

CITY OF ST. CLAIR
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 31, 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: Deb McCollum, Public Works Dept.; Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer; and Bill Fitzloff, Fire Chief. Others present: Paul Donna (Northland Securities), 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 May 1, 2012 Regular City Council Meeting were approved with a motion by Karels, seconded by Cousins and carried with all in favor.

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

PAUL DONNA, NORTHLAND SECURITIES

Paul Donna was present from Northland Securities to discuss refinancing of two (2) bonds. Mr. Donna discussed that the municipal bond rate is at an all-time low and refinancing the two (2) bonds could save the City approx. \$47,500. Motion by Weinandt, seconded by Phillips to direct Mr. Donna to pursue refinancing of the 2 bonds. Motion carried with all in favor.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Bill Fitzloff reported on the following:

1. The Fire Dept. has responded to 35 calls to date in 2012.
2. Fire Dept. members will be receiving four (4) hours of training on the new 800 MHz radio system in the near future.
3. Fire Chief Fitzloff noted that the building at 109 Main Street East is unlocked and a potential safety hazard. The City Clerk will write a letter to the owner of record asking that they secure the building immediately.
4. The Truck Committee will be meeting in the fall.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. REPORT

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

1. The 2012 Sidewalk Project timeline was discussed. Nielsen Blacktopping will be contacted and asked to wait until after St. Clair Days to start the project. Water shut-offs (curb stops) in the project area were discussed. Shut-offs are the responsibility of the property owner. Property owners in the sidewalk project area will be contacted regarding their water shut-off. It would be in the best interest of the property owners to ensure that their water shut-off is in working order.
2. Ralph Buesing's storm water drain intake was briefly discussed. Leon Depuydt (Leon's Custom Backhoe) will be contacted for his suggestions/recommendations for correcting the problem.

CITY CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

City Clerk-Treasurer Catherine Seys reported on the following:

1. The Public Works Dept. employees and the City Clerk attended the South Central Safety Committee (SCSC) meeting and training in Madison Lake on Thursday, May 24th. Training topics will include basic first aid, animal control, bucket truck safety and personal protective equipment. The next meeting will be on August 2nd in Eagle Lake.
2. The revised Animal Ordinance was discussed. Changes to the Animal Ordinance include renewing pet licenses annually with an annual renewal fee of \$2.00. Animals licensed prior to the adoption of the ordinance will be grandfathered in. The revised Animal Ordinance also includes an unlicensed pet penalty fee of \$50.00 for pets that are picked up and/or impounded for running 'at large' and found to be unlicensed. The revised ordinance also addresses dangerous and potentially dangerous animals. Motion by Weinandt, seconded by Karels to adopt the revised Animal Ordinance. Motion carried with all in favor.
3. A Golf Cart and Mini Truck Ordinance was briefly discussed. The Ordinance will be reviewed and discussed further at the regular July City Council meeting.
4. For the last several years City Wide Clean Up Day has been in the fall. The City has received a number of requests asking that the City schedule the clean-up day in the summer after the City Wide Garage Sales. The City Clerk has coordinated with Waste Management and scheduled the annual City Wide Clean Up Day for Saturday, July 14th.
5. The annual Night to Unite has been scheduled for Tuesday, August 7, 2012.
6. A resolution relating to the Constitutional Amendment regarding Election Photo ID was briefly discussed.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

1. Council Member Phillips attended the May School Board meeting. Council Member Weinandt will attend the next School Board meeting on June 18th at 6:30 p.m.
2. Mayor Westphal reported that the Blue Earth County Mayors and Clerks met in Madison Lake on May 10th. The speaker for the evening was MN Secretary of State, Mark Richie.
3. St. Clair Days 2012 activities at the Uptown Tavern will be as in the past with live music in the rear parking lot area from 8:30 pm to 12:30 am on Friday and Saturday night. It was noted that the parking lot area will be fenced. Music will be by IV Play on Friday night and Decadence on Saturday night. Motion by Phillips, seconded by Weinandt to approve the St. Clair Days 2012 activities. Motion carried with all in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ralph Buesing (324 Front Street West) was present with a concern regarding speeding on Front Street West and Front Street South. The City Clerk will contact the Blue Earth County Sheriff's Dept. and relay the speeding concern and ask that the area is patrolled for speeders more frequently.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m. Motion to adjourn was made by Weinandt, seconded by Phillips and carried with all in favor.

Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer