

**CITY OF ST. CLAIR
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 4, 2009**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Doug Westphal at 7:02 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: Dennis Seys, Catherine Seys and Fire Chief Bill Fitzloff. Others present: Jeff Domras (Bolton and Menk) and Mark Frahm.

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

The minutes of the July 30, 2009 Special City Council meeting were approved with a motion by Spear, seconded by Karels and carried with all in favor.

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

ZONING PERMIT

The Zoning Permit application submitted by Eric and Kristin Wilmes, 300 Pilgrim Street, to build a fence was approved contingent upon the Wilmes' receiving permission from their adjoining property owners to build the fence on the property line. Motion was made by Hughes, seconded by Karels and carried with all in favor.

WATER TOWER PROJECT UPDATE

Jeff Domras, Bolton and Menk, reported that the new Water Tower has been filled, the 24 hour and 48 hour testing has been completed and the water tower went on-line on Friday, July 31st. Cellular providers Verizon and AT&T need to move their antennas and related equipment before the old tower can be demolished. General Construction Services will need to complete turf restoration at the site after the cellular equipment has been re-located and the old tower removed. Since General Construction Services did not submit a pay estimate this month there will not be an August Construction Meeting. A pay estimate is expected to be submitted for consideration at the Regular September meeting.

Verizon has submitted an amendment to their Water Tower Lease Agreement. The Amendment addresses the change in equipment location and includes a site plan, a description of equipment and a listing of upgrades, replacements and additional equipment to be installed. Motion by Hughes, seconded by Phillips to approved the Amendment to the Water Tower Lease Agreement submitted by Verizon based on review by the City Attorney. Motion carried with all in favor.

Thanks to Dennis Seys and Deb McCollum for their work in monitoring the new water tower during filling of the tower and testing process.

The Council and Mr. Domras discussed concerns and frustration with regard to the delay by the cellular providers (Verizon and AT&T) in moving of the cellular equipment from the old water tower to the new water tower. It was noted that Bolton and Menk has been in contact with the cellular providers (since the fall of 2008) with regard to the water tower construction project. Bolton and Menk has also continually updated the cellular providers as to the project schedule and status. It was the consensus of the Council that cellular providers have had ample time to prepare for moving their equipment. The Council approved a tentative date of August 24th for demolition of the old water tower. The Council directed Jeff Domras (Bolton and Menk) to notify the cellular providers (Verizon and AT&T) of the demolition date.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. REPORT

Public Works Supervisor Dennis Seys reported on the following:

1. The annual street repair project will be scheduled for after the demolition of the old water tower, since the street repair project includes patching on Park Street South adjacent to the water tower property.
2. A bulk water fill station was discussed. The Fire Hall is being considered as a possible location for the fill station since water pipes are already in place for filling the fire trucks. Bill Fitzloff will check on options/ costs.
3. Estimates are being obtained for cleaning out the storm water drainage ditch on the east end of town.
4. Estimates will be obtained for fencing around the Water Treatment Plant and Water Tower area. Fence will be installed when construction and turf restoration are complete.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Bill Fitzloff reported on the following:

1. The Fire Dept. participated in "National Night Out" at Southview II. The Firefighters distributed coloring books and fire hats to the children in attendance.
2. Fire Dept. member Shawn Kunz is planning to attend Paramedic school.
3. The Fire Dept. participated in the derby race at the Blue Earth County Fair.
4. The Fire Dept. has responded to 51 calls so far in 2009.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT

City Clerk-Treasurer Catherine Seys reported on the following:

1. The City Clerk-Treasurer met with Josh Fitch, League of MN Cities Insurance Trust Loss Control Consultant on July 7th. Mr. Fitch offered a list of recommendations with regard to the Safety Program, safety training and safety requirements. Mr. Fitch has also visited the other small cities in Blue Earth County. The recommendations made by Mr. Fitch will be incorporated into the South Central Safety Committee (SCSC) Safety Program and training schedule.
2. The annual City Wide Clean-Up day has been scheduled for Saturday, October 3rd. A flyer outlining Clean-Up day details will be included with the August City Newsletter. Along with the Clean-Up day the City is implementing a Fall Clean-Up Campaign. The Clean-Up Campaign will encourage residents to take some time to spruce up their property in an effort to improve the general appearance of the City.
3. A Council walk-through of the Bell Tower was discussed. A review and walk-through is a condition of the Bell Tower Conditional Use Permit. The walk-through was scheduled for Tuesday, September 1st at 6:00 p.m. The City Clerk-Treasurer will contact Al Hertaus regarding the walk-through.
4. The City Clerk-Treasurer met with Dr. Janet Cherrington (Urban and Regional Studies at MSU-M) and Neil Nurre (Graphics Instructor at South Central College). Dr. Cherrington's class is interested in working with the City on development of a City brochure. Motion by Hughes, seconded by Phillips to pursue the development of a City brochure with Dr. Cherrington and Mr. Nurre. Motion carried with all in favor.

CITY COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

1. Council Member Hughes reported on the Economic Development Authority (EDA) meeting which was held on Monday, August 3rd. The main item of discussion was the Safe Route to School grant.
2. Council Member Spear will attend the August School Board meeting.
3. The Blue Earth County Mayors and Clerks do not meet in July or August. The next Mayors and Clerks meeting is September 10th in Eagle Lake.
4. No report was available with regards to St. Clair Days, as the Committee hasn't had their wrap-up meeting yet.
5. Council Member Karels and Council Member Phillips attended the farewell event for Blue Earth County Commissioner Colleen Landkamer.

6. The Council briefly discussed the “National Night Out”. The Council will consider participating in the event in 2010.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m. Motion to adjourn was made by Phillips, seconded by Hughes and carried with all in favor.

Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer