

CITY OF ST. CLAIR  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 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, Thomas Karels, Sr., Chris Cousins and Jason Weinandt. Council Members absent: None. City Staff present: Mark Krenik, Public Works Supervisor, Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer and Bill Fitzloff, Fire Chief. Others present: Jeff Domras (Bolton and Menk), Connie Johns (representing the St. Clair School Board), Kash Khan and a representative from St. Clair Recycled Auto Parts, Cy Denn and Mark Frahm.

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 October 6, 2011 Regular City Council meeting were approved with a motion by Karels, seconded by Weinandt and carried with all in favor.

The vendor's claims for the month of October were approved with a motion by Weinandt, seconded by Phillips and carried with all in favor.

**NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY (NHS) LEAF RAKING DAY**

The St. Clair NHS leaf raking day has been scheduled for Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. The NHS students will be helping residents who need assistance with leaf raking. The City will be picking up and disposing of the leaves. Signup sheets are at the St. Clair State Bank and Mitt's BP.

**ST. CLAIR RECYCLED AUTO PARTS**

Kash Khan (Greentech Recycling) and a representative from St. Clair Recycled Auto Parts were present to discuss possible changes and expansion of the St. Clair Recycled Auto Parts business. Mr. Khan discussed the Greentech business, which he owns and operates in Mankato. The business recycles electronics for a 12 county area, as well as, metal, copper and appliances. Mr. Khan noted that business at the Mankato facility has experienced growing pains due to the rapid expansion, especially in the area of electronics recycling. Mr. Khan stated the he is looking for additional property and avenues to expand, which led him to consider options for expansion of the St. Clair Recycled Auto Parts business. Expansion options include utilizing a car crusher at the site and erecting a fabric (hoop-type) structure for auto parts storage. At this time, Mr. Khan stated that he is looking to open a dialog with the City Council and brainstorm options for expansion to make St. Clair Recycled Auto Parts a more viable business. Mr. Khan noted that his business in Mankato is regulated by the MN Pollution Control Agency (PCA) and is inspected regularly. Mr. Khan further noted that he works closely with Scott Fitchner and Jean Lundquist at Blue Earth County Environmental Services. The City Council asked Mr. Khan to provide a site plan (indicating current and proposed structures, etc.) and prepare a written proposal addressing Council questions and concerns, including: appearance, hours of operation, noise, fire concerns, fire truck/emergency vehicle access, size and location of the proposed fabric structure, amount of impervious surface, parking, etc.

**DENN PROPERTY**

Cy Denn was present to discuss the Denn property located east of St. Clair. Mr. Denn noted that the Denn family property is currently for sale and asked the Council if the City would be interested in purchasing the property. The property consists of 14.8 acres (approx. 12.8 tillable). Mr. Denn stated that the property was appraised in 2008 at \$10,500 per acre, noting that due to changes in the economy the amount is no longer accurate. Taking a walking tour of the property was briefly discussed. The Council will consider the offer and discuss it further.

### FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Bill Fitzloff reported on the following:

1. On October 11<sup>th</sup> the Fire Dept. presented the Fire Prevention Education Program to Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> grade and the Follow Me Pre-School. The program will also be presented to children in the Early Childhood program on Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.
2. Mitt's BP hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual St. Clair Fire Dept. Pizza Fundraiser on Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. Mitt's BP presented a check for over \$1,300.00 to the Fire Dept. (proceeds from the event).
3. The St. Clair Fire Dept. has responded to 88 calls in 2011.
4. Fire Chief Fitzloff also discussed a few changes to the St. Clair Fire Dept. By-Laws. Motion by Karels, seconded by Phillips to approve the changes to the By-Laws based on review by the City Attorney. Motion carried with all in favor.
5. Mark Frahm was present representing the St. Clair Fire Dept. Relief Assoc. Mr. Frahm briefly explained the retirement fund and how it is funded. The current benefit amount is \$1,200.00 per year of service. Mr. Frahm presented a request to change the benefit amount from \$1,200.00 per year of service to \$1,300.00 per year of service. If approved the change would take effect on January 1, 2012. Motion by Phillips, seconded by Cousins to approve the request to change the St. Clair Fire Dept. Relief Assoc. benefit amount from \$1,200.00 per year of service to \$1,300.00 per year of service, effective Jan. 1, 2012. motion carried with Phillips, Cousins, Karels and Westphal in favor. Council Member Weinandt abstained.

### PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. REPORT

Public Works Dept. Supervisor Mark Krenik reported on the following:

1. Mr. Krenik thanked Dennis Seys and Catherine Seys for their help during his first week on the job.
2. WW Blacktopping has completed the annual street overlay project.
3. Water main flushing was done on all 60 hydrants throughout the City on Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.
4. The annual sludge hauling was done by David Lynch on October 21<sup>st</sup>.
5. The Memorial Park pavilion has been winterized and closed for the season.
6. The City has received the Lawn Pro renewal for services at Memorial Park and the Water Treatment Facility/Water Tower property for 2012. It was noted that the City can save 10% by renewing early. Motion by Weinandt, seconded by Karels to approve the Lawn Pro early renewal proposal. Motion carried with all in favor.
7. At the regular October City Council meeting the Council discussed the purchase of a pump for the berm inlet. Mr. Krenik noted that the cost of a new pump is quite expensive for something used so infrequently. Utilizing trash pumps and pumps through MnWARN were discussed and felt to be a more cost effective option.
8. Removal of the pole at the Water Treatment Facility was discussed. It was noted to check with Archie at BENCO.

### CITY CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

City Clerk-Treasurer Catherine Seys reported on the following:

1. The Hwy. 83 project was briefly discussed. The highway is expected to be open by the end of the week.
2. The South Central Safety Committee (SCSC) will meet in Good Thunder on November 16<sup>th</sup>. The training topic will be winter emergencies and the year end review.

### LONG RANGE PLANNING

1. Council Members reviewed the City Comprehensive Plan (Clarity 20/20). It was noted that sidewalks and connectivity were identified as high priority items in the Comprehensive Plan. In keeping with the plan the City completed the walking path

through Memorial Park to Park Street south in 2010 and a walking path from Church Street to Mitt's BP in 2011.

2. Promoting services such as VINE Faith in Action and other services available to community members was discussed.
3. Promoting local, home-based and area businesses and compiling a business directory was also discussed.

#### **COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS**

1. The Economic Development Authority (EDA) met on Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. to discuss the Old Fashioned Christmas in St. Clair and Donuts with Santa and Mrs. Claus to be held on Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> in the St. Clair School Small Gym and Commons Area.
2. Council Member Karels attended the October School Board meeting. Item discussed included policy review. Mayor Westphal will attend the November 21<sup>st</sup> School Board meeting.
3. The Blue Earth County Mayors and Clerks met in Mapleton on October 13<sup>th</sup>. The speaker for the evening was Bryan Stading from the Riverbend Center for Entrepreneurial Facilitation. The next meeting will be held in Vernon Center on November 10<sup>th</sup>. The speaker for the evening will be Jean Lundquist from Blue Earth County Environmental Services.
4. A skating rink was briefly discussed. Council Members Phillips and Karels will look for an appropriate site.
5. A computer for the Public Works Dept. was briefly discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. Motion to adjourn was made by Phillips, seconded by Cousins and carried with all in favor.

Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer