

**CITY OF ST. CLAIR
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2011**

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, Jerry Phillips, Tom Karels, Sr., Chris Cousins and Jason Weinandt. Council Members absent: None. City Staff present: Deb McCollum, Catherine Seys and Fire Chief Bill Fitzloff. Others present: Jeff Domras (Bolton and Menk) and Geoff Thornes.

OATH OF OFFICE

City Clerk-Treasurer Catherine Seys administered the Oath of Office to the newly elected officials.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND BILLS

The minutes of the December 7, 2010 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 December were approved with a motion by Phillips, seconded by Weinandt and carried with all in favor.

JERRY PIETZ PROPERTY (NORTH SIDE OF LeSUEUR RIVER)

As discussed at the December 7, 2010 City Council meeting, Mr. Pietz has offered to sell the 7.8 acre property to the City. A nature park with canoe access and dog exercise area were briefly discussed as possible uses for the property. Mayor Westphal obtained information on the DNR Parks and Trails Legacy Grant Program. A motion was made by Cousins, seconded by Phillips to pursue the DNR Parks Legacy Grant. Involving the Economic Development Authority (EDA) with the project was discussed as well as possible assistance from a MSU class in preparing the grant application. Motion carried with all in favor.

FLOOD AND FEMA UPDATE

Jeff Domras (Bolton and Menk) noted that the UV system equipment and the generator have been ordered and are being manufactured and should be on-site in late February and installed shortly after arrival. As required by the MN Pollution Control Agency (PCA) requires that the UV system be on-line by April 1st. The old generator was sold on MinnBid and was removed from the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) property last week.

City Clerk-Treasurer Catherine Seys reported that she has been in contact on a regular basis with the FEMA Project Specialist and paperwork have been submitted to FEMA.

Flood mitigation was also discussed. The City Clerk-Treasurer will further discuss funding for mitigation with FEMA representatives. The potential for a spring flood was discussed. It was noted that the City has a supply of 5,000 sandbags on site. Solid concrete barriers were discussed for the Lift Station by the Post Office as a means to better support the sandbags. Council Member Karels will check with a contractor as to where such concrete barriers are located and as to the possibility of obtaining barriers.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Bill Fitzloff reported on the following:

1. Motion by Karels, seconded by Cousins to approve the following change in officers of the St. Clair Fire Dept. Tom Nicolai, President and Roger Otto, Secretary. Motion carried with all in favor.

2. Fire Chief Fitzloff noted that it was necessary for the Fire Dept. to use the City truck and tractor with snow plows to respond to a rescue calls during recent blizzards. Fire Chief Fitzloff further noted that it was ensured that an experienced driver operated the tractor.
3. Two (2) openings exist on the St. Clair Fire Dept. The City Clerk-Treasurer has advertised that the Fire Dept. is accepting applications. The notice has also been posted and is on the City website.
4. A joint Radio Board and County Chief's meeting will be held on January 10th in Madison Lake. Alpha Wireless will be on hand to discuss radio options.
5. The Fire Dept. responded to 105 calls in 2010.
6. Fire contracts with the five (5) townships expire on March 31, 2011. Motion by Phillips, seconded by Weinandt to authorize the Fire Chief to work with the City Clerk on contract negotiations.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. REPORT

Public Works Employee Deb McCollum reported on the following:

1. The City has had two (2) water main breaks in the past month (Dec. 18th on the 100 block Front Street East and Jan. 1st on the corner of Church Street and Co. Rd. 28 South).
2. Dennis Seys has been moving snow back on all City streets to make room for more snow. The County will move snow off County Roads as soon as they have a chance.

CITY CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

City Clerk-Treasurer Catherine Seys reported on the following:

1. The 2011 Organization and Appointment Resolution was presented to the Council for discussion and review. It was questioned whether it is a conflict of interest for Elizabeth Weinandt to serve as the City Attorney and Jason Weinandt serve on the City Council. The Council discussed the matter and did not perceive it to be a conflict. Motion by Karels, seconded by Phillips to appoint Better's Weinandt Attorneys at Law, Ltd, as the law firm responsible for legal services and advice for the City, with Elizabeth Weinandt as the primary City Attorney. Motion carried with all in favor. Motion by Phillips, seconded by Weinandt to approve the 2011 Organization and Appointment Resolution. Motion carried with all in favor.
2. The 2011 Fee Schedule Worksheet was presented for review. Motion by Cousins, seconded by Weinandt to approve the 2011 Fee Schedule with an adjustment to the following rate: Bulk Water Rate: The bulk water rate will be \$10.00 per 1,000 gallons (up to 10,000 gallons) and \$7.00 per 1,000 gallons after 10,000 gallons. All other rates, fees and compensations will remain as they were in 2010. Motion carried with all in favor.
3. The City Clerk will contact Blue Earth County Emergency Management to discuss scheduling a flood debriefing meeting.
4. Snow removal on sidewalks and enforcement of the City Snow Removal Ordinance was discussed.
5. The South Central Safety Committee (SCSC) will meet in Mapleton on January 26th.

CITY COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

1. The Economic Development Authority (EDA) Board did not meet in January.
2. No one from the City Council attended the December School Board meeting. Council Member Karels will attend the January School Board meeting.
3. The Blue Earth County Mayors and Clerks didn't meet in December. The next meeting will be Thursday, January 13th in Good Thunder.

Meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m. Motion to adjourn was made by Phillips, seconded by Weinandt and carried with all in favor.

Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer