

**CITY OF ST. CLAIR  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 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, Thomas Karels, Sr., Chris Cousins and Jason Weinandt. Council Members absent: None. City Staff present: City Clerk-Treasurer Catherine Seys and Fire Chief Bill Fitzloff. Others present: Jeff Domras (Bolton and Menk), Connie Johns (representing the St. Clair School Board), Mark Depuydt and Karen Hauser (representing the St. Clair Athletic Backers).

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 July 5, 2011 Public Meeting, the July 5, 2011 Regular City Council meeting and the July 12, 2011 Special City Council meeting were reviewed with an amendment to page 3 of the July 5, 2011 Regular City Council meeting minutes regarding the request by the St. Clair Fire Dept. Relief Association for \$5,000.00 in annual municipal support for 2012. The motion originally made by Council Member Weinandt was withdrawn. A motion was then made by Cousins, seconded by Phillips to approve the request by the St. Clair Fire Dept. Relief Association for \$5,000.00 in municipal support for 2012. Motion carried. A motion to approve the minutes of the July 5, 2011 Public Meeting, the July 5, 2011 Regular City Council meeting (as amended) and the July 12, 2011 Special City Council meeting was made by Karels, seconded by Phillips. The motion carried with all in favor.

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

**ST. CLAIR ATHLETIC BACKERS**

Mark Depuydt and Karen Hauser were present representing the St. Clair Athletic Backers. Mr. Depuydt and Ms. Hauser explained to the Council that the Athletic Backers have taken on the task of raising funds to complete the track at the St. Clair School Athletic Facility. The track project is estimated to cost \$300,000. Completion of the track project will enable St. Clair School to hold track events, sub-sections, etc. The fund raising efforts will focus on donations from large businesses and foundations throughout the Mankato area and southern Minnesota. Mr. Depuydt and Ms. Hauser also noted that all donations will be recognized. One option discussed for such recognition was the use of paving stones. Another idea discussed was "name a lane" ... with a \$20,000 donation the contributor could have their name on one of the eight (8) lanes on the track. Council Member Cousins noted that the Pepsi Refresh Project was a possible fundraising option. It was reported that the Athletic Backers will be participating the State Fair clean-up fund raiser again this year. 2011 marks their 11<sup>th</sup> year of participation in the State Fair clean-up fundraiser and the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of participating in two (2) days of clean up. Over 200 students, parents and community members from the St. Clair area volunteer for the State Fair clean-up effort each year. Mr. Depuydt and Ms. Hauser stated that the Athletic Backers are not asking the City for any donation, but rather wanted to inform the Council of the track project and the fund raising efforts and ask the Council for their support. Mr. Depuydt and Ms. Hauser further stated that the Athletic Backers are open to any fundraising ideas and suggestions. Mayor Westphal and the City Council Members extended their support to the Athletic Backers in track project.

### FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Bill Fitzloff reported on the following:

1. The St. Clair Fire Dept. has responded to 53 calls in 2011.
2. Three (3) St. Clair neighborhoods will be participating in Night to Unite on Tuesday, August 2, 2011.

### LeSUEUR RIVER LOG JAM (WEST OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT)

Council Member Weinandt contacted CAB Construction and obtained an estimate for removal of the log jam (located west of the WWTP). The estimate amount was \$45,500.00. Jeff Domras (Bolton and Menk) will obtain an estimate from JJD Companies (the contractor for the WWTP Berm Project). The Council will take no further action on the log jam issue at this time.

### WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT (WWTP) BERM PROJECT

Jeff Domras (Bolton and Menk) was present to discuss the proposed WWTP berm. The WWTP Berm Project contractor began work on the project last week (the week of July 25<sup>th</sup>). The following work has been done on the project:

- The chain link fence (on the north side of the WWTP) has been removed.
- A silt fence has been installed.
- Trees have been removed.
- Top soil has been removed.
- Clay is being hauled in. It is expected to take 5 - 6 days to haul in all of the clay needed for the project.

Mr. Domras has been in contact with the DNR. The DNR permit is expected to be approved and signed within 10 days. (NOTE: Approval of the DNR permit was delayed due to the State shutdown.)

The City has received a partial pay request from JJD Companies in the amount of \$21,686.60. Mr. Domras recommended payment of the partial pay estimate. Motion by Phillips, seconded by Weinandt to approve payment of the partial pay request from JJD Companies in the amount of \$21,686.60. Motion carried with all in favor.

### REQUEST DRINKING WATER FOUNTAIN ON CITY WATER HYDRANT

The City has been approached with a request to allow a drinking water fountain to be installed on a City water/fire hydrant at the St. Clair School Athletic Facility. The water fountain would be used during football practice, etc. Jeff Domras (Bolton and Menk) stated that in his opinion placing a drinking water fountain on the City water hydrant isn't a good practice and should be avoided. Mr. Domras suggested that a better option would be to tap into the water main and install a 1" water service line (with a meter) and connect a drinking water fountain to the 1" service line. Connie Johns noted that if a solution wasn't found in time for football practice this season, water could be loaded on the gator and taken to the field. Motion by Weinandt, seconded by Phillips that, based on the City Engineer's recommendation, the request to install a drinking water fountain on the City water hydrant is denied. Motion carried with all in favor.

### CITY CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

City Clerk-Treasurer Catherine Seys reported on the following:

1. WW Blacktopping will be completing the annual street repair project in the near future.
2. Since the State shutdown has ended the Highway 83 Project is again underway.
3. The repair/replacement of sidewalks was discussed. The City budgeted \$15,000.00 towards sidewalk repair for 2011. It was discussed that if the City budgeted another \$15,000.00 for 2012, the City could do a \$30,000 project in the summer of 2012 which would include sidewalks on the 200 and 300 block of Main Street West. The matter will be further discussed at the 2012 Budget Workshop.

4. The City Attorney (Elizabeth Weinandt, Betters Weinandt Attorneys at Law) reviewed the acquisition documents, pertaining to Midcontinent acquiring U.S. Cable, and found no irregularities. Motion by Cousins, seconded by Phillips to approve signing of the documents. Motion carried with all in favor.
5. Blue Earth County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. The City Clerk-Treasurer will meet with Al Kluever (Blue Earth County Emergency Management) on Wednesday, August 24<sup>th</sup> regarding the updating of the Blue Earth County Hazard Mitigation Plan.
6. A Special City Council Meeting to discuss the 2012 Budget/Levy and Debt Service Refinance was scheduled for Tuesday, August 30, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

#### **COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS**

1. The Economic Development Authority (EDA) didn't meet in July.
2. Council Member Cousins attended the July School Board meeting. Items discussed included retro commission. Council Member Phillips will attend the August 22<sup>nd</sup> School Board meeting. Connie Johns (St. Clair School Board Member) noted that any request from the School or request for items to be placed on the City Council meeting agenda relating to the School, should be in the form of a formal request from School administration.
3. Council Member Karels reported that St. Clair Days went well. Thank you notes were published in the Lake Region Times, posted around town and included in the City Newsletter. Connie Johns noted that School Administration stated that those using the School building for St. Clair Days activities were respectful and cooperative.
4. Mowing has been done on the on the property at 332 Main Street West (as discussed at the Special City Council meeting on July 12, 2011).
5. Trees overhanging City streets and sidewalks were discussed. The City Clerk-Treasurer noted that an item regarding tree trimming was in the last City Newsletter.
6. Council Member Weinandt asked about a City compost site. It was noted that the City doesn't have a suitable location for a compost site.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m. Motion to adjourn was made by Weinandt, seconded by Karels and carried with all in favor.

Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer