

CITY OF ST. CLAIR
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 06, 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: Jeff Domras (Bolton and Menk), Nancy Thompson (St. Clair School Board Liaison), Tom Winkelman, Mark Sargent, and Laurie Bruels.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA, MINUTES AND BILLS – The Agenda was approved with a motion by Council Member Karels, seconded by Council Member Phillips and carried with all in favor. The minutes of September 01, 2015 Regular Council Meeting were approved with a motion by Council Member Glamm, seconded by Council Member Weinandt and carried with all in favor. The invoices and bills for the month of September 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 items were discussed:

1. 512 MAIN STREET WEST – It was noted that the contractor will begin work on clean-up and removal of the collapsed barn at 512 Main Street West after harvest is completed.

NEW BUSINESS – The following New Business item was discussed:

1. DRAINAGE CONCERN – Tom Winkelman was present to discuss drainage concerns regarding a ditch on his property that was temporarily filled in during construction of the School concession building. The area wasn't restored after the construction project was completed. Mayor More will talk to the contractor and Mr. Bruels about restoring the property to its pre-construction state.
2. FITZLOFF AVENUE FLOOD PREVENTION MEASURES – City Engineer Jeff Domras discussed the September 22nd meeting with the Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR), Blue Earth County Environmental Services, Harold Drummer, Clerk-Treasurer Seys and neighborhood property owners. Mr. Domras also discussed the definitions of 'floodway', 'flood fringe' and 'flood plain' and DNR rules regarding what can and cannot be done in the flood fringe area, stressing that DNR rules state that any work done cannot cause the river to rise upstream more than six (6") inches. Mr. Domras further discussed the need to do a study (model) of the area to determine the upstream effect of flood prevention measures (berm, etc.). Mr. Domras noted that having the model results would provide constructive data for the City to review when issuing permits. Mr. Domras estimated the cost of the modeling to be \$4,500.00. After discussion, a motion by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Karels to approve doing the study/modeling at a cost of \$4,500.00. Motion carried with all in favor.

3. IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH WINTER FESTIVAL RAFFLE – The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church CCW requested approval of the Charitable Gambling application to conduct a raffle during their annual Winter Festival. The Winter Festival and Raffle Drawing will be held on Saturday, December 5, 2015. Motion made by Council Member Weinandt, seconded by Council Member Glamm to approve the request. Motion carried with all in favor.

4. ST. CLAIR FIRE DEPARTMENT RELIEF ASSOCIATION – Mark Frahm was present representing the St. Clair Fire Dept. Relief Association (FDRA). Mr. Frahm discussed the semi-annual benefit increase of \$100.00 which will increase the member benefit amount to \$1,500.00 per year of service. The current benefit amount is \$1,400.00 per year of service. The increase is scheduled to take effect January 1, 2016. Mr. Frahm further discussed and explained that the St. Clair FDRA funds are in good shape and can more than adequately support the proposed increase. Motion by Council Member Karels, seconded by Council Member Glamm to approve the increase in St. Clair FDRA member benefit amount from \$1,400.00 per year of service to \$1,500.00 per year of service, effective January 1, 2016. Motion carried with Council Members Karels, Glamm and Phillips in favor and Mayor More and Council Member Weinandt (members of the FDRA) abstaining.

FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT

Fire Chief Bill Fitzloff reported on the following:

1. This week (the week of October 4th) is Fire Prevention Week. The Fire Dept. hosted the Fire Prevention program for Kindergarten and 1st grade today (October 6th) at the Fire Hall. They will host the Follow-Me Pre-School tomorrow and Early Childhood Family Education children and parents on Tuesday, October 13th.
2. The 6th Annual Fire Dept. Pizza Fundraiser hosted by Mitt’s BP will be held on Thursday, October 8th from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm.
3. The Grass Rig Committee has met a number of times and continues to consider options for the grass rig vehicle. At the last Fire Dept. meeting, the members voted on whether to purchase a single cab vehicle or a 4-door vehicle, with the outcome favoring the single cab option; however the Committee continues to discuss various options. The item will be tabled by the Council until a decision is made by the Fire Dept. members.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. REPORT

Public Works Supervisor Mark Krenik reported on the following:

1. 3 – 4 weeks ago someone poured, dumped or flushed some kind of fuel or chemical down the drain at their home or business, which caused significant issues at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Mr. Krenik explained that ‘good bugs’ (living bacteria) work to breakdown and dissolve the solids in the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The fuel or chemical killed off much of the good bacteria in the Plant creating serious problems. Mr. Krenik was able to keep the Plant operating and continued to pass all tests (required by the PCA) but noted that the Plant still isn’t back to normal. Mr. Krenik asked that an item be placed in the next City Newsletter asking residents and business owners not to dump or flush fuels, chemicals, oils, cleansers, etc. down the drain.
2. The fall flushing of the sanitary sewer mains and hydrants has been completed.
3. Hydrant painting has been completed.
4. The annual sludge hauling will be done in the near future (mid to late October).
5. A seal went out in one of the pumps at the Wastewater Treatment Plant Lift Station. The ‘E’ impeller will be replaced and upgraded to an ‘F’ impeller.

CITY CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

City Clerk-Treasurer Catherine Seys reported on the following:

1. Due to Election Day on Tuesday, November 3rd, the regular November City Council meeting needs to be re-scheduled. The Regular November Council meeting will be held on Monday, November 9th at 6:30 p.m.
2. The International Walk to School Day will be tomorrow (Wednesday, October 7th). Students will meet at Memorial Park and at the Fire Hall at 7:30 a.m. and walk to School. Walk to School Day is designed to promote pedestrian safety, safe routes to school, physical activity and environmental awareness as well as building a stronger connection between families, schools and the broader community.

CITY COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

1. Council Member Karels attended the September 21st School Board Meeting. Council Member Phillips will attend the October 19th School Board Meeting.
2. The Blue Earth County Mayors and Clerks met on September 10th in Eagle Lake. The speakers were Matthias Leyrer discussing 'Strong Towns' concept and Jessica Beyer from Blue Earth County discussing the sales tax for transportation option. The next meeting will be in Madison Lake on October 8th.
3. Council Member Karels briefly noted the League of MN Cities 2015 Regional Meetings being held in various locations around the state during the month of October.
4. Roosters in town were discussed. It was noted that there is no Ordinance against chickens and roosters.

PUBLIC COMMENT –

There was no Public Comment during this portion of the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m. Motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Weinandt, seconded by Council Member Karels and carried with all in favor.

Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer