submitted for payment. Motion by Hughes, seconded by Karels to approve payment of Pay Estimate #4 in the amount of \$66,215.00. Motion carried with all in favor.
4. A Water Tower construction meeting will be held Friday, May 8th at 1:15 p.m. at City Hall.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Bill Fitzloff reported on the following:

1. The Eagle Lake and St. Clair Firefighter's Dance was held April 18th at the Eagle Lake American Legion.

2. The Fire Dept. has received a donation of \$800.00 from the United Fund of Decoria – McPherson – St. Clair. Motion by Phillips, seconded by Spear to pass the Resolution Acknowledging Acceptance and Expressing Appreciation for a Donation from the United Fund of Decoria – McPherson – St. Clair Designated to the St. Clair Fire Dept. Motion carried with all in favor.
3. The County Fire Chief's will be meeting in the near future to discuss a FEMA Fire Grant application for upgrading radios County-wide to the new system.
4. Shawn Kunz passed the EMT test.
5. Thanks to Derik Hawkins and the Boy Scouts for their hard work in cleaning the McPherson Union Cemetery.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. REPORT

Public Works Dept. employee, Deb McCollum reported on the following:

1. Bargaen, Inc. has completed the crack sealing project for 2009 (a portion of Hilltop Lane and Church Street).
2. Annual Street Repair bids will be opened and reviewed at the June City Council meeting.
3. The new banners are up.
4. Street sweeping is scheduled for Thursday, May 14th.
5. Spring water main/ hydrant flushing was done in April.
6. The Memorial Park Pavilion is opened for the season.
7. The City storm water drainage ditch on the east end of town was burned today. Cleaning out of the storm water ditch and culvert was discussed with Jeff Domras.

CITY CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

City Clerk-Treasurer Catherine Seys reported on the following:

1. City Officials have received an invitation to the Ribbon Cutting ceremony for the new Justice Center. The ceremony will be held on Friday, May 15th at 1:00 p.m. Tours of the facility will follow from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
2. The Uptown Tavern has submitted a request for a Special Use Permit for Bike Night and St. Clair Days 2009 activities. Bike Night will be held on Monday evenings May 18th through August 17th. Bike Night will not be held on Memorial Day (May 25th) or 4th of July weekend). Bike Night will have the same format as in the past with picnic tables set up in the parking lot area. Brats, burgers and beverages will be served. Weekly sponsors will be similar to those in the past. St. Clair Days 2009 activities will be as in the past with live music in the parking lot area from 8:30 pm to 12:30 am on Friday and Saturday night. Food Stands and picnic tables will also be located in the parking lot area and adjacent to Co. Rd. 28 South. Motion by Spear, seconded by Phillips to approve Bike Night and St. Clair Days 2009 activities. Motion carried with all in favor.
3. The City has received a notice of a Public Hearing from Blue Earth County for a Variance for Mark and Connie Kruse. The Variance request is to reduce the required setback from the County Road for the purpose of constructing an attached garage. The City received the notice since the City is within 2 miles of the Kruse property.
4. The City has received a donation of \$300.00 from the United Fund of Decoria – McPherson – St. Clair. Motion by Karels, seconded by Hughes to pass the Resolution Acknowledging Acceptance and Expressing Appreciation for the Donation from the United Fund of Decoria – McPherson – St. Clair Designated to the St. Clair Park Fund. Motion carried with all in favor.
5. Motion by Phillips, seconded by Spear to approve the Annual Poppy Proclamation. Motion carried with all in favor.
6. The City Clerk-Treasurer attended a Census 2010 Meeting in Mankato on April 21st. "Every 1 Counts in Minnesota"; 10 Questions – 10 Minutes; no long form and Census jobs were among items discussed. More information is available on the U.S. Census website.
7. The City Clerk-Treasurer attended a South Central Safety Committee (SCSC) meeting in Mapleton on April 22nd. The next SCSC meeting is scheduled for May 18th in Mapleton.

The City Clerk-Treasurer attended a Grant Forum meeting in Mankato on April 23rd. Speakers from FEMA, MnDOT and USDA presented information at the forum.

8. The City Council will tour City facilities on Tuesday, June 2nd at 6:00 p.m.
9. Lease agreements are being prepared and will be negotiated between the City and the communications providers with antennas on the Water Tower.
10. The Land Magazine is going to be publishing a Minnesota Festivals Section that will run in the May 29th and June 5th issues. The City Clerk-Treasurer will submit information on St. Clair Days 2009 activities and events.
11. Nuisance complaints and nuisance properties were discussed. The City Clerk-Treasurer will research the implementation of a City Council City-Wide Nuisance Inspection Policy.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

1. The Economic Development Authority (EDA) met on Monday, May 4th. The Safe Routes to School Grant was among items discussed.
2. Council Member Hughes reported on installation of the playground equipment. Council Member Hughes, Kevin Thooft and John Rule assembled the smaller slide this past weekend. Assembly of the second slide is scheduled for next weekend. The City Clerk-Treasurer will call the Gopher State One-Call for a locate at the Park. Holes will be dug and concrete will be poured for the slides in the near future.
3. Mayor Westphal and the City Clerk-Treasurer attended the Blue Earth County Mayors and Clerks meeting in Mankato on April 16th. Jonathan Zierdt from Greater Mankato Growth was the guest speaker. Mr. Zierdt discussed an Economic Development Partnership Serving the Greater Mankato Regional Marketplace.
4. Mayor Westphal attended the April School Board meeting. Council Member Hughes will attend the May 18th School Board meeting.
5. The Bike Race scheduled for Saturday, June 13th was discussed. Approx. 16 volunteers are needed to help with road closings in St. Clair for the Bike Race.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m. Motion to adjourn was made by Spear, seconded by Hughes and carried with all in favor.

Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer