

CITY OF ST. CLAIR
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 05, 2014

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Douglas Westphal at 7:05 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, Chris Cousins and Jason Weinandt. Council Members absent: Council Members Tom Karels, Sr. City Staff present: Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer, Mark Krenik, Public Works Supervisor and Bill Fitzloff, Fire Chief. Others present: Connie Johns (St. Clair School Board Liaison), and Mark Frahm (St. Clair Fire Dept. Relief Assoc.).

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 July 08, 2014 Regular Council Meeting were approved with a motion by Council Member Cousins, seconded by Council Member Phillips, and carried with all in favor. The invoices, bills, and vendor's claims for the month of July 2014 were approved with a motion by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Weinandt and carried with all in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – The following unfinished Business items were discussed:

1. FLOOD/SANDBAGGING PROCEDURE/PRIORITIES – A Special City Council Meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, August 20th to meet with residents in the neighborhoods affected by the June 2014 flood (Fitzloff Avenue, Park Street North and Schalow Drive).
2. NUISANCE PROPERTIES – A Special City Council Meeting will be scheduled for mid-September to discuss nuisance properties and nuisance issues with the Blue Earth County Sheriff's Dept. and the City Attorney.
3. NIGHT TO UNITE – A City-Wide Night to Unite Potluck was held this evening (Tuesday, August 5th). The event was hosted by the St. Clair City Council. The event was well received; the Council anticipates holding City-Wide Night to Unite event in 2015.

NEW BUSINESS – The following New Business items were discussed:

1. ST. CLAIR FIRE DEPARTMENT RELIEF ASSOCIATION – Mark Frahm was present representing the St. Clair Fire Dept. Relief Assoc. Mr. Frahm presented the City with a copy of the annual audit. Mr. Frahm also requested the annual municipal support in the amount of \$5,000.00 for taxes payable year 2015. Motion by Phillips, seconded by Cousins to approve the request. Motion carried with Council Members Phillips, Cousins and Westphal in favor, and Council Member Weinandt abstaining.
2. SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICER – Mayor Westphal attended a meeting with St. Clair School Superintendent Tom Bruels and Blue Earth County Chief Deputy Mike Maurer regarding the possibility of a part-time liaison officer for the St. Clair School. Funding for the position, including possible grant funding is being investigated. Mayor Westphal suggested a joint City Council/School Board Workshop to further discuss the position feasibility and funding options.

3. PEDDLER'S ORDINANCE – The Council briefly discussed adopting a Solicitors, Peddlers, Transient Merchant Ordinance. The Council will not be adopting such 'Peddlers' Ordinance at this time.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Bill Fitzloff reported on the following:

1. The new fire truck is in Luverne Minnesota at Midwest Fire. The installation of the apparatus should be completed in late-September. The tank and cabinets for the unit have been ordered.
2. The Fire Dept. has responded to 81 calls to date in 2014.
3. Hiring of a new member to fill an existing vacancy on the department was discussed. Motion by Council Member Cousins, seconded by Council Member Phillips to approve the hiring of Paul Froehlich as a new member of the St. Clair Fire Dept. Motion carried with all in favor.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. REPORT

Public Works Supervisor Mark Krenik reported on the following:

1. The playground equipment project has been completed.
2. The Memorial Park pavilion ceiling has been installed. The painting of the ceiling will be completed in the near future.
3. The effluent discharge valve has been installed at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Mr. Krenik noted that the Council might want to consider purchasing a 4" trash pump for use at the WWTP during heavy rain events. The Council directed Mr. Krenik to get estimates on a 4" trash pump.
4. Installation of a water meter at the Mobile Home Park was briefly discussed.

CITY CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

City Clerk-Treasurer Catherine Seys reported on the following:

1. Clerk-Treasurer Seys presented the Council with a Residential Rental Ordinance, Residential Rental License Application, Residential Rental Inspection Form and Residential Rental Brochure for Rental Property Owners. The Council will review the Ordinance and supporting documents for discussion at a future meeting. The Council expects to implement the Ordinance by January 1, 2015.
2. The Preliminary 2015 Budget/Levy must be submitted to Blue Earth County by September 15th. A Special City Council Meeting will be scheduled for early September to discuss the Preliminary 2015 Budget and proposed Levy.
3. Nancy Schleuter and Gary Larson will be hosting the Mobile Observatory at Memorial Park on Monday, August 11th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
4. Clerk-Treasurer Seys will attend the Applicant Briefing being held on Friday, August 15th at 9:00 a.m. at the Blue Earth County Justice Center. The purpose of the Applicant Briefing is for Blue Earth County City and Township Clerks/representatives to meet with FEMA and HSEM representatives with regard to the June 2014 flood and storm damage.

CITY COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

No School Board Meeting was held in July. Council Member Phillips will attend the next School Board meeting being held on Monday, August 18th.

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

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 7.59 p.m. Motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Cousins and carried with all in favor.

Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer