

**CITY OF ST. CLAIR
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 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 Connie Johns (representing the St. Clair School Board).

After calling the meeting to order Mayor Westphal welcomed all visitors and guests and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND BILLS

The minutes of the February 8, 2011 Regular City Council meeting were approved with a motion by Karels, seconded by Cousins and carried with all in favor.

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

SEWER PLANT FLOOD REPAIRS

Jeff Domras (Bolton and Menk) was present and reported that the new generator was delivered February 17th. The generator has been hooked up and is in operation. The rental generator has been removed from the site. Mr. Domras also reported that the new UV Disinfection System has been delivered. Contractors were onsite today doing prep work for installation of the new system. The UV System will be on-line April 1st as required by the MN PCA.

FEMA UPDATE

City Clerk-Treasurer Catherine Seys reported that a final meeting with the FEMA Project Specialist, Richard Griffin and the FEMA Wastewater Treatment Plant Specialist, Ed Hagarty was held on February 9th. At that meeting Mr. Griffin stated that although most flood related expenses the City incurred will be reimbursed by FEMA, it was determined that the cost of the rental generator was not an allowable expense and the City will not receive reimbursement. Mr. Griffin further stated that the City could contest the decision. City Clerk-Treasurer Seys has discussed this matter with Jeff Domras (Bolton and Menk) and appropriate documentation will be prepared and submitted to FEMA contesting the decision.

FLOOD PREPAREDNESS

The City Council held a Flood Debriefing and Preparedness Workshop on Tuesday, February 22, 2011 at City Hall. Representatives from Blue Earth County Emergency Management, Blue Earth County Sheriff's Dept. and St. Clair School, along with the City Council, City Public Works Dept. employees, St. Clair Fire Chief and the City Clerk-Treasurer were in attendance. In follow up to items discussed at the workshop,

- Additional sandbags will be picked up at the Blue Earth County Public Works Shop so the City will have 10,000 sandbags on hand.
- It was suggested that the City have vests to easier identify those in charge during an emergency. The Fire Chief has catalogs with public safety supplies and will get the information to the City Clerk-Treasurer. The City Clerk-Treasurer will order the vests.
- Building an earthen berm between the LeSueur River and the Wastewater Treatment Plant was discussed. Jeff Domras (Bolton and Menk) presented preliminary drawings with regard to placement of the berm based on the topography in the area. The Council will continue to discuss and consider the construction of a berm and other flood control measures.

- Council Member Cousins reiterated what School Superintendent Tom Bruels stated at the February 22nd workshop, that utilizing the School's instant alert system (Honeywell Instant Alert System) would be an effective means to access and notify a large number of residents in St. Clair and the surrounding area of an emergency event.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Bill Fitzloff reported on the following:

1. At the next Regional Chief's meeting (Monday, March 21st) the total quantities will be confirmed for ordering the new radios for the 800 MHz Radio System.
2. The St. Clair Fire Dept. will be taking six (6) firefighters and one (1) fire truck to the Fire School at South Central College on Saturday, March 5th.
3. The St. Clair Fire Dept. has responded to 17 calls in 2011.
4. The Fire Chief met with the five (5) Townships (Decoria, LeRay, Mankato, McPherson and Medo) in the St. Clair Fire District and negotiated the renewal of the Fire Contracts. Motion by Weinandt, seconded by Phillips to approve renewal of the Township Fire Contracts. The contracts will run from April 1, 2011 through March 31, 2014. Motion carried with all in favor.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. REPORT

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

1. The new generator at the Wastewater Treatment Plant is in service. The alarm system for the unit isn't set up yet, but will be set up in the near future.

CITY CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

City Clerk-Treasurer Catherine Seys reported on the following:

1. At the February 8th City Council meeting the City Clerk-Treasurer presented information to the Council regarding the adoption of a Records Retention Schedule. Motion by Cousins, seconded by Weinandt to officially adopt the Minnesota City General Records Retention Schedule. The City Clerk-Treasurer will prepare and submit appropriate paperwork to the Minnesota Historical Society State Archives Dept. regarding adoption of the Records Retention Schedule. Motion carried with all in favor.
2. No additional estimates have been obtained on the City Hall kitchen remodel. Questions were raised regarding ADA compliance and other requirements. The City Clerk-Treasurer will contact the City Building Inspector for information regarding ADA compliance and other requirement.
3. The South Central Safety Committee (SCSC) will meet on Wednesday, March 23rd in Vernon Center.
4. City Insurance Agent Dan Bezdicek submitted a letter to the City Council regarding flood insurance for the Wastewater Treatment Plant through the National Flood Insurance Program. In the letter, Mr. Bezdicek explained that the amount of flood insurance the City can purchase is limited and would not cover the full replacement cost of the building and contents. In addition the National Flood Insurance Program will not cover the two (2) lift stations, the air exchangers in the Plant or the sludge storage silo. In the letter, Mr. Bezdicek also stated that the information from the National Flood Insurance Program is vague as to coverage regarding Wastewater Treatment Plants in general (what is covered and what is not) stating that it would be "worked out at the time of loss". The City Council discussed the information provided by Mr. Bezdicek. It was the consensus of the Council that due to the limited and vague coverage and the high premium costs, rather than spend money for flood insurance premiums, the money would be better spent on constructing an earthen berm or other flood control measures. Motion by Karels, seconded by Phillips to pass on the flood insurance coverage for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Motion carried with all in favor.
5. Sidewalk snow removal was discussed.

CITY COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS/ UPDATES

1. Council Member Weinandt attended the February School Board meeting. Council Member Cousins will attend the March 21st School Board meeting.
2. St. Clair School will host a presentation of “Minnesota and the New Normal” on Tuesday, March 29th. Speakers at the event will include Tom Stinson (State Economist) and Tom Gillaspay (State Demographer).
3. Council Member Cousins reported that paperwork has been submitted for two (2) Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) (AED’s are available free of charge through a program at Mystic Lake Casino).
4. Mayor Westphal and City Clerk-Treasurer Seys attended the Blue Earth County Mayors and Clerks meeting in Mapleton on February 10th. The speaker for the evening was Al Forsberg, Blue Earth County Engineer. The next meeting is March 10th in Lake Crystal.
5. Council Member Cousins reported that he has been in contact with local youth organizations looking for volunteers to participate in the Picture it Painted project.
6. Council Member Karels stated that he wants to schedule an EDA meeting for Monday, April 4th at 5:30 p.m. to discuss St. Clair Days.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m. Motion to adjourn was made by Phillips, seconded by Weinandt and carried with all in favor.

Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer