

**CITY OF ST. CLAIR  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, MAY 3, 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 and Chris Cousins. Council Members absent: Thomas Karels, Sr. and Jason Weinandt. City Staff present: Deb McCollum, Catherine Seys and Fire Chief Bill Fitzloff. Others present: Jeff Domras (Bolton and Menk), Connie Johns (representing the St. Clair School Board), Ralph and Winnis Buesing.

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 April 5, 2011 Regular City Council meeting were approved with a motion by Phillips, seconded by Cousins and carried with all in favor.

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

**WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT (WWTP)**

Jeff Domras (Bolton and Menk) was present and discussed options for an earthen berm to protect the WWTP from flood waters. Mr. Domras noted that he has analyzed the site, reviewed the preliminary floodplain data and floodplain maps and met with DNR representatives. Mr. Domras explained the 1% flood event (previously referred to as a 100 year flood). A 1% event is defined as a flood event that has 1% chance of occurring in any given year. Mr. Domras designed the berm based on data from the 2010 fall flood and 1% flood event information. Mr. Domras presented two (2) options and drawings for the WWTP berm, summarized as follows:

<b>WWTP BERM</b>	<b>OPTION 1</b>	<b>OPTION 2</b>
Estimated Cost	\$139,400	\$103,700
Est. amount of clay	7,725 cubic yards	4,550 cubic yards
Maintains the drive through for sludge hauling, etc.?	Yes (current traffic pattern will be maintained)	No (difficult for large vehicles to turn around)
Allows access to the area between the berm and river for snow storage?	No	Yes
Impact on Floodplain Footprint	Larger Footprint (larger area inside berm, more impact on the floodplain)	Smaller Footprint (smaller area inside berm, less impact on the floodplain)

Mr. Domras discussed the advantages and disadvantages of each option. Mr. Domras also discussed construction of a “J” hook (in the river and along the riverbank by the clarifier) as a means to deflect the water away from the riverbank adjacent to the clarifier. The Council noted that they prefer Option 1, since it maintains the drive through area used for sludge hauling, etc. Mr. Domras noted that a disadvantage of Option 1 is that it has a larger floodplain footprint and thus a larger impact on the floodplain up and down stream. After considerable discussion the Council asked Mr. Domras to prepare a third option which would maintain the drive through area (as in Option 1), but using a smaller floodplain footprint (as in Option 2). The Council also directed Mr. Domras to start the DNR permitting process (including the “J” hook option). The project will be further discussed at the regular June Council meeting.

**FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT**

Fire Chief Bill Fitzloff reported on the following:

1. The Firefighters Dance held on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> was well attended.
2. The Ford pumper broke down, Forstner did the repairs.
3. The alternator on the tanker went out and has been repaired.
4. There will be a fundraiser for Assistant Fire Chief Nate Mace on Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>,
5. Paperwork has been submitted for the 800 MHz Radio grant funds.

**PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. REPORT**

Public Works employee Deb McCollum reported on the following:

1. Bargain, Inc. is in town for annual crack sealing today. Areas to be completed include Mill Street and Park Street South.
2. Spring watermain flushing was completed on April 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.
3. The Memorial Park Pavilion and the Bulk Water Station are open for the season.
4. The contractor will be on site in the near future to remove the log jam located to the northwest of the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
5. Annual Street Sweeping will be done in the next 2 – 3 weeks as weather permits.

**STREET REPAIR BIDS**

Three (3) proposals were received for the annual Street Repair Project. Bids were received from SMC, WW Blacktopping and Nielsen Blacktopping. The City requested proposals for the following projects: 1) Water Treatment Plant parking lot (including: the entrance to the WTP property, the parking area in front of WTP and the walkway to the Water Tower); 2) Miscellaneous patch work (including: patches on Horseshoe Lane, Front Street East, Church Street, Miller Lane and Front Street East/Mill Street). Results of the proposals were as follows:

CONTRACTORS	Proposed Street Repair Projects		TOTAL
	WTP Parking Lot Area	Misc. Patch Work	
WW Blacktopping	\$14,796.00	\$2,557.50	\$17,353.50
Nielsen Blacktopping	\$18,073.00	\$2,564.00	\$20,637.00
SMC	\$21,961.00	\$4,814.00	\$26,775.00

After opening and reviewing the bids the Council discussed the bids and project areas involved. Council Member Cousins discussed the cost of the WTP Parking Lot Area and stated that he didn't see any value to blacktopping the area other than the aesthetic value. He felt that the money should be used towards another purpose such as sidewalks or the berm. The 2011 Street Repair budget was discussed. City Clerk-Treasurer Seys noted that the 2011 Budget has \$30,000 for Street Repair; \$15,000 for Sidewalks and \$5,000 for Crack Sealing. The Council continued to discuss the matter. Council Member Cousins reiterated his opinion with regard the cost of the parking lot area. City Clerk-Treasurer Seys stated that if the Council choose not to do the WTP Parking Lot project that she felt the money should remain in the street repair budget and not used for another purpose. After considerable discussion a motion was made by Cousins, seconded by Phillips to table the matter until the June Council meeting. Motion carried with all in favor.

**CITY CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT**

City Clerk-Treasurer Catherine Seys reported on the following:

1. The League of MN Cities sponsored the annual Safety and Loss Control Workshop on Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup> in North Mankato. Public Works employee Deb McCollum and City Clerk-Treasurer Seys attended the workshop.
2. 2011 Night to Unite is scheduled for Tuesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Additional information is available on the City website.

3. A St. Clair Days fundraiser is being held on Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at the Uptown Tavern. Ian Nelson (co-owner of the Uptown Tavern) has requested to close off the parking lot and put picnic tables in the parking area for the fundraiser. Motion by Cousins, seconded by Phillips approve the request. Motion carried.
4. Due to a conflict the regular June City Council meeting will be held on Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. The Council will tour the Water Treatment Facility at 6:30 p.m. (prior to the Council meeting).

#### **COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS**

1. Council Member Phillips reported on the April 25<sup>th</sup> Economic Development Authority (EDA) meeting. The St. Clair Days Fundraiser was among items discussed. The St. Clair Days Fundraiser is being held on Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Uptown Tavern.
2. Council Member Cousins reported on the April School Board meeting. Donations to the Japan Tsunami and positive recognition were among items discussed. Mayor Westphal will attend the May School Board meeting (May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 p.m.).
3. School Board representative Connie Johns stated that at the April School Board meeting the School Board noted that they felt it was good action on the part of the City Council with regard to the Wastewater Treatment Plant berm decision.
4. Mayor Westphal reported that the Blue Earth County Mayors and Clerks met in Pemberton on April 14<sup>th</sup>. Speaker for the evening was a representative from Welcome Manor in Garden City. The next Blue Earth County Mayors and Clerks meeting will be held in St. Clair on May 12<sup>th</sup>. The speaker for the evening will be Reggie Edwards, Region Nine.
5. Council Member Cousins thanked Public Works employee Deb McCollum for the Wastewater Treatment Plant tour (held at 6:00 p.m. this evening).

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

Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer