

CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING

NOVEMBER 16, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

The regular monthly Council meeting of the City of Saint Marys was called to order by Mayor Lou Radkowski on Monday, November 16, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held in-person with an option for teleconference. Notice of this meeting was sent to Council on November 12, 2020, posted at City Hall and published in the Daily Press.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL

Mayor Lou Radkowski, Deputy Mayor Chris Pletcher, Andrew Mohny, Bob Roberts, Joe Fleming, Margie Brown, Manager Timothy Pearson, Solicitor Tom Wagner, and Recording Secretary Lorrie Levenduski.

Gina Vrobel dialed in.

City Staff: Dani Schneider, Parks and Recreation Director, Tina Gradizzi, Community Development Director and Carol Muhitch, Finance Director

VISITORS

David Brown, Ned Jacob, Richard Sadley and Amy Cherry.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES  
October 19, 2020 –Regular meeting  
Motion Passed

Bob Roberts made a motion to approve the October 19, 2020 minutes, seconded by Joe Fleming and all were in favor.

Budget workshops – November 5<sup>th</sup> and November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Motion Passed

Deputy Mayor Pletcher made a motion to approve the November 5<sup>th</sup> and November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Budget Workshop minutes, seconded by Andrew Mohny and all were in favor.

REPORT ON EXECUTIVE SESSIONS:

An Executive Session was held following the October 19, 2020 Council meeting and again on November 12, 2020. Both were regarding personnel matters. No decisions were made.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA TOPICS

David Brown and Ned Jacob both expressed their opposition to the proposed flat sewer rate.

MANAGERS REPORT

Manager Pearson provided the following report:

Leaf Collection was continuing, and the new leaf collection machine was working out well.

Tar and Chip program was nearly completed, but additional work may be done if the weather allows.  
McGill St. intersection has now been realigned and widened. Paving was completed but curbing will be done next year.

The demolition of the Depot St. buildings is awaiting drier weather due to issues with equipment access being hindered by a wet base.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Manager Pearson presented the following Treasurer’s Report for October, 2020:

Revenue collected for the General Fund was at 82% of budget down from last year of 84% and in 2018 revenue collected was at 88%. General Fund Expenditures were at 66% of budget and for last year it was at 67% and for 2018 it was at 64%. Real Estate tax revenue was at 96.2% of budget and last year at this time it was at 96.5%. Earned Income was at 72.8% of budget compared to last year of 68.9% of budget. Market value for the

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pension plans decreased this month and was above market value as of the end of September, 2019. ACT 205 monies received for the pension plans totaled \$315,125.32 - Police \$226,754.29 and Non-Uniformed \$88,371.03

The EIT was projected as a \$138,000.00 deficit for 2020.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:**

**Consider for adoption:**

Resolution No. 20-17, Setting monthly sewer rental rate for residential service addresses

Resolution No. 20-17, Setting monthly sewer rental rate for residential service addresses was presented for adoption. The proposed new flat rate was \$50.50. As previously discussed by Council at the November 5<sup>th</sup> budget workshop, this amount was determined necessary for continued operation of the Wastewater Treatment Plant and the necessary repairs to the sewer line infrastructure. It was noted the amount was a median figure compared to surrounding municipalities.

Motion Passed

Deputy Mayor Pletcher made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 20-17, setting the flat rate of \$50.50, seconded by Margie Brown and all were in favor, except Andrew Mohny who opposed.

**Consider for publication:**

An Ordinance providing for the levy and assessment of taxes for the fiscal year 2021

An Ordinance providing for the levy and assessment of taxes for the fiscal year 2021 was presented for publication. The ordinance did not include any increase to any tax rates.

Motion Passed

Bob Roberts made a motion to publish the ordinance, seconded by Joe Fleming and all were in favor.

A Resolution for the 2021 City Preliminary Budget for various funds

A Resolution for the 2021 City Preliminary Budget for various funds was presented for publication.

Motion Passed

Joe Fleming made a motion to publish the budget resolution, seconded by Bob Roberts and all were in favor.

Covenant Waiver – Benzinger Township Golf Authority

Manager Pearson explained a Covenant Waiver for the Benzinger Township Golf Authority was received from Northwest Bank regarding audit requirements. The City is the guarantor for the loan. The waiver will change the requirement of a full audit to financial statements for the years 2015-2019 for the bank only.

Motion Passed

Bob Roberts made a motion to approve the waiver, seconded by Margie Brown and all were in favor, except Andrew Mohny who opposed.

Director of Community Development Position

Manager Pearson explained with the recent change to the administrative code to create a separate Community and Economic Development Department, he recommended Tina Gradizzi be appointed as the Community Development Director. This will be considered a Department Head position and requires Council approval.

Motion Passed

Andrew Mohny made a motion to appoint Tina Gradizzi as recommended, seconded by Bob Roberts and all were in favor.

Council and the Manager congratulated Ms. Gradizzi on her appointment.

Employee Wage Scale- 2021

The 2021 City Employee Wage Scale was presented for approval. The wage scale contained Management employees to receive a 3% increase. It also contained the Community Development

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Director position and an increase to the Parks and Recreation Director position. The increase to the Parks and Recreation Director position will be an increase of the cost share for the City from 25% to 35% with the Recreation Fund. The list also contained the AFSCME union and Police union contractual increases.

Motion Passed Joe Fleming made a motion to approve the 2021 Employee Wage Scale, seconded by Gina Vrobel and all were in favor.

Easement for South Michael Road An Easement was presented between the City and the Water Authority for an upgrade to the water line at the private portion of South Michael Road. The easement was needed since the City is the listed owner of the Airport property.

Motion Passed Bob Roberts made a motion to approve the easement, seconded by Joe Fleming and all were in favor.

Acceptance of City Manager resignation City Manager Tim Pearson had submitted his resignation after the October 19<sup>th</sup> Council meeting with an effective date of December 31, 2020.

Motion Passed Andrew Mohney made a motion to accept the Manager’s resignation, seconded by Joe Fleming and all were in favor.

The Mayor and Council thanked him for his service and wished him well.

Personnel Committee scope of work Due to the resignation of the Manager, the Personnel Committee would handle the search for a new Manager. Currently, the Personnel Committee’s scope of work was to perform the Manager’s evaluation.

Motion Passed Andrew Mohney made a motion to expand the Personnel Committee’s scope of work to search for a new City Manager, seconded by Margie Brown and all were in favor.

It was noted Council would approve the hiring of a new City Manager.

Appointment of HR representative to the Personnel Committee The Personnel Committee requested the appointment of a HR representative to assist them with the search for a new Manager. It was noted this was a volunteer position.

Motion Passed Andrew Mohney made a motion to appoint Nancy Plows as the Personnel Committee HR representative, seconded by Joe Fleming and all were in favor.

Subdivision applications: 2020-10 – Wehler – South Michael Road Subdivision Application 2020-10, Wehler, for property located on South Michael Road was presented for approval. The subdivision proposed to divide two lots from a 50.13 acre parcel as a side lot addition and a stand-alone parcel. Lot 1 was 0.60 acre and will be consolidated with an existing parcel that contains a single-family dwelling with public water and onlot sewage disposal. Lot 2 was 4.02 acres that contains an existing single-family dwelling with public water and onlot sewage disposal. The residual parcel is 45.51ac and was proposed to remain vacant. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the subdivision with no comments.

Motion Passed Joe Fleming made a motion to approve 2020-10 subdivision application, seconded by Bob Roberts and all were in favor.

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**TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:**

COVID-19 Virus  
Updates/Actions

Mayor Radkowski noted the increasing positive COVID-19 positive cases. (33 yesterday and 25 today). He asked residents to try to do their best and to keep each other safe. The increase in numbers could have a harmful effect on local businesses and the ability to have enough staff for medical facilities. It was recommended by the State to celebrate Thanksgiving virtually to help slow the spread of the virus.

Margie Brown noted if we wanted to help keep our local businesses to stay open and to have enough available hospital beds, then we all must do our part by following the recommended pandemic guidelines. (wearing masks, continue social distancing and limit gatherings)

**CITIZEN COMMENTS ON  
NON-AGENDA TOPICS**

Ned Jacob commented City Boards, Authorities and Commissions are in need of members. He suggested Council members attend all the City board meetings at least once a year.

Mayor Radkowski agreed there was a need for people and encouraged those interested to submit a letter of interest.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Council wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Deputy Mayor Pletcher noted the City Manager position would be posted and advertised soon. He encouraged applicants to submit their resume. He was hopeful the new Manager would help launch the City to the next level.

Mayor Radkowski thanked the local poll workers and all those involved with the recent election. He noted the American Legion held a nice Veteran's Day ceremony.


**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

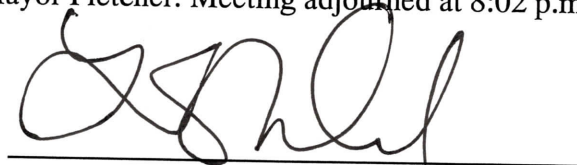
Mayor Radkowski made the following announcements:

- Council's next regular meeting has been rescheduled and will be held on Monday, December 14, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Joe Fleming made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Deputy Mayor Pletcher. Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

  
Recording Secretary

  
Mayor