

CITY OF ST. CLAIR
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 01, 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, Tom 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: Connie Johns (St. Clair School Board Liaison), Marvin More and Karen Hauser.

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 November 10, 2014 Regular Council meeting were approved with a motion by Council Member Weinandt, seconded by Council Member Karels, and carried with all in favor. The invoices, bills, and vendor's claims for the month of November 2014 were approved with a motion by Council Member Karels, seconded by Council Member Phillips and carried with all in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – The following unfinished Business item was discussed:

RESIDENTIAL RENTAL ORDINANCE – a Public Hearing with regard to the proposed Residential Rental Ordinance will be held on Wednesday, December 17, 2014.

NEW BUSINESS – The following New Business items were discussed:

ATHLETIC BACKERS – Karen Hauser was present representing the Athletic Backers. Ms. Hauser explained that the Athletic Backers are in the very early stages of exploring options for a possible digital sign to replace the current School sign at the corner of Main Street West and County Road 28 South. Ms. Hauser noted that the current School sign location is being considered due to accessibility to electricity. Ms. Hauser stated that the group is contacting area businesses and organizations to see if there would be interest in sharing the sign. Participating businesses and organizations would share in the cost of the sign and would share in the use of the sign by having their events listed on the sign. Council Member Cousins expressed traffic-related safety concerns. Clerk-Treasurer Seys will contact the League of MN Cities for more information relating to digital sign regulations and related safety issues. The Council suggested that the Athletic Backers contact Doug Baer, Mayor of the City of Pemberton, for information regarding Pemberton's digital sign.

2015 FINAL BUDGET/LEVY – Mayor Westphal opened the meeting to public comment with regard to the 2015 Budget/Levy. There being no public comment, a motion was made by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Weinandt to approve the final 2015 Budget/Levy. It was noted that the final 2015 Levy will remain the same as proposed and certified to Blue Earth County in September 2014. Motion carried with all in favor.

CITY SNOW REMOVAL ORDINANCE – The Council discussed the City Snow Removal Ordinance. Towing and impounding vehicles parked on City streets impeding the plowing of snow was discussed. The Council discussed the last heavy snowfall and noted that they felt the snow should have been plowed sooner and oftener during the snowfall event. Public Works Supervisor Mark Krenik stated that there is

a cost associated with plowing oftener. Public Works Supervisor Krenik further noted that all streets in town were passable, stating that drivers need to slow down and drive according to the weather conditions. The Council disagreed and directed Public Works Supervisor Krenik to plow snow every two inches (2") during a snow fall event. Public Works Supervisor Krenik stated that the Public Works Dept. will plow snow every two inches, but reiterated to the Council that plowing that frequently comes at a cost in both equipment and labor. The Council also briefly discussed declaring snow emergencies as an option to getting vehicles off the street in a more timely manner. Snow removal (hauling snow out) on the County roads in the downtown (business district) area was also discussed. Clerk-Treasurer Seys will contact area cities to see how they handle snow removal from the County roads.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Bill Fitzloff reported on the following:

1. The new fire truck should be in-service by the end of the month.
2. The Fire Dept. has responded to 116 calls to date in 2014.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. REPORT

Public Works Supervisor Mark Krenik reported on the following:

1. Christmas decorations have been put up but some poles have electrical problems.
2. An OSHA Safety Grant will be submitted for a 4-gas monitor and line locator.

CITY CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

City Clerk-Treasurer Catherine Seys reminded the Council of the following meetings:

1. Annual Employee Review: Thursday, December 11th at 6:00 p.m.
2. Residential Rental Ordinance and Residential Rental Inspection Program Public Hearing: Wednesday, December 17th at 6:00 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

1. Council Member Karels attended the November 17th School Board Meeting. Council Member Weinandt will attend the December 22nd School Board Meeting.
2. The Blue Earth County Mayors and Clerks met in Mapleton on Thursday, November 12th. The speaker for the evening was Al Forsberg, Blue Earth County Engineer. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 8th.

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

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m. Motion to adjourn was made by Mayor Westphal, seconded by Council Member Phillips and carried with all in favor.

Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer