

CITY OF ST. CLAIR
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 02, 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, 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 Ralph Buesing.

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 August 5, 2014 Regular Council meeting, the August 20, 2014 Public Hearing and the August 20th Special City Council meeting were approved with a motion by Council Member Cousins, seconded by Council Member Weinandt, and carried with all in favor. The invoices, bills, and vendor’s claims for the month of August 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. RESIDENTIAL RENTAL ORDINANCE – The Council scheduled a Special City Council Meeting on Tuesday, October 7, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. to review and discuss the Residential Rental Ordinance. City Building Official Dan Murphy will be invited to attend the meeting.
2. SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICER – Mayor Westphal has further discussed funding options for the School Liaison Officer with Blue Earth County Chief Deputy Mike Maurer. Mayor Westphal will attend the September 22nd School Board meeting to further discuss the Liaison Officer with Superintendent Tom Bruels and the St. Clair School Board. Monday, October 13th was scheduled as a tentative date for a joint School Board City Council meeting to discuss the possible Liaison Officer position. An alternate date of Monday, October 27th was selected.

NEW BUSINESS – The following New Business items were discussed:

1. IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH WINTER FESTIVAL RAFFLE – The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church CCW requests approval of the Charitable Gambling application to conduct a raffle during their annual Winter Festival to be held on Saturday, December 6, 2014. Motion made by Council Member Weinandt, seconded by Council Member Cousins to approve the request. Motion carried with all in favor.
2. ST. JOHN’S LUTHERAN CHURCH PARKING LOT – The Lutheran Church is considering blacktopping the Church parking lot at the corner of Front Street East and Mill Street. Mayor Westphal will contact Church Board Members to discuss the project and storm water runoff options.
3. BURKHARDT AND BURKHARDT – The 2013 audit has been completed by Burkhardt and Burkhardt. Mayor Westphal signed the representation letter provided in connection with the audited financial statement.

4. 324 FRONT STREET WEST – Ralph Buesing discussed the following items:

- The Buesing's continue to have problems with their hard water faucet sputtering. Mr. Buesing stated that the sputtering is so severe that the water often splashed onto the ceiling. This problem has previously been discussed by the City Council. The City believes this sputtering/pressure problem is caused by an internal plumbing problem in the Buesing home. Mr. Buesing feels this problem is caused by the City water meter. Mayor Westphal suggested that Mr. Buesing hire a plumber to get to the bottom of the problem. If the plumber determines that the problem is caused by the water meter the City will pay to have the problem corrected. If the plumber determines that the problem is an internal plumbing problem, Mr. Buesing will pay to have the problem corrected.
- Mr. Buesing also discussed a storm water tile located on his property. Mr. Buesing feels the tile needs to be brought up and the area around the tile filled in.
- Mr. Buesing also discussed a deep crack in the street on Front Street West near the Railroad Street intersection. Mr. Buesing stated that the crack is a hazard when he is riding his motorized scooter. Mr. Buesing stated that the crack is filled with dirt and other 'crap' and needs to be shoveled out and repaired. The Council Members Phillips and Cousins, who live in the Front Street West neighborhood, noted that Front Street West has been crack sealed in recent years and they haven't noticed any problem areas on the street. The cracks on Front Street West will be investigated.

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 begin later this month. Once installation of the apparatus begins, installation progress can be followed on the Midwest Fire website.
2. Mitt's BP is again hosting the St. Clair Fire Dept. Pizza Fundraiser. The event is scheduled for Thursday, October 9th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
3. The Fire Dept. will be presenting fire prevention programs to Kindergarten, 1st grade, Early Childhood and Pre-School children during Fire Prevention Week (the week of October 6th).
4. Several area Fire Departments have experienced problems with the new 800 MHz pager system. Area Fire Departments are meeting with Alpha Wireless to get the problems resolved.
5. A Fundraiser is being planned for St. Clair Firefighter Shawn Kunz who is battling cancer.
6. The Fire Dept. has responded to 85 calls to date in 2014.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. REPORT

Public Works Supervisor Mark Krenik reported on the following:

1. Estimates for the 4" trash pump for the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) have been obtained; possible funding through FEMA may be available for purchase of the pump.

During his report, Mr. Krenik was interrupted by Ralph Buesing, a member of the public. Mr. Buesing was laughing and making derogatory comments at both Mr. Krenik and members of the Council. Mayor Westphal attempted to maintain order and requested that Mr. Buesing limit his comments to the issue at hand. Mr. Buesing continued to make derogatory comments and interrupt the meeting. Mayor Westphal ordered the individual to leave the meeting. Mr. Buesing initially failed to leave and Mayor Westphal instructed the City Clerk-Treasurer to call 9-1-1. Mr. Buesing left.

CITY CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

City Clerk-Treasurer Catherine Seys reported on the following:

1. Due to the General Election being held on Tuesday, November 4th, the Regular November Council meeting will be held on Monday, November 10th.
2. On Friday, August 29th, Clerk-Treasurer Seys and Public Works Supervisor Mark Krenik met with FEMA representative Ron Helper and a FEMA Environmental Specialist for a 'Kick-Off' meeting relating to the June 2014 flood (DR-4182). Clerk-Treasurer Seys continued Mr. Krenik's report regarding possible funding available for flood mitigation (i.e. the trash pump for the WWTP, etc.) through the FEMA 404 Program. The 404 Program is administered by the State of Minnesota using funding made available from FEMA. Clerk-Treasurer Seys will obtain additional information on the 404 Program.

CITY COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

1. Council Member Phillips will attend the August 18th School Board meeting. Mayor Westphal will attend the September 22nd School Board meeting.
2. The Blue Earth County Mayors and Clerks will meet in Amboy on Thursday, September 11th. The Blue Earth County Mayors Clerks did not meet during the months of July and August.

UPCOMING MEETINGS – a Special City Council Meeting will be held on Monday, September 8th at 5:30 p.m. to discuss and review the 2015 Preliminary Budget and Levy. A Special City Council Meeting will also be held on Monday, September 29th at 5:30 p.m. to discuss nuisance properties in the City. The City Attorney and a representative from the Blue Earth County Sheriff's Dept. will be attendance at the meeting relating to nuisance properties.

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

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m. Motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Weinandt, seconded by Council Member Phillips and carried with all in favor.

Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer