

CITY OF ST. CLAIR
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 05, 2016

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, Thomas Karels, Sr., Jason Weinandt and Cindy Glamm. Council Members absent: No members were absent. City Staff present: Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer, Mark Krenik, Public Works Supervisor and Bill Fitzloff, Fire Chief. Others present: Ralph Buesing.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND BILLS

The minutes of December 01, 2015 Regular Council Meeting were approved with a motion by Council Member Weinandt, seconded by Council Member Phillips and carried with all in favor. The invoices and bills for the month of December 2015 were approved with a motion by Council Member Weinandt, seconded by Council Member Glamm and carried with all in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – The following Unfinished Business items were discussed:

1. WATER TREATMENT FACILITY GENERATOR – The generator has been set and installed. The natural gas hook-up to the unit needs to be completed. The generator will be ready for start-up in the near future.
2. NISANCE PROPERTIES – Nuisance properties were briefly discussed, the Clerk-Treasurer continues to work with the City Attorney to get properties into compliance.
3. INTERNET ISSUES – Internet issues are being researched and will be discussed at the Regular February meeting.

NEW BUSINESS – The following New Business items were discussed:

1. 2016 OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS AND DESIGNATIONS RESOLUTION – Clerk-Treasurer Seys presented the 2016 Official Appointments and Designations Resolution. After review and discussion a motion was made by Council Member Weinandt, seconded by Council Member Glamm to approve the 2016 Official Appointments and Designations Resolution. Motion carried with all in favor.
2. 2016 FEE SCHEDULE – Clerk-Treasurer Seys presented the Resolution Setting Compensations, Fees and Rates for 2016. Council Member Karels asked about lowering the water rates since the City is noticing additional revenue due to the implementation of the radio read water meters. Clerk-Treasurer Seys was not comfortable with lowering rates due to the extremely large amount of debt service the City pays every year in the water and sewer funds. Clerk-Treasurer Seys further noted that the sewer plant bond will be paid off in a couple years and that might be a better time to re-visit lowering rates. After review and discussion a motion was made by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Karels to approve the Resolution Setting Compensations, Fees and Rates for 2016, with the following changes,
 - Due to an increase from the garbage contractor, Garbage Rate will increase from \$11.75 to \$12.00
 - Due to an increase from the recycling contractor, Recycling Rate will increase from \$4.25 to \$4.50
 - The Bulk Water Rate will increase from \$10.00 per 1,000 for the first 10,000 gallons and \$7.00 per 1,000 gallons for each 1,000 gallons over 10,000 to \$10.00 per 1,000 gallons. Motion carried with all in favor.
3. CITYFORCE PLANNING and ZONING SOFTWARE – The City Building Official (Dan Murphy, City Building Inspection Services) has implemented an internet-based program (CityForce) to assist in the planning, zoning, permitting, inspection and Building Code enforcement process. Mr. Murphy will be invited to attend the February 2nd Regular City Council meeting to discuss the program and answer Council questions.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Bill Fitzloff reported on the following:

1. The Grass Rig apparatus was discussed. Fire Chief Fitzloff discussed the grass rig apparatus. The grass rig apparatus to be manufactured by Midwest Fire (as bid/approved in November) does not meet the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards for 2015. Fire Chief Fitzloff explained that initially Midwest Fire wanted the Fire Dept./City to sign a waiver releasing Midwest Fire from liability with regard to the apparatus since the apparatus will not comply with 2015 NFPA Standards. More recently Midwest Fire has provided an option for the grass rig apparatus that will meet the 2015 NFPA standards. The option/recommendation (by Midwest Fire engineer) is to move the 400 gallon water tank back over the duals and have a 'pass through' behind the cab (between the cab and the tank), with the doors to the pass through opening 'in'. During Council discussion, it was noted that the Council was not in favor of signing any waiver. After considerable discussion a motion was made by Council Member Glamm, seconded by Council Member Phillips to approve the recommendation from the manufacturer (Midwest Fire) to move the tank back over the duals and have a pass through between the cab and the tank with doors of the pass through opening in. Motion carried with all in favor
2. The Fire Dept. responded to a total of 105 calls in 2015.
3. Wade Lotton will be taking the 1001 Firefighter training.
4. Ty Mittlestaedt was elected by the Fire Dept. as the new Training Officer to replace Brad Schultz. Motion by Council Member Glamm, seconded by Council Member Weinandt to approve Ty Mittlestaedt as Fire Dept. Training Officer. Motion carried with all in favor.
5. The Fire Dept. continues to discuss options for new turn-out gear lockers.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. REPORT

Public Works Supervisor Mark Krenik reported on the following:

1. Mr. Krenik requested permission to attend the American Water Works Association (AWWA) School in Minneapolis in April. Mr. Krenik noted that the school is necessary to keep his water license current.
2. The sanitary sewer line at the Blue Earth County Garage was discussed. Sand and other debris from the pit/floor drain is getting into the sanitary sewer service line and main. Mayor More noted that he will talk to the County about remedies for the situation.

CITY CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

City Clerk-Treasurer Catherine Seys reported on the following:

1. The Annual Employee Review initially scheduled for Thursday, December 17th was re-scheduled for Wednesday, January 20th at 6:00 p.m.
2. The Regular March City Council Meeting was re-scheduled for Wednesday, March 2nd at 7:00 p.m. (MN Precinct Caucuses are being held on Tuesday, March 1st. Public meetings after 6:00 p.m. are prohibited on Caucus night.)
3. Clerk-Treasurer Seys will attend a Blue Earth County Emergency Management meeting at the Justice Center on Wednesday, January 6th.

CITY COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

1. Council Member Glamm attended the December 21st School Board Meeting. Council Member Phillips will attend the January 25th School Board Meeting.
2. The Blue Earth County Mayors and Clerks didn't meet during the month of December. The next meeting will be hosted by the City of Mapleton on January 14th the speaker for the evening will be Blue Earth County Attorney Pat McDermott.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ralph Buesing was present to discuss a drain issue on his property. The Council has addressed the issue previously and does not see a problem with the drain.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m. Motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Glamm, seconded by Council Member Weinandt and carried with all in favor.

Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer