

CITY OF ST. CLAIR  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, JULY 07, 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 Westphal, Jerry Phillips, Thomas Karels, Sr., Chris Cousins and Jason Weinandt. Council Members absent: No 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).

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND BILLS – The minutes of June 10, 2014 Regular Council Meeting were approved with a motion by Council Member Karels, seconded by Council Member Weinandt, and carried with all in favor. The invoices, bills, and vendor's claims for the month of June 2014 were approved with a motion by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Cousins and carried with all in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – The following Unfinished Business items were discussed:

1. RADIO LINK INTERNET – Daniel Petsinger from Radio Link Internet was not present and has not contacted the City since the April 1<sup>st</sup> City Council meeting.
2. MEMORIAL PARK PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT INSTALLATION UPDATE – There was a delay in the installation of the playground equipment due to the weather and heavy rains, but the installation is now complete. Drain tile, pea gravel, fabric and woodchips still need to be put in. The large swing from the previous playground has been removed and would need a 40' X 40' area to be reinstalled. After discussion it was the decision of the Council to budget for a new U-style swing that will take up considerably less space. The old swing will be given away as scrap.
3. INSULATING CITY HALL MEETING ROOM CEILING – Insulating the area above the false ceiling in the City Hall meeting room, kitchen, office and restrooms was previously discussed. After further discussion it was the decision of the Council to leave the ceiling as is.
4. NUISANCE PROPERTIES – Clerk-Treasurer Seys met with the City Attorney Chris Kennedy to discuss the City Nuisance Ordinance and nuisance/unkempt properties in the City. In review of the City Nuisance Ordinance, Mr. Kennedy noted that the Ordinance is workable and well written. With regard to nuisance/unkempt properties, Mr. Kennedy stated that in most small towns the process starts with the Police Dept. issuing a citation to the owner of the nuisance property. The City will invite a representative from the Blue Earth County Sheriff's Dept. to the August City Council meeting to discuss the nuisance property concerns.

NEW BUSINESS – The following New Business items were discussed:

1. FLOOD/SANDBAGGING UPDATE –
  - A Preliminary Damage Assessment meeting will be held at the Blue Earth County Justice Center at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 10<sup>th</sup> for City and Township Officials to present damage estimates to FEMA personnel. Clerk-Treasurer Seys will attend the meeting.

- The Council discussed the responsibilities of the City (City Council Members, City employees, and Fire Dept. Members) in a flood or other emergency situations. It was discussed that the City priority and responsibility is protecting and securing City infrastructure and equipment. Individual homeowners are responsible for protecting their private property.
  - The Council discussed scheduling a meeting sometime in August to meet with residents in the flood area (Fitzloff Avenue, Park Street North and Schalow Drive).
  - A motion was made by Council Member Weinandt, seconded by Council Member Phillips that sandbags located on private property need to be removed and disposed of by the property owners. It was noted that the sand can be returned to the Blue Earth County Shed in St. Clair. Bags can be disposed of in the regular garbage. Motion carried with all in favor.
2. NIGHT TO UNITE – A City-wide Night to Unite Potluck will be held on Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at Memorial Park in St. Clair. Additional information will be posted on the City website and in the City Newsletter.
  3. PROPERTY NORTH OF LeSUEUR RIVER (JERRY PIETZ) – The City received a letter from Jerry Pietz, owner of property within City limits on the north side of the LeSueur River. In the letter Mr. Pietz asked the Council if they would be interested in purchasing his property for \$50,000.00. Motion by Council Member Karels, seconded by Council Member Phillips to decline Mr. Pietz’s offer. Motion carried with all in favor.
  4. 324 FRONT STREET WEST – Ralph Buesing contacted the City stating that he continues to have a problem with his hard water sputtering. The Council discussed the matter and believes it is an issue for a plumber and not a City issue.

#### FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT

Fire Chief Bill Fitzloff reported on the following:

1. Fire Chief Fitzloff explained that the status of Forstner Fire Apparatus has changed and they will not be unable to complete the apparatus (3,000 gallon tank) on the new fire truck. Fire Chief Fitzloff obtained a bid from Midwest Fire (Luverne MN) for \$97,839.00 for the apparatus (3,000 gallon tank). Motion by Council Member Cousins, seconded by Council Member Karels to accept the apparatus bid from Midwest Fire in the amount of \$97,839.00. Motion carried with Council Members Cousins, Karels, Phillips and Mayor Westphal in favor and Council Member Weinandt abstaining.
2. Over 400 meals were served at the Fire Dept. Steak Fry during St. Clair Days.
3. The Fire Dept. has responded to 73 calls to date in 2014.

#### PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. REPORT

Public Works Supervisor Mark Krenik reported on the following:

1. Public Works Supervisor Krenik obtained an estimate in the amount of \$2,850.00 from Hendley’s to frame, sheetrock and texture the ceiling of the Memorial Park pavilion dining area. Motion by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Karels to accept the estimate from Hendley’s for \$2,850.00 to finish the ceiling in the pavilion dining area. Motion carried with all in favor.
2. Quality Flow completed the annual checks on the pumps at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

## CITY CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

City Clerk-Treasurer Catherine Seys reported on the following:

1. Clerk-Treasurer Seys will have a Rental Ordinance for Council review at the August Council Meeting.
2. Clerk-Treasurer Seys presented the following information relating the 2014 Election:
  - A Resolution appointing Election Judges for the August 12<sup>th</sup> Primary Election and the November 4<sup>th</sup> General Election was presented to the Council. Motion made by Council Member Cousins, seconded by Council Member Weinandt to approve the resolution appointing Election Judges for the Primary and General Election. Motion carried with Council Members Cousins, Weinandt, Phillips and Mayor Westphal in favor and Council Member Karels abstaining.
  - Clerk-Treasurer Seys noted that the period for filing affidavits of candidacy for the November 4<sup>th</sup> City Election is July 29<sup>th</sup> through August 12<sup>th</sup>.
  - Clerk-Treasurer Seys also noted that Blue Earth County is implementing on-line Election Judge training.

## CITY COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

1. Council Member Karels attended the June School Board Meeting. Council Member Weinandt will attend the next School Board meeting being held on Monday, July 21<sup>st</sup>.
2. Mayor Westphal attended the Blue Earth County Mayors and Clerks meeting on Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup> in Madison Lake. The speaker for the evening was Brad Peterson, Blue Earth County Sheriff.
3. Council Member Karels discussed St. Clair Days noting that new committee members are needed for the parade, fireworks and kids day activities. Forming a St. Clair Days steering committee was discussed briefly and will be further discussed at the regular August City Council meeting.

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

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m. Motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Weinandt and carried with all in favor.

Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer