

CITY OF ST. CLAIR  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 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: Dennis Seys, 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 March 1, 2011 Regular City Council meeting were approved with a motion by Phillips, seconded by Weinandt and carried with all in favor.

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

**SEWER PLANT FLOOD REPAIRS**

Jeff Domras (Bolton and Menk) was present and noted that the new UV Disinfection System at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (which replaces the unit damaged by the flood) was operational and on-line April 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Domras also noted that all flood related repairs have been completed.

The City Council had previously directed Mr. Domras to look into preliminary cost of an earthen berm for the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) area. Mr. Domras discussed the need to reinforce the area near the WWTP Clarifier (on the northeast corner of the WWTP property ... the area closest to the river) with concrete. It is proposed to use clay material for the remainder of the berm. Mr. Domras also noted that some piping work will need to be done and a catch basin will need to be installed. Mr. Domras estimated the cost at \$50,000 to \$60,000.

Motion by Cousins, seconded by Weinandt to authorize Bolton and Menk (Jeff Domras) to pursue the berm concept and prepare a feasibility study outlining options, costs estimates, etc. relating to the construction of a berm. Motion carried with all in favor.

**FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT**

Fire Chief Bill Fitzloff reported on the following:

1. After the March Regional Fire Chief's meeting the radios for the County-wide 800 MHz radio system were been ordered. 80% of the cost of the radios will be paid with FEMA AFG funds. Motion by Weinandt, seconded by Karels to authorize payment of the radios as the grant funds become available. Motion carried with all in favor.
2. The Fire Dept. Hurst tool was discussed. Mr. Fitzloff discussed warranty as well as cost options for new and used. It was noted that the new tool is half the weight but twice the power of the older unit. Motion by Karels, seconded by Cousins to approve purchase of a new Hurst tool spreader. Motion carried with all in favor.
3. The Firefighter Dance is Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at the Eagle Lake American Legion with the St. Clair, Eagle Lake and Madison Lake Fire Dept.'s.
4. A benefit will be held for St. Clair Assistant Fire Chief Nate Mace on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Eagle Lake American Legion. Mr. Mace has recently undergone surgery and radiation treatment for oral cancer.

## **PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. REPORT**

Public Works Supervisor Dennis Seys reported on the following:

1. The generator maintenance agreement for the Wastewater Treatment Plant generator and the Park Street North Lift Station Generator was discussed. Motion by Weinandt, seconded by Phillips to approve the agreement submitted by MTU Onsite Energy. Motion carried with all in favor.
2. An area on Miller Lane is in need of repair due to sump pump discharge from 506 Miller Lane. Motion by Karels, seconded by Weinandt that the City will pay for the street repair this time but if it happens again the homeowner will be assessed for the cost of street repair. The property owner will be advised of the situation and it will be suggested that they connect to the City storm sewer. Motion carried with all in favor.
3. Jim Johnson, Bargaen, Inc. has contacted the Public Works Dept. with regard to the annual crack sealing. Motion by Weinandt, seconded by Phillips to approve \$5,000 to \$7,000 for crack sealing for 2011. Motion carried with all in favor.
4. Annual street repair was discussed. Mr. Seys noted that there are several patches that need to be done (Horseshoe Lane, Church Street and Front Street East). Mr. Seys also noted that in his opinion the City didn't need to do a street overlay this year, but suggested that the Council consider blacktopping the Water Treatment Facility (WTF) entrance, parking area and walkway to the water tower. The City Council agreed with Mr. Seys' suggestion and the City Clerk-Treasurer will obtain proposals for the patchwork and the WTF entrance, parking area and walkway. Proposals will be opened and reviewed at the Regular City Council meeting on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.
5. Spring water main flushing will be done the week of April 19<sup>th</sup>/ 20<sup>th</sup> or April 26<sup>th</sup>/ 27<sup>th</sup> weather permitting.
6. A log jam located west of the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) was discussed. The log jam is approx. 12' high and cutting into the south bank. Motion by Phillips, seconded by Weinandt to have the log jam removed.
7. The storage shed located to the west of the WWTP will be torn down. The shed is in disrepair due to the fall flood and previous high water levels. It was noted that repair of storage shed was not eligible for FEMA funding.
8. The gravel stock pile currently located west of the WWTP will be relocated east of the cable TV tower (southeast of the WWTP).
9. The lights that shine on the City Water Tower were discussed. It was the consensus of the Council that the lights help to light the walking path to Memorial Park and also help to discourage vandalism in the Water Treatment Facility/ Water Tower area.
10. The City will hire someone with a snow blower to clear snow from the Memorial Park walking path next winter.

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

City Clerk-Treasurer Catherine Seys reported on the following:

1. The City Clerk-Treasurer attended the Municipal Clerks and Finance Officers Association (MCFOA) Conference in St. Cloud on March 15<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>. Conference sessions included: Ordinance Drafting, Records Retention, OSHA Inspections, Disaster Preparedness and Budgeting in Challenging Times. Ms. Seys noted that one of the keynote speakers was Tom Gillaspay (MN State Demographer) with a presentation on MN and the New Normal.
2. The South Central Safety Committee (SCSC) met in Pemberton on March 30<sup>th</sup>. Training topics included Emergency Action Plan, Tornado Safety and Fire Safety.
3. Night to Unite was discussed. The Council agreed to participate in the 2011 event. The Night to Unite will be held on Tuesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Information will be posted on the City website and included in the City Newsletter.
4. Motion by Cousins, seconded by Weinandt to approve the Animal Impound Agreement with Premier Veterinary Center, LLC in Mankato. Motion carried with all in favor.

5. Preliminary 2010 Census data indicates that the population of St. Clair increased by 5% from 2000 to 2010. The population in Blue Earth County increased by 14%.
6. The City Clerk-Treasurer met with Archie Benike (Acorn Custom Cabinetry). Mr. Benike stated that he is willing to work and coordinate with the City in placing a City sign on Acorn property. It was noted that for many years the City Council and EDA Board have been looking for a site on which to locate a City sign. The City Clerk-Treasurer and the EDA Board will continue to pursue a City sign and coordinate with Mr. Benike.

#### **COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS**

1. The Economic Development Authority (EDA) met on Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. Items discussed included St. Clair Days, St. Clair Days Fundraiser and City Sign.
2. Council Member Cousins attended the March School Board meeting. Items of discussion included prom and the 2011-2012 School year calendar. Council Member Phillips will attend the April 18<sup>th</sup> School Board meeting.
3. Council Member Cousins discussed that the proposed Picture-it-Painted grant project didn't fall into the grant parameters.
4. Mayor Westphal reported that the Blue Earth County Mayors and Clerks met in Lake Crystal on March 10<sup>th</sup>. Speakers for the evening were Al Kluever, discussing the Blue Earth County Hazard Mitigation Plan and Jon Zierdt, from Greater Mankato Growth.
5. The City Council will tour City facilities on Tuesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. Motion to adjourn was made by Weinandt, seconded by Karels and carried with all in favor.

Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer