

CITY OF ST. CLAIR  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 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, Thomas 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), 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 May 3, 2011 Regular City Council meeting were approved with a motion by Cousins, seconded by Weinandt and carried with all in favor.

The bills for the month of May were approved with a motion by Karels, 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 reported that he met with area hydrologist Leo Goetsfried regarding the proposed berm. Mr. Domras also reported that he and City Clerk-Treasurer Catherine Seys attended a meeting on Wednesday, June 1<sup>st</sup> with FEMA and area City and Township officials regarding the preliminary Blue Earth County Floodplain maps. At the meeting the 1% annual flood chance occurrence (previously referred to as the 100 year flood) was discussed. Mr. Domras explained that the proposed berm is ... feet above the 1% annual flood chance occurrence level and 1.3 feet above the fall 2010 flood level. The proposed berm would be constructed of clay with vegetative side slopes. A storm water line and a catch basin with a valve would be installed on the inside of the berm so that if the river rises we can close the valve and pump storm water over the top of the berm. Mr. Domras further reported that Mr. Goetsfried anticipated the timeframe for the DNR permitting process for the proposed berm to be approximately 45 days. It was discussed that the goal would be to construct the berm this summer so that the vegetation would have a chance to get established before winter. Mr. Domras also discussed the use of rip-rap to stabilize the riverbank in the area near the WWTP clarifier. The construction of a wingdam/J-hook type structure was also discussed as an option to divert the water away from the riverbank closest to the clarifier. Mr. Domras noted that he estimates the berm project to cost approximately \$140,000. Council Member Karels asked Mr. Domras about the use of bunker blocks for riverbank stabilization near the clarifier. Mr. Domras explained that the bunker blocks would be too dense to use in that area but stated that he would keep them in mind for possible use in another location.

Mr. Domras discussed the need to determine what impact the proposed berm would have upstream in a flood event. A model is available from the DNR to determine such impact. Mr. Domras will take the steps necessary to obtain the model and input the necessary data to determine the impact. According to DNR regulations such impact must be less than 6”.

The Council discussed the bidding timeline for the project. Mr. Domras stated that project plans are nearly complete and advertising the request for bids could be done relatively soon. Mr. Domras estimated the berm construction project to take 3 to 4 weeks to complete. Motion by Weinandt, seconded by Karels to proceed with the completing the plans and specs and advertising/obtaining bids for the berm project. Mr. Domras will complete the plans and specs

and advertise for bids. Bids will be opened on Tuesday, July 5, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. and reviewed at the regular City Council meeting on Tuesday evening (July 5, 2011). Motion carried with all in favor.

Motion by Weinandt, seconded by Phillips to schedule a Public Meeting for Tuesday, July 5, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss and solicit input on proposed berm. Motion carried with all in favor.

#### FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Bill Fitzloff reported on the following:

1. The FEMA 800 MHz Radio Grant proceeds have been received. The grant covers 80% of the cost of the radio system. The remaining 20% is being paid by each of the twelve (12) Fire Departments in Blue Earth County. All Fire Departments have paid their share except for South Bend Fire Dept. The payment from South Bend Fire Dept. is expected after it is reviewed and approved by the Township Board next week.

#### PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. REPORT

Public Works Supervisor Dennis Seys reported on the following:

1. Annual crack sealing including the area near the water tower and Miller Lane (past Memorial Park) has been done.
2. The annual Street Repair project was discussed. The Council requested bids for the Water Tower Facility (WTF) parking lot and misc. patchwork. The bids were opened, reviewed and action was tabled by the Council at the Regular May City Council meeting on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mr. Seys discussed his reasons for recommending the WTF parking lot for blacktopping. Mr. Seys also discussed that if the Council chooses not to blacktop the WTF parking lot he felt the money should remain in the Street Repair budget and be used to overlay Horseshoe Lane. Motion by Karels, seconded by Cousins to reject all bids for the WTF parking lot and misc. patchwork and request bids for a 1 ½" bituminous overlay on Horseshoe Lane and the misc. patchwork. Motion carried with all in favor. Bids will be opened and reviewed at the Regular City Council meeting on Tuesday, July 5, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.
3. Annual street sweeping was done in mid-May.
4. Mr. Seys noted that as previously reported, there continues to be significant loss of riverbank due to the log jam located west of the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Another attempt to break up the log jam will be made Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Seys stated that he will remove the items stored in the old 3 sided storage building and take the building down as he fears the river will continue to erode the bank in that area and the building and contents will be swept down river.
5. Mr. Seys discussed his previous concerns and recommendation for a generator at the Water Treatment Facility (WTF). Mr. Seys is concerned about the consequences of a major power outage especially in the winter. The Council discussed having the WTF wired and ready in the case of an emergency and bringing in a generator unit when needed. This appears to be a problem as generator connections vary (there is not a standard connection receptacle throughout the industry). It was discussed to contact MTU Onsite Energy to review the situation and possibly have a transfer system installed now. The Council noted that a generator for the WTF is included in the long range funding goals of the City.
6. The City has received a letter from Jim Beshey (304 Co. Rd. 28 South). During the spring water main flushing Mr. Beshey experienced water softener problems. Due to the problems Mr. Beshey had to purchase a new water softener. His old water softener was 15 – 20 years old. The City Clerk will check with Greg at Norm's Soft Water regarding the cost of a new water softener and the estimated value of a 15 – 20 year old softener and will report back at the Regular July Council meeting. Mr. Beshey will be advised to install a check valve on his softener so this problem doesn't reoccur.

### CITY CLERK'S REPORT

City Clerk-Treasurer Catherine Seys reported on the following:

1. The South Central Safety Committee (SCSC) meeting and training was held in Amboy on May 25<sup>th</sup>. Training topics included Accident Investigation and Dog Bite Problems. St. Clair will be hosting the next SCSC meeting and training on July 27<sup>th</sup>. The training topics will be Confined Space Entry and Lock Out/Tag Out.
2. City Clerk-Treasurer Seys attended a pre-construction meeting for the Highway 83 Construction Project on Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at the MN Dept. of Transportation (MN DOT) headquarters in Mankato. MN DOT will be hosting an open house in St. Clair on Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. to discuss the project with area residents. Information about the Highway 83 Construction Project and a project timeline has been posted on the City website and the City Facebook Fan Page.
3. The 2011 Night to Unite is scheduled for Tuesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Additional information is available on the City website.
4. St. Clair School is planning to install a digital sign. The new sign will be installed in the same location as the existing sign (corner of Main Street West and Co.Rd. 28 South).

### CITY COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

1. The Economic Development Authority (EDA) didn't meet in May.
2. No one from the City Council attend the May School Board meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m. Motion to adjourn was made by Phillips, seconded by Karels and carried with all in favor.

Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer