

CITY OF ST. CLAIR
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 2012

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 (St. Clair School Board liaison) and Ralph 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 March 6, 2012 Variance Public Hearing (332 Main Street West) were approved with a motion by Weinandt, seconded by Phillips and carried with Weinandt, Phillips, Karels and Westphal in favor and Cousins abstaining.

The minutes of the March 6, 2012 Public Information meeting (Radio Read Water Meters) were approved with a motion by Cousins, seconded by Phillips and carried with all in favor.

The minutes of the March 6, 2012 Regular City Council Meeting were approved with a motion by Karels, seconded by Weinandt and carried with all in favor.

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

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Bill Fitzloff reported on the following:

1. Severe Weather Awareness Week is April 16th – 20th. Sirens will be activated for the Statewide Tornado Drill on Thursday, April 19th at 1:45 p.m. and 6:55 p.m.
2. The St. Clair, Eagle Lake and Madison Lake Firefighters Dance was held on Saturday, March 31st at the Eagle Lake American Legion. The turnout was average for the event.
3. Hydro-testing was done on the Cascade System.
4. Nate Mace will be retiring from the Fire Department in the near future. Troy Goettl has been selected to replace Mr. Mace as Assistant Fire Chief.

RADIO-READ WATER METERS

Dan McGrane (Dakota Supply Group) was present to discuss the 'Badger' radio-read meter system. Mr. McGrane discussed the radio read meters, the hand-held device used to read the meters, the software program and training provided, as well as the transition from local read meters to radio read meters. Mr. McGrane further discussed warranty, battery life, leak and tamper detection. It was noted that with the radio read system it's possible to read all meters in town in 30 to 45 minutes. Time savings, cost savings, efficiency and accuracy were discussed as the primary benefits of a radio read meter system. The City Council will continue to research radio-read meter systems.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. REPORT

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

1. Mr. Krenik attended the MN PCA Wastewater Operators Conference on March 21st – 23rd and took the Class “C” wastewater operator exam.
2. The annual cracksealing project was discussed. Borgen, Inc. has submitted a proposal for \$6,000.00 for cracksealing Pilgrim Street and Winnebago Circle. Motion by Karels, seconded by Phillips to approve the Borgen, Inc. proposal. Motion carried with all in favor.
3. It was discussed that the City will not be doing a street overlay project this summer.
4. Motion by Cousins, seconded by Weinandt to advertise for bid for a sidewalk project which will include replacement of the existing sidewalks and pedestrian ramps on the 200 and 300 block of Main Street West and on Agency Street. Bids will be opened and reviewed at the May 1st Regular City Council meeting. The sidewalk project will include replacement of sidewalks and pedestrian ramps only, individual driveway approaches will not be included. If residents choose to have their driveway approach replaced, the cost will be their responsibility.

CITY CLERK-TREASURER’S REPORT

City Clerk-Treasurer Catherine Seys reported on the following:

1. The City Clerk-Treasurer attended the MN Municipal Clerks and Treasurers Association (MCFOA) Conference in St. Cloud on March 20th – 23rd.
2. The South Central Safety Committee (SCSC) meeting and training was held in Pemberton on Thursday, March 29th. The training topics included office safety and ergonomics and OSHA requirements (logs, files, etc.).
3. Options for making the restrooms at City Hall ADA accessible/compliant will be discussed at the May 1st Regular City Council meeting.
4. A new Animal Ordinance, including changes to the pet licensing requirements, will be reviewed by the Council at the May 1st Regular City Council meeting.
5. The Council discussed the purchase of two (2) dog waste bag dispensers, to be placed in Memorial Park and in the City lot at 305 Main Street East.
6. The City Clerk will research an ordinance and permit process which would regulate practices that cause changes to the natural flow of stormwater drainage (excavating, adding fill, digging, dredging, etc.).

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

1. Mayor Westphal attended the March School Board meeting. Items discussed included the School “Strategic Roadmap”, which includes the Mission Statement, Core Values, Vision and Strategic Direction. The School is asking School District residents for their thoughts and ideas about plans for the future of the St. Clair School District. More information about the Strategic Roadmap is available on the School website or by contacting Tom Bruels. Council Member Weinandt will attend the next School Board meeting on April 23rd.
2. The Blue Earth County Mayors and Clerks will meet in St. Clair at 6:30 p.m. on April 12th. The speaker for the evening will be Blue Earth County Sheriff, Brad Peterson.
3. A St. Clair Days fundraiser was held on Saturday, March 31st.
4. Concerns were expressed regarding motorized (scooter-type) vehicles on sidewalks and age requirement for golf cart drivers. The City Clerk will contact the Blue Earth County Sheriff’s Dept. regarding these concerns.

RALPH BUESING, 324 FRONT STREET WEST

Mr. Buesing continues to be concerned that changes have been made to the width of the street in front of his house and that the street is encroaching on his curb and his yard. Mr. Buesing stated that he has paperwork that lists a portion of Front Street as a “proposed” street and that it is still only a “proposed” street. Mr. Buesing also expressed concern about a small piece of the property that he owns on the opposite side of the street from his home.

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

Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer