

**CITY OF ST. CLAIR  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2009**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Douglas 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 and Jerry Phillips. Council Members absent: Tom Karels, Sr. City Staff present: Dennis Seys, Catherine Seys and Fire Chief Bill Fitzloff. Others present: Nancy Schleuter, Jeff Domras, Dion Cheney (KEYC-TV), Dr. Janet Cherrington (MSU, Mankato), Neil Nurre (South Central College) and MSU, Mankato Urban and Regional Studies Institute Students: Nathan Bartell, Samantha Barthels, Ashley Chapman, Melissa Enter, Dan Evans, Carlie Ferguson, Jessica Gramentz, Tut Luotkaway, Jessica Smith, Danielle Thomas, Clay Wilfahrt and Caleb Wunderlich.

**CITY BROCHURE**

Dr. Janet Cherrington, MSU, Mankato Urban and Regional Studies Institute (URSI) Professor and the URSI Students were in attendance and presented a power-point presentation detailing the time, energy, research and collaborative efforts involved in the making of the City Brochure. The URSI students presented the City Council with the new Brochure. On behalf of the Council, Mayor Westphal expressed his appreciation to Dr. Cherrington, the URSI Students, Mr. Nurre and the SCC students for their efforts in making a Brochure that "far exceeded our expectations".

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND BILLS**

The minutes of the November 2<sup>nd</sup> Regular City Council meeting and the November 16<sup>th</sup> Special 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 November 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 Duke and Jodie Arndt, 20 Winslow Circle, for an 8' X 12' yard shed was approved with a motion by Hughes, seconded by Phillips and carried with all in favor.

**2010 BUDGET AND LEVY**

The final 2010 Budget/ Levy was briefly discussed. Mayor Westphal opened the meeting to public input with regard to the final 2010 Budget and Levy. There being no public input a motion was made by Phillips, seconded by Spear to approve the final 2010 Budget and Levy. Motion carried with all in favor.

**WATER TOWER PROJECT**

Jeff Domras, Bolton and Menk, was present to discuss the Water Tower Project. Mr. Domras reported that the outside up-lighting needs to be aligned/ re-directed and other site restoration and punch list items need to be completed by General Construction Services. Mayor Westphal will contact Dave Webb (General Construction Services) tomorrow to discuss completion of the site work and punch list items.

**FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT**

Fire Chief Bill Fitzloff reported on the following:

1. Fire Dept. member Shawn Kunz is taking Paramedic training. Motion by Phillips, seconded by Hughes to authorize payment of \$2,500 donation from the Fire Dept. Relief Assoc. to Mr. Kunz for Paramedic training. Motion carried with all in favor.

2. Fire Chief Fitzloff discussed an Amendment to the Fire Dept. Relief Assoc. By-Laws. The Amendment is with regard to Article III General Definitions, Section 1. Surviving Spouse. The Amendment would change the definition to read: "Section 1. Surviving Spouse: Surviving spouse means the spouse of a deceased member who was legally married to the member at the time of death." Motion by Spear, seconded by Phillips to approve the Amendment to Article III of the Fire Dept. Relief Assoc. By-Laws as stated. Motion carried with all in favor.
3. The Fire Dept. has responded to 79 calls through November 30, 2009.
4. Twenty (20) Fire Dept. members received the H1N1 vaccine.

#### **PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. REPORT**

Public Works Dept. Supervisor Dennis Seys reported on the following:

1. Annual Sludge Hauling was done on November 12<sup>th</sup> (13 loads, 62,400 gallons). Mr. Seys explained that sludge hauling was done somewhat later than usual due to the late corn harvest.
2. An OSHA representative stopped the City employees while they were hanging Christmas decorations. The City was in compliance except for the use of a safety harness. The City did not receive any citation or fine, but was told to use a safety harness in the future. It was discussed that the Public Works Dept. will continue to hire Lloyd McCollum with the cage/lift for hanging and removing the City banners and Christmas decorations. The flag brackets can be reached with a ladder.
3. As previously discussed an estimate was obtained from On-Site Energy for a portable generator at the Water Treatment Facility. The On-Site Energy generator estimate was \$45,000 plus electrical wiring. Jeff Domras (Bolton and Menk) will discuss the generator hook-up capabilities at the Water Treatment Facility with John Graupman.

#### **CITY CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT**

City Clerk-Treasurer Catherine Seys reported on the following:

1. The City has received notification that Blue Earth County has been invited by the Dept. of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) to submit a full application for the Small Cities Development Project (SCDP) which includes the Cities of Vernon Center, Good Thunder, Amboy and St. Clair. Motion by Hughes, seconded by Phillips to approve the SCDP Cooperative Agreement. Motion carried with all in favor.
2. The City Clerk discussed a potential change in the Primary Election date. A bill is expected to pass which will change the Primary Election from September to August. This change will allow for a 45 day UOCAVA (Military and Overseas) Absentee Balloting period. If this bill passes the 2010 State Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, August 10<sup>th</sup>.
3. The Regular January City Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 12, 2010.

#### **CITY COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS**

1. Council Member Karels attended the November School Board meeting. Council Member Phillips read the report submitted by Mr. Karels. Mayor Westphal will attend the December 21<sup>st</sup> School Board meeting.

#### **EMPLOYEE REVIEW**

Mayor Westphal closed the meeting and went into closed session to discuss Employee Reviews and 2010 wages. Following discussion, a motion was made by Hughes, seconded by Phillips to freeze employee wages for 2010. Motion carried with all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m. Motion to adjourn was made by Hughes, seconded by Spear and carried with all in favor.

**Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer**