

CITY OF ST. CLAIR
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2014

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 Douglas Westphal, Jerry Phillips, Thomas Karels, Sr., Chris Cousins, and Jason Weinandt. Council Members absent: No Council Members were absent. City Staff present: Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer, Mark Krenik, Public Works Supervisor, and Bill Fitzloff, Fire Chief. Others present: Jeff Domras (Bolton and Menk), Connie Johns (St. Clair School Board Liaison), Daniel Petsinger (Radio Link Internet), Connie Froehlich, Marilyn Pierce, Denny Thompson, Mike Peters, Carrie Drees, Gerry Bade, David Glamm, and Amber Richter.

After calling the meeting to order by Mayor Westphal welcomed all visitors and guests, the Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND BILLS

The minutes of December 3, 2013 Regular and Special City Council Meetings were approved with a motion by Council Member Weinandt, seconded by Council Member Cousins, and carried with all in favor. The invoices, bills, and vendor's claims for the month of December 2013 were approved with a motion by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Karels and carried with all in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – There were no Unfinished Business items discussed.

NEW BUSINESS – The following New Business items were discussed:

1. RADIO LINK INTERNET – Daniel Petsinger was present representing Radio Link Internet. Mr. Petsinger explained the services he provides. He further explained that Clear Wave will be discontinuing internet service on February 1st, leaving a large number of rural residents without service. Mr. Petsinger proposes to install equipment on the City water tower along with a cabinet inside the base of the water tower to provide internet service to St. Clair and the surrounding rural community. Mr. Petsinger further described the proposed equipment to be installed and the quality of service. Mr. Petsinger discussed that he offers 'unlimited service' with no throttling and no data cap. Jeff Domras (City Engineer) asked Mr. Petsinger several questions and also noted that it may be better to locate the cabinet outside rather than inside the base of the water tower. Mr. Domras also noted that the water tower was designed to accommodate such equipment as Mr. Petsinger proposes. Several rural residents were in attendance explaining the importance of high speed internet service to rural residents, rural businesses and the farming community. Connie John's (St. Clair School Board Liaison) noted that with the use of netbooks by the St. Clair School students internet service is very important. An agreement between the City and Radio Link Internet was discussed. Mr. Petsinger provided an agreement. Clerk-Treasurer Seys will forward the agreement to the City Attorney for review. The matter will be further discussed at the Regular February City Council meeting.
2. CHANGE IN FEBRUARY CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATE – Clerk-Treasurer Seys noted that due to Precinct Caucuses being held on Tuesday, February 4th, the Regular February City Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 28, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

3. HOUSING – Connie Froehlich was present and discussed with the Council the need for additional housing (i.e. patio homes, etc.) in the City.
4. 2014 ORGANIZATION AND APPOINTMENT RESOLUTION – The 2014 Organization and Appointment Resolution was presented to the Council for discussion and review. Motion by Council Member Cousins, seconded by Council Member Phillips to approve the 2014 Organization and Appointment Resolution. Motion carried with Mayor Westphal and Council Members Phillips, Karels, and Cousins in favor and Council Member Weinandt abstaining.
5. 2014 COMPENSATIONS, RATES, AND FEES RESOLUTION - The Resolution Setting Compensations, Fees and Rates for 2014 was presented for review and discussion. Motion by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Karels to approve the Resolution Setting Compensations, Fees and Rates for 2014 with a change to the compensation for Election Judges from \$8.50 per hour to \$9.00 per hour. Motion carried with all in favor. It was noted that the water and sewer rates will be reviewed when more extensive data is available with regard to increased revenue due to the radio read water meters.
6. KITCHEN REMODEL PROJECT – The City has been budgeting for the remodeling of the City Hall kitchen. It was discussed that this winter would be the best time for the project to be completed, before summer rentals, etc. Project estimates will be obtained. Dan Murphy will be contacted regarding building code requirements for the project.
7. SNOW REMOVAL – Chad Wilde, Blue Earth County, contacted the Clerk-Treasurer regarding the City continuing snow removal in the downtown area as they had in the past. The Council directed the Clerk-Treasurer to invite Mr. Wilde to the next meeting to further discuss the matter.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Bill Fitzloff reported on the following:

1. The St. Clair Fire Dept. responded to 108 calls in 2013.
2. The Fire Dept. has responded to 9 calls so far in 2014.
3. 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. The Council agreed to the request.
4. The new fire truck hasn't gone to Forstner for the apparatus yet. Forstner should be ready for the truck within a couple of weeks.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. REPORT

Public Works Supervisor Mark Krenik reported on the following:

1. A water main break was repaired on Christmas Eve.
2. Mr. Krenik discussed the discharge line at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Mr. Krenik suggested that a gate valve be installed on the 8" line.
3. Problems have been experienced with the dialer at the Lift Station near the Post Office. Quality Flow has estimated the cost of replacement at \$1,800.00. The dialer will be replaced by Quality Flow.
4. The Annual Wastewater School will be held in Mankato in April.

CITY CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

City Clerk-Treasurer Catherine Seys reported on the following:

1. The South Central Safety Committee (SCSC) will meet in Good Thunder on Thursday, January 23rd.
2. Clerk-Treasurer Seys requested permission to attend the Municipal Clerks and Finance Officers Assoc. (MCFOA) annual Conference in St. Cloud in March. Motion by Council Member Weinandt, seconded by Council Member Phillips to send the Public Works Supervisor to the Wastewater School and the City Clerk-Treasurer to the MCFOA Conference. Motion carried with all in favor.

CITY COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

1. No one from the City Council attended the December School Board Meeting. Council Member Karels will attend the next School Board meeting on Monday, January 27th.
2. Mayor Westphal and Clerk-Treasurer Seys attended the Blue Earth County Mayors and Clerks meeting on Thursday, January 9th in Mapleton. The speaker for the evening was Tom Olinger, Abdo, Eick and Meyers.
3. A City Sign Committee meeting and Playground Equipment Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, January 23rd at 6:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT – There were no comments from the public during this portion of the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m. Motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Weinandt, seconded by Council Member Karels and carried with all in favor.

Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer