

CITY OF ST. CLAIR
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 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: Mark Krenik, Public Works Supervisor, Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer and Bill Fitzloff, Fire Chief. Others present: Connie Johns (representing the St. Clair School Board), Frank Morrill, Troy Goettl, Brad Schultz, Katelyn Wakefield and Dani Kruse.

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 November 1, 2011 Regular City Council meeting were approved with a motion by Karels, seconded by Cousins and carried with all in favor.

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

KASH KHAN (GREENTECH)

The City has received no further communication from Kash Khan (Greentech) regarding plans/proposal for expansion to the St. Clair Recycled Auto Parts business.

109 MAIN STREET EAST

Mayor Westphal has been contacted by a representative from the LeCenter bank which has control of the building/property at 109 Main Street East. The representative told Mayor Westphal that the assessed value of the property is \$21,000 and that the bank installed a new furnace and new windows in 2010. The bank representative questioned whether the City would consider purchasing the building. After brief discussion it was the consensus of the Council that the City is not interested in purchasing the building at 109 Main Street East.

SIDEWALK SNOW REMOVAL

The Council previously discussed and made changes to the City sidewalk snow removal policy. Ice and snow must be removed from public sidewalks within 36 hours after it ceases to fall. Tom Nicolai and Randy Spear have expressed interest in doing the sidewalk snow removal. Both Mr. Nicolai and Mr. Spear will charge the City \$25.00 per lot per occurrence. Motion by Weinandt, seconded by Karels to hire Tom Nicolai and Randy Spear for sidewalk snow removal at a charge to the City of \$25.00 per lot per occurrence. Public Works Supervisor Mark Krenik will check on sidewalks following a snowfall event and report which sidewalks haven't been shoveled to City Clerk Catherine Seys. The City Clerk will coordinate the sidewalk snow removal with Mr. Nicolai and Mr. Spear. Motion carried with all in favor.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Bill Fitzloff reported on the following:

1. St. Clair Fire Dept. Members currently get paid \$8.00 per hour per meeting/training and per billable call. It was noted that billable calls include fire calls and car accidents, the Fire Dept. doesn't bill for medical calls. It was also noted that the pay rate for the Fire Dept. has remained at \$8.00 per hour for approx. 20 years. Motion by Phillips, seconded by Karels to increase the pay rate from \$8.00 per hour per meeting/training and billable call to \$10.00 per hour per meeting/training and billable call. Motion carried with Phillips, Karels, Cousins and Westphal in favor; no one opposed; and Weinandt abstaining.
2. The St. Clair Fire Dept. will host the MN Valley Region Fire Chief's meeting on Tuesday, December 13th. Fire Chief Fitzloff expects approx. 50 – 60 to attend the meeting.
3. The St. Clair Fire Dept. responded to 99 calls in 2011.
4. In November, maintenance was done on the 2 Freightliner trucks and the Ford pumper.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. REPORT

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

1. The tires on the John Deere 444H payloader are the original tires (13 years old) and consideration should be given to replacing the tires. Mr. Krenik obtained three (3) estimates for new tires with the lowest bid being from a company out of Lakeville MN (state bid) for a Bridgestone Snow Wedge tire at a total cost of \$5,400.00. Motion by Karels, seconded by Cousins to purchase the Bridgestone Snow Wedge tire from Lakeville MN at a cost of \$5,400.00. Motion carried with all in favor.

2. The National Honor Society (NHS) Leaf Raking Day (Monday, Nov. 7th) went well. NHS raked leaves at 5-6 homes. The Public Works Dept. disposed of the leaves (4 dump truck loads). Mr. Krenik noted that it was a good service and if the NHS offers to do the project again the City should take them up on the offer.
3. The City will again have a Christmas tree drop-off site near the gate to the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

CITY CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

City Clerk-Treasurer Catherine Seys reported on the following:

1. The South Central Safety Committee (SCSC) met in Good Thunder on November 16th. The training topics included winter weather emergencies and the year end review.
2. An upgrade to the City utility billing program will be available early in 2012 (February/March). The upgrade will allow residents to log on to their City utility account and pay their bill on-line. The upgrade will also allow residents to post their water meter reading to their account.
3. A representative from the Bowbenders Archery Club has contacted the City regarding the property north of the LeSueur River currently owned by Jerry Pietz. The Club is interested in purchasing the property for an archery range. It was noted that the property is in City limits and Conditional Use Permit would be required for an archery range. The Council scheduled a public hearing for Thursday, January 5, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the proposed archery range. The public hearing will be held in the St. Clair City Hall Meeting Room, 304 Main Street West, St. Clair, Minnesota.

LONG RANGE PLANNING

City sidewalks and a City business directory were briefly discussed.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

1. The Economic Development Authority (EDA) met informally on Monday, December 5th to discuss the Old Fashioned Christmas in St. Clair and Donuts with Santa and Mrs. Claus to be held on Saturday, December 10th in the St. Clair School Small Gym and Commons Area.
2. Council Members Phillips and Karels discussed a skating rink for the City to be located to the east of the sand volleyball court (between the parking lot and the volleyball court). Putting down plastic and using hay bales for the perimeter of the rink was discussed. Using fire hoses to flood the rink was also discussed. Council Member Karels will coordinate with Public Works Supervisor Mark Krenik.
3. Mayor Westphal attended the November School Board meeting. Council Member Cousins will attend the December 19th School Board meeting.
4. The Blue Earth County Mayors and Clerks met in Vernon Center on November 10th. The speaker for the evening was Jean Lundquist from Blue Earth County Environmental Services. Ms. Lundquist discussed upcoming changes in plastic recycling and announced that outdated and unused medications will be accepted for disposal at the Blue Earth County Justice Center.

MISC. BUSINESS

1. Cy Denn was present at the November City Council meeting and asked if the City would be interested in purchasing the 14.8 Denn family property located east of St. Clair. The Council discussed the matter and is not interested in purchasing the property at this time.
2. Advertising in the City Newsletter was briefly discussed. The City charges \$10 per month for advertising in the City Newsletter.
3. Troy Goettl and Brad Schultz were present and expressed concern regarding the proposed expansion of the St. Clair Recycled Auto Parts business and previous discussion by Kash Khan about utilizing a car crusher at the business. The Council stated that they also have numerous concerns regarding the proposed expansion. The Council further stated that they asked Mr. Khan for a written proposal outlining proposed plans and changes to the business but have not received a written proposal and have had no further communication with Mr. Khan.

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