

CITY OF ST. CLAIR
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 03, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Marvin More 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 More, Jerry Phillips, Tom Karels, Sr., Jason Weinandt and Cindy Glamm. 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: Nancy Thompson (St. Clair School Board Liaison), Dan Murphy (City Building Inspection Services), Sylvia Kunz (Amberfield).

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND BILLS – The minutes of January 7, 2015 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 January 2015 were approved with a motion by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Glamm and carried with all in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – The following unfinished Business item was discussed:

RESIDENTIAL RENTAL ORDINANCE – For many months the City Council has been considering a Residential Rental Ordinance. The City Council held an informational Public Hearing on the proposed Residential Rental Ordinance on Wednesday, December 17, 2014; owners of residential rental property and Dan Murphy (City Building Inspection Services) were invited to attend. Owners of residential rental property were also invited to attend this evening’s meeting. Dan Murphy (City Building Inspection Services) was present to clarify a question regarding the fire extinguisher requirement in rental units. Mr. Murphy noted that per the State Fire Code fire extinguishers are required in each rental unit. Following discussion a motion was made by Council Member Karels, seconded by Council Member Phillips to approve the Residential Rental Ordinance. Motion carried with all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS – The following New Business items were discussed:

DOWNTOWN STREET LIGHT OPTIONS – The Public Works Dept. employees and the City Clerk-Treasurer met with Randy Kemnitz (Xcel Energy Outdoor Lighting Services) regarding options for the 16 downtown street lights. Mr. Kemnitz will be submitting lighting options and cost estimates in the near future.

AMENDMENT TO THE 2013 BLUE EARTH COUNTY ALL HAZARDS MITIGATION PLAN – Blue Earth County Emergency Management has forwarded information regarding an amendment to the Blue Earth County All-Hazards Mitigation Plan; such amendment will allow for the inclusion of additional language in the Plan relating to the demolition of dwellings and infrastructure to prevent loss of property, thus allowing eligible entities to apply for grant funding to support such demolition or relocation. Motion by Weinandt, seconded by Council Member Glamm to approve Resolution #2015-03 ‘Resolution Adopting Amendment to 2013 Blue Earth County All-Hazards Mitigation Plan. Motion carried with all in favor.

JOINT SCHOOL BOARD/CITY COUNCIL MEETING – A joint School Board/City Council meeting has been proposed and will be scheduled in the upcoming months. The Council will consider agenda items to discuss at the joint meeting.

CITY COUNCIL TABLETS – Council tablets were previously discussed at the Budget Workshop in September of 2014. Council tablets were briefly discussed. No action was taken at this time.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Bill Fitzloff reported on the following:

1. The tank on the 1969 International is leaking. Fire Chief Fitzloff noted that the tank is the original tank. The Fire Dept. will discuss repair options at their next meeting.
2. The Fire Dept. has responded to 7 calls to date in 2015.
3. There are currently two (2) openings on the Fire Dept. The Fire Dept. is accepting applications to fill the positions.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. REPORT

Prior to the Public Works Dept. report, Mayor More complimented the Public Works Dept. on their snow removal efforts.

Public Works Supervisor Mark Krenik reported on the following:

1. An OSHA Safety Grant has been submitted for a 4-gas monitor, line locater and a gas storage cabinet.
2. Public Works Supervisor Krenik requested permission to attend the MN Rural Water Association Annual Water Conference will be held March 3 – 5 in St. Cloud. Mr. Krenik noted that continuing education is needed to keep up his water license. Motion by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Glamm to approve the request. Motion carried with all in favor.
3. The alley between Agency Street and Railroad Street was discussed. It was noted that at one time the alley ran the entire distance between Agency Street and Railroad Street (approx. 430'). In the past 30+ years the alley serves as a driveway on the east end and west end, with the middle portion (approx. 150') having returned to grass/lawn. The City Clerk-Treasurer will research vacating the alley and report back to the Council at the regular March meeting.
4. With the recent power outage, Public Works Supervisor Krenik reiterated to the Council the need for a generator at the Water Treatment Facility. The Council directed Mr. Krenik to contact the City Engineer (Jeff Domras) for generator specifications and obtain estimates.
5. Sidewalk snow removal was discussed. Public Works Supervisor Krenik noted that a lot of people aren't shoveling their sidewalks. After discussion the Council noted that for the 2015-2016 winter season they will consider increasing the charge from \$50.00 per occurrence to \$100.00 per occurrence (the amount charged to the property owner if sidewalks aren't cleared within 36 hours after a snowfall and the City has to clear them). Clerk-Treasurer Seys will also put an item about sidewalk snow removal in the next City Newsletter.

CITY CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

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

1. Clerk-Treasurer Seys discussed upgrading the City accounting and payroll software to Banyon Fund Accounting and Payroll. It was noted that the City has budgeted for the upgrade. Motion by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Glamm to approve the upgrade to Banyon Fund Accounting and Payroll. Motion carried with all in favor.
2. Motion by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Karels to approve the Election Equipment Agreement with Blue Earth County (effective January 2015 through January 2017) and payment of the \$500.00 technology fund fee. Motion carried with all in favor.

3. A letter from a resident was presented regarding the discussion at a previous Council meeting about a digital sign for the School. It was noted that the digital sign is a project being perused by the School. The letter will be forwarded to the School.
4. A Peddlers, Solicitors and Transient Merchants Ordinance was discussed. Clerk-Treasurer Seys presented a memo from the League of MN Cities regarding regulations and licensing of Peddlers, Solicitors and Transient Merchants. The Council directed Clerk-Treasurer Seys to develop an Ordinance regulating Peddlers, Solicitors and Transient Merchants Ordinance.
5. Clerk-Treasurer Seys attended a FEMA Transition meeting today at the Justice Center to discuss flood mitigation and possible funding options.

CITY COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

1. Council Member Phillips attended the January 26th School Board Meeting. Council Member Karels will attend the February 23rd School Board Meeting. It was noted that Nancy Thompson will be the School Board Liaison with the City Council for 2015.
2. The Blue Earth County Mayors and Clerks meeting scheduled for January 8th was cancelled due to inclement weather. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 12th in Lake Crystal.
3. Council Member Weinandt noted that he will be contacting Vetter Stone and Wells Concrete with regard to a City sign. Mr. Weinandt also noted that he is researching sign location options.

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

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m. Motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Karels, seconded by Council Member Weinandt and carried with all in favor.

Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer