

CITY OF ST. CLAIR
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 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), Nancy Schleuter and Gary Larson.

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 13, 2012 Regular City Council Meeting were approved with a motion by Phillips, seconded by Weinandt, and carried with all in favor.

The invoices, bills and vendor's claims for the month of November were reviewed. The bill from Nielsen Blacktopping for the Sidewalk Project was discussed. Motion by Weinandt, seconded by Karels to pay \$60,000.00 and withhold the remaining \$18,000.00 and invite a representative from Nielsen Blacktopping to the regular January City Council meeting to discuss a few items/concerns with regard to the project. Motion carried with all in favor.

The remaining invoices, bills and vendor's claims for the month of November were approved with a motion by Karels, seconded by Cousins and carried with all in favor.

TRUTH IN TAXATION PUBLIC FORUM

The 2013 Budget/Levy was briefly discussed. Mayor Westphal opened the meeting to public comment with regard to the 2013 Budget/Levy. There being no public comment a motion was made by Cousins, seconded by Phillips to approve the final 2013 Budget/Levy. It was noted that the final 2013 Levy will remain the same as proposed and certified to Blue Earth County in September 2012. Motion carried with all in favor.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Bill Fitzloff reported on the following:

1. The Truck Committee met in November to discuss options for replacement of the 1977 International Tanker. The Truck Committee will meet again tomorrow night (Wednesday, December 5th). It was noted that costs of the chassis have increased substantially.
2. Fire Chief Fitzloff request permission to use the Public Works Dept. snow removal equipment (John Deer 444H Payloader and City truck/snow plow) if necessary in responding to a fire/rescue call during inclement weather this winter. Fire Chief Fitzloff noted that only a Fire Dept. member with experience in operating heavy equipment/snow plow equipment would be allowed to use the payloader/truck. Public Works Supervisor Mark Krenik stated that he had no concerns with the request. Motion by Phillips, seconded by Karels to approve the use of the Public Works Dept. snow plow/removal equipment by the Fire Dept. in the case of a fire/medical emergency during inclement weather. Motion carried.
3. The Fire Dept. has responded to 72 calls so far in 2012.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. REPORT

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

1. Mr. Krenik presented the Council with a breakdown of the estimates for shingling and roof repair of the Memorial Park pavilion and picnic shelter. The project will be further discussed next spring.
2. The Public Works Dept. recently flushed all dead-end sanitary sewer lines. Mr. Krenik noted that the flushing should be done annually as some lines contained large amounts of sand and debris. Mr. Krenik also stated that having the lines cleaned with a jetter/vac would be beneficial. The Council will consider the suggestion and will discuss the matter further at a future meeting.
3. St. Clair School Board liaison Connie Johns noted that it has been brought to her attention that the infield of the Memorial Park softball field is in need of aglime. Ms. Johns asked the Council to clarify the maintenance arrangement between the City and the School with regard to the Memorial Park softball field. Mayor Westphal stated that the arrangement has been, that the School maintains the infield and the City maintains the outfield. The City Clerk will contact Mr. O'Donnell or Mr. Bruels to further discuss the softball field maintenance arrangement.

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 Thursday, November 29th. The topic of the training was cold weather emergencies, winter driving, and the end of the year review. The City Clerks/Administrators also met with the training facilitator to discuss the schedule and training topics for 2013.
2. Due to the New Year's Holiday (Tuesday, January 1st) the regular January City Council meeting will need to be re-scheduled. Motion by Phillips, seconded by Weinandt to schedule the regular January City Council meeting for Thursday, January 3, 2013. Motion carried with all in favor.
3. The City Council will meet on Thursday, January 3, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss and prepare for the annual employee reviews. It was noted that this will be a closed meeting.
4. Clerk-Treasurer Seys has had several conversations with Tim Hayes, Director of the Blue Earth County Library System, with regard to the discontinuation of the bookmobile and options for rural library patrons. Library patrons will be able to order library materials by phone or on-line and have them delivered by U.S. Postal Service with return envelope included and return postage pre-paid. Residents in Amboy, Garden City, Good Thunder, Madison Lake, Pemberton and St. Clair will have access to an enhanced Mini-Library Site in their communities. The Mini-Library Site in St. Clair will be located at the St. Clair City Hall.
5. Council Member Cousins stated that he thinks the City Council Members should have business cards. The Clerk-Treasurer will have business cards printed for the Council Members.
6. It was also discussed that new rugs will be purchased for the City Hall meeting room.

LONG RANGE PLANNING

Items discussed included:

1. CITY SIGN: The EDA is reviewing sign options and will bring a recommendation to the City Council.
2. LEAF PICK-UP: The City Clerk will check with other cities with regard to sharing leaf vac equipment and other possible options.

3. RADIO READ WATER METERS: The Council will review and discuss the radio read water meter quotes in January. In addition, the Council will discuss how to organize and schedule the meter installation, if they should decide to purchase radio read meters.
4. ICE RINK: The rink area has been prepared and will be flooded as weather permits.
5. MEMORIAL PARK PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE: The Playground Committee will be meeting to consider and review playground equipment needs and options.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

1. The EDA hosted Donuts with Santa and Mrs. Claus on Saturday, December 1st. Forty-nine (49) children enjoyed the event.
2. Mayor Westphal attended the November 19th School Board meeting. Council Member Weinandt will attend the December 17th School Board meeting.
3. The Blue Earth County Mayors and Clerks met in Pemberton on November 8th, the Blue Earth County Emergency Management Team (Mike Maurer, Brenda Olmscheid and Eric Weller) were the speakers for the evening.
4. Council Member Karels mentioned that the Old Fashioned Christmas in St. Clair event will be held on Saturday, December 8th at the St. Clair School. Lots of activities are planned for the event, including horse drawn wagon rides with Santa.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. Motion to adjourn was made by Phillips, seconded by Cousins and carried with all in favor.

Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer