

**CITY OF ST. CLAIR
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 5, 2011**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Douglas Westphal at 7:02 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, Chris Cousins and Jason Weinandt. Council Members absent: Thomas Karels, Sr. 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), Dan Niles and Jan Clements (JJD Companies) and 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 June 2, 2011 Regular City Council meeting were approved with an amendment to page 2 regarding the proposed berm bid opening. The sentence shall be amended to read: Bids will be opened on Tuesday, July 5, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. and reviewed at the regular City Council meeting being held that evening at 7:00 p.m. Motion to approve was made by Phillips and seconded by Cousins. The motion carried with all in favor.

The bills for the month of June 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 to discuss the proposed WWTP berm. The bid opening for the proposed berm project was this morning (Tuesday, July 5, 2011) at 10:00 a.m. Five (5) bids were opened and tabulated. The low bidder was missing some necessary documents and the bid was rejected. The second low bidder was JJD Companies with a bid of \$211,412.00. Mr. Domras stated that he isn't familiar with JJD Companies and recommended that the Council table a decision on the bid award and request additional information (references, etc.) from JJD Companies. Dan Niles was present representing JJD Companies. Mr. Niles stated the he would be in contact with Mr. Domras and provide the requested information. Motion by Weinandt, seconded by Phillips to table the bid award for the berm project until references can be obtained and reviewed. Motion carried with all in favor.

Motion was made by Cousins, seconded by Weinandt to schedule a Special City Council meeting for Tuesday, July 12, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. to review the JJD Companies references and award the bid for the berm project. Motion carried with all in favor.

Mr. Domras noted that he has submitted the required permit application for the berm project to the Minnesota DNR, but the permit won't be reviewed or approved until the State shutdown ends. It was also noted that the completion date of August 26, 2011 may need to be extended depending on how long the State shutdown lasts.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Bill Fitzloff reported on the following:

1. The Fire Dept. has responded to 50 calls so far in 2011.
2. The Fire Dept. cooked 477 steaks at the Streak Fry during St. Clair Days.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

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

1. The annual street repair project bids for a 1 ½" overlay of Horseshoe Lane and misc. patchwork throughout town were opened and reviewed. Results were as follows:

WW Blacktopping	\$16,024.31
SMC	\$21,972.20

Motion by Weinandt, seconded by Phillips to award the bid to WW Blacktopping. Motion carried with all in favor.
2. Options for removal of the log jam (located west of the Wastewater Treatment Plant) were discussed.
3. A broken water line was repaired near the intersection of Main Street East and Miller Lane.

CITY CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

City Clerk-Treasurer Catherine Seys reported on the following:

1. As a result of the State shutdown work on the Highway 83 project has stopped. The highway remains closed. The City Clerk-Treasurer has reminded residents (via the City website and Facebook Fan Page) that law enforcement officials are enforcing the road closing and issuing tickets. It was noted that fines for traveling on Hwy. 83 are hefty.
2. The City Clerk-Treasurer was invited to participate in a Regional Emergency Management Mock Flood Event training on June 17th at the Blue Earth County Justice Center.
3. The City of St. Clair will be hosting the South Central Safety Committee (SCSC) meeting and training on Wednesday, July 27th. The topic of the training will be Confined Space Entry and Lock Out/Tag Out.
4. St. Clair will be participating in the Night to Unite on Tuesday, August 2nd. Night to Unite information is available on the City website and at City Hall.
5. Due to the Night to Unite being held on Tuesday, August 2nd, the August City Council meeting will be held on Monday, August 1st at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Meeting Room.
6. The City Clerk-Treasurer reported that the City received a rebate in the amount of \$6,794.99 from the MN Rural Water Finance Authority as a result of the interim financing on the Water Tower Project.
7. Waste Management was notified of a hydraulic leak on one of the garbage trucks.
8. The City Clerk-Treasurer suggested that the City Council wait to schedule the 2012 Budget Workshop until after the State shutdown is over and the impact on 2012 Local Government Aid is determined.
9. The monthly City Newsletter and accompanying City Council minutes was discussed. Newsletter/minutes will continue to be mailed with the City utility bill at the end of each month.
10. City Financial Advisor, Paul Donna, has informed the City Clerk-Treasurer of a possible opportunity for the City to obtain lower interest rates by considering options for refinancing City bonded debt. The City Clerk-Treasurer will contact Mr. Donna and discuss the options in more detail.
11. The City of St. Clair has two (2) cable providers, U.S. Cable and Hickory Tech. The City has received information and documents with regard to U.S. Cable being acquired by Midcontinent. The City Clerk-Treasurer will contact the City Attorney and ask her to review the acquisition documents.
12. Regarding the water softener issue described in a letter from Jim Beshey and presented at the June City Council meeting, the City Clerk-Treasurer has contacted Greg Malakowsky from Norm's Soft Water. Mr. Malakowsky stated that he estimated Mr. Beshey's softener to be valued at \$200.00. Motion by Phillips, seconded by Cousins to pay Mr. Beshey \$200.00 upon installation of a check valve. Check valve installation to be verified by Public Works Supervisor Dennis Seys. Motion carried with all in favor.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

1. The Economic Development Authority (EDA) didn't meet in June.
2. Council Member Weinandt attended the June School Board meeting. Items discussed included the budget and State shutdown, the school calendar and school handbook changes. Council Member Cousins will attend the July School Board meeting. School Board representative Connie Johns commended the Council on their excellent decision with regard to the construction of a berm, stating that it is positive, proactive decision and reassuring to the community.
3. Mayor Westphal reported on the Blue Earth County Mayors and Clerks meeting held on June 9th in Mankato. The speaker for the evening was a representative from Welcome Manor in Garden City. The Blue Earth County Mayors and Clerks don't meet in July or August. The next meeting will be September 8th in Amboy.
4. Council Member Weinandt attended a grant writing workshop.
5. Fire Chief Bill Fitzloff, on behalf of the St. Clair Fire Dept. Relief Assoc. requested \$5,000.00 in annual municipal support for 2012. Motion by Weinandt, seconded by Phillips to approve the request. Motion carried with all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. Motion to adjourn was made by Weinandt, seconded by Cousins and carried with all in favor.

Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer