

CITY OF ST. CLAIR
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 7, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Doug Westphal at 7:10 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 and Jerry Phillips. Council Members absent: Tom Karels, Sr. City Staff present: Deb McCollum, Catherine Seys and Fire Chief Bill Fitzloff. Others present: Dave Pearson (Xcel Energy), Jeff Domras (Bolton and Menk), Mark Frahm and Linda Schmidt.

The minutes of the June 2, 2009 Regular City Council meeting were approved with a motion by Spear, seconded by Phillips and carried with all in favor.

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

XCEL ENERGY GAS AND ELECTRIC FRANCHISE AGREEMENT

Dave Pearson, Xcel Energy, was present to discuss renewal of the Xcel Energy Franchise Agreement for Gas. Mr. Pearson explained that the Franchise Agreement for Natural Gas between the City and Xcel Energy was entered into in 1989 for a term of 20 years. The franchise agreement is up for renewal this year. Mr. Pearson further explained that the Franchise Agreement for Electric was renewed in 1992 and also has a 20 year term. Mr. Pearson asked the Council to consider renewal of both franchise agreements at this time, so that the agreements run concurrently. Mr. Pearson discussed that the franchise agreements allow Excel Energy to install, operate, repair and maintain the gas and electric systems within the City of St. Clair. Mr. Pearson briefly discussed both franchise agreements. Motion by Phillips, seconded by Spear to approve and renew the Xcel Energy Franchise Agreement for both Gas and Electric. Motion carried with all in favor.

200 MAIN STREET WEST – REQUEST FOR EASTMENT REDUCTION

Linda Schmidt was present to discuss the easement on their property at 200 Main Street West. The easement is a 30' permanent storm sewer easement. The Schmidt's are considering building a garage on their property and requesting the City to reduce the size of the easement to better accommodate a garage on the property. The Council asked City Engineer, Jeff Domras for his recommendation. Mr. Domras stated that the easement is centered over a 36" storm sewer pipe which is 16' deep. Mr. Domras further stated that due to the depth of the storm sewer he would recommend that the Council not make any change to the width of the easement; if the City would need to make any repairs to the storm sewer in the future the 30' easement would be necessary for dirt placement while digging. Motion by Hughes, seconded by Phillips to the leave the easement as is at 30', based on the City Engineer recommendation. Motion carried with all in favor.

WATER TOWER PROJECT UPDATE

Painting of the water tower is complete; connection to the water main will be done this week. Interior mechanical work, cleaning/ chlorinating and exterior lighting will be done in the next couple weeks. Pay Estimate #6 in the amount of \$58,900.00 has been submitted by General Construction Services. Motion by Hughes, seconded by Spear to approve payment of Pay Estimate #6 in the amount of \$58,900.00 to General Construction Services. Motion carried with all in favor. A Construction Meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, July 9th at 1:00 p.m.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Bill Fitzloff reported on the following:

1. A new engine block has been put in the Rescue Squad and the air conditioning repaired.
2. The Bike Race that went through town on June 13th went well.

3. Fire Chief Bill Fitzloff and Assistant Chief Nate Mace attended a Regional Radio Board Meeting on June 8th.
4. The Fire Dept. Steak Fry held during St. Clair Days was well attended. Over 410 were served.
5. The Fire Dept. Relief Assoc. requests the annual municipal support in the amount of \$5,000.00 for 2010. Motion by Spear, seconded by Hughes to approve the request for \$5,000.00 municipal support for 2010. Motion carried with all in favor.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. REPORT

Public Works Employee Deb McCollum reported on the following:

1. The annual street repair project is being scheduled by Neilson Blacktopping.
2. Zumbro Valley Forestry will be contacted for spraying in the Riverbank Erosion area.
3. The City has received a number of inquiries/ requests for bulk water. A bulk water fill (location, pipe size, maintenance and cost effectiveness) was discussed. The Council will consider options. Jeff Domras will report cost estimates at the August Council meeting.
4. The City received a Thank You note from the City of Medford for a tour the Public Works Dept. conducted at the new Water Treatment Facility on June 10th.
5. Woodchips, sand and pea rock have been delivered to Memorial Park.
6. The Public Works Dept. is getting estimates for cleaning out the Storm Water Drainage Ditch.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT

City Clerk-Treasurer Catherine Seys reported on the following:

1. The South Central Safety Committee (SCSC) met in Good Thunder on June 22nd. The topic of the training was Employee Right to Know and Heat Stress and Heat Management.
2. A Special City Council Meeting to discuss the 2010 Budget was scheduled for Monday, July 20th at 6:00 p.m.
3. The request for "No Passing" double yellow lines on all County Roads in the City has been approved by Blue Earth County.
4. A request has been received to hook up a camera on the new water tower; residents could then log in and view the camera. After discussion a motion was made by Hughes, seconded by Phillips to deny the request. Motion carried with all in favor.
5. A request has been received from Steve Bestmann to change the Zoning District of the Bestmann property to "Rural Service District" for purposes of lowering the property taxes. It was discussed that the Bestmann property is currently in the "Residential Agriculture District". The City does not have a Zoning District titled "Rural Service District". Agriculture property in the City is in the "Residential Agriculture District" or the "General Residential District" (depending on size and location of the property). It was further noted that discussion transpired with regard to the being Zoned as "Residential Agriculture District" when the Bestmann's petitioned for annexation into the City. Motion by Phillips, seconded by Spear to deny the request. Motion carried with all in favor.
6. The City Attorney is reviewing the Water Tower Lease Agreements. The lease agreements will be discussed at the Special City Council meeting on July 20th.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

1. Council Member Hughes reported on the Economic Development Authority (EDA) meeting held on Monday, July 6th at 5:00 p.m. The City sidewalks and the Safe Routes to School Grant were among items discussed. A City sidewalk repair program similar to the street repair program was also discussed by the EDA and will be further discussed by the Council at the Special Council meeting on July 20th. The EDA also discussed compensation to Nancy Schleuter for her research and writing of the Safe Routes to School Grant. Ms. Schleuter's compensation will also be discussed at the Special Council meeting. Council Member Hughes also reported that Drew Nelson has

expressed interest in the EDA position vacated by Bob Kruse. Mayor Westphal appointed Drew Nelson to the EDA.

2. Council Member Hughes attended the June School Board Meeting. The proposed budget was among items discussed.
3. City Clerk-Treasurer Catherine Seys attended the Blue Earth County Mayors and Clerks Meeting in Amboy on June 18th. Representative Tony Cornish and representatives from Blue Earth County Emergency Services were guest speakers at the meeting.
4. Mayor Westphal reported that the St. Clair Days Committee hasn't met since St. Clair Days. He noted that some of the St. Clair Days Committee members are stepping down and there's a need for new ideas and new members.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. Motion to adjourn was made by Spear, seconded by Phillips and carried with all in favor.

Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer