

CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 20, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

The regular monthly Council meeting of the City of Saint Marys was called to order by Mayor Louis Radkowski on Monday, January 20, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the Council Room of City Hall, 11 LaFayette Street. Notice of this meeting was sent to Council on January 16, 2020, posted at City Hall and published in the Daily Press.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

A moment of silence was held for the recent passing of Richard "Slug" Bauer former Township Supervisor, a member of the Government Study Commission which formed the City's Home Rule Charter and a former member of the Airport Authority and also for Dean Hansen, City Employee and Zoning Hearing Board Chairman.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Louis Radkowski, Chris Pletcher, Andrew Mohney, Margie Brown, Bob Roberts, Joe Fleming, Gina Vrobel, Manager Timothy Pearson, Solicitor Tom Wagner and Recording Secretary Lorrie Levenduski.

City Staff: Hannah Brock, HR Specialist and PR Officer, Tina Gradizzi, Community & Economic Development Coordinator.

VISITORS

Visitors included: Jerry Bonfardine, Richard Sadley, Jennifer Asti, Amy Cherry and Seth Higgins.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
January 6, 2020 –
Reorganization Meeting

Andrew Mohney made a motion to approve the January 6, 2020 minutes, seconded by Bob Roberts.

A correction was needed to the motion for adjournment.

Motion Passed

All were in favor of the motion with the noted correction.

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

Mayor Radkowski presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Jennifer Asti for her 5 years of service on the Board of Health.

The following will also receive a certificate:

Name of Authority, Board or Commission	Name of member and years of service
Redevelopment Authority	Lyle Garner – 6 years Todd "Booka" Hanes – 6 years Warren Stewart – 14 years Joseph Haines – 9 years
St. Marys Area Airport Authority	Joseph Meyer – St. Marys Position – 2 years George Terbovich – St. Marys and Elk Co. positions - 15 years
Municipal Authority	Michael Haines – 8 years
Zoning Hearing Board	Dean Hansen – 23 years
Planning Commission	Jodi Foster – 4 years

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA TOPICS

There were no citizen comments on agenda topics.

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MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Radkowski noted how he recently enjoyed talking to residents on the projects in the downtown (Dickinson and the downtown park). He and the Manager recently toured the Ledvance building with representatives of the Northern Regional Pennsylvania College and others. He noted how massive the facility is and hoped to fill it with necessary services and/or businesses for the City.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Pearson explained he and Tina Gradizzi met with representatives of Dickinson. He explained the demolition of the downtown buildings along Railroad Street would hopefully occur in the spring. The design phase is not final and they were considering various options.

He stated the meterheads were now in place in the former permit only spaces. The meter repairman position will now fall under Public Works.

He stated the Fitness Court arrived, is stored at the Parking Garage and pending installation. He will provide a park update in February or March.

He noted the permit process is moving along for the demolition of the Depot Street buildings and he was hopeful for it to occur in May.

He noted the street crew did a good job after the snow, then rain then freezing event.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Manager Pearson provided the following Treasurer's Report for December 31, 2019:

Total General Fund for 2019 was \$7.175M or 98.7 percent of budget; for 2018: \$6.8M or 107 percent; 2017: \$6.6M or 100.5 percent and for 2016: \$7.3M or 117 percent of budget. For 2019 General Fund Expenditures were \$7.26M or 99.8 percent of budget; 2018: \$6.7M or 105 Percent; 2017: \$7.1M or 109 percent and for 2016 \$5.95M or 95 percent of budget. Total Real Estate Taxes collected for 2019 was at 98.57 percent of budget, for 2018, 2017 and 2016 figures were at 100 percent of budget. Earned Income Tax collected for 2019 was \$1.989M or 92.53 percent of budget. For 2018, 2017 and 2016, EIT collections were at or over 100 percent of budget. The value of the pension funds increased 17 percent from last year. Currently, the City has not received the 4th quarter delinquent Real Estate Taxes from the County and some outstanding invoices from vendors and other adjustments will be made, so figures for the end of the year will change and be adjusted. The final financial report should be available along with the audit report in May of 2020.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION:

Appointment of Deputy Mayor

Mayor Radkowski explained due to a tie vote at the last meeting, the appointment of the Deputy Mayor was on tonight's agenda. He requested Council vote for either of the two nominated for Deputy Mayor, Joe Fleming or Chris Pletcher.

Roll Call Vote

On a roll call vote Gina Vrobel, Joe Fleming and Bob Roberts voted for Joe Fleming. Chris Pletcher, Margie Brown, Andrew Mohny and Mayor Radkowski voted for Chris Pletcher.

Majority Vote for Chris Pletcher

Chris Pletcher was appointed as Deputy Mayor with a 4 to 3 vote.

Consider for adoption:
Resolution No-20-02, re: Annual
Fair Housing Resolution

Resolution No. 20-02 the City's Annual Fair Housing Resolution was presented for adoption.

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Tina Gradizzi clarified due to the City receiving federal funds this was an annual requirement.

Motion Passed

Bob Roberts made a motion to adopt Resolution No 20-02, seconded by Joe Fleming and all were in favor.

Resolution No. 20-03, re:
Authorization to sign agreements
with PennDOT for 2020

Resolution No. 20-03 was presented for adoption authorizing the Mayor or the Manager/Secretary to sign agreements with PennDOT for 2020.

Chris Pletcher made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 20-03, seconded by Margie Brown and all were in favor.

Consider for publication:
An Ordinance re-establishing the
Youth Activities Commission

An Ordinance re-establishing the Youth Activities Commission was presented for publication. Former Councilman Seth Higgins, who initiated the ordinance approached the podium and provided a recap of information previously presented and discussed at a Council meeting. He explained the commission would include 7 youth members of the St. Marys Area School District or Elk County Catholic and two adult members.

Council discussed the proposed ordinance. It was noted the current ordinance expired the commission two years after adoption. It was also noted that a committee could be considered instead.

Motion Passed

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

Approval of Revised Lease
between the City and Christian
Food Bank

Manager Pearson explained a revised Lease between the City and the Christian Food Bank was being presented for Council's consideration. Due to ongoing expansion projects the revised lease included the right of first refusal although it was unlikely the City would want to sell the property. The current impound lot behind the building would continue to be used by the City until it is determined it no longer has a need to use it. The term of the lease was reset for 25 years. The original lease also included the Youth Center. It was originally planned that the Youth Center and the Food Bank would share the space in the building in a portion of the S. Michael St. Fire Station. The Youth Center acquired space on Erie Ave. above the Hoy's building, but the lease was never revised.

Motion Passed

Bob Roberts made a motion to approve the lease, seconded by Margie Brown and all were in favor.

Appointment of City Delegate to
the Elk County Tax Collection
Committee

Manager Pearson requested appointments to the Elk County Tax Collection Committee:

The following was recommended for appointment by title:

- Delegate, Finance Director – Carol Muhitch
- Alternate Delegate, Deputy Finance Director – Kristi Wendel

Motion

Chris Pletcher made a motion to appoint as recommended, seconded by Margie Brown.

Discussion

Bob Roberts suggested the City Treasurer, which is also the City Manager, be appointed to the committee.

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Manager Pearson explained the committee was formed to determine an Earned Income Tax Collector for the County.

Mayor Radkowski requested Council receive the minutes from the committee meetings.

Solicitor Wagner noted the committee is currently composed of various positions from the other municipalities (elected officials, managers) and there is no specific requirement for appointment to the committee. He clarified that more than one alternate could be appointed to the committee.

Motion Revoked

Chris Pletcher revoked his motion and Margie Brown revoked her second.

Motion

Bob Roberts made a motion to appoint the following by position:

- Delegate, Finance Director – Carol Muhitch
- Alternate Delegate, Deputy Finance Director – Kristi Wendel
- Alternate Delegate, City Treasurer – Tim Pearson

Motion Passed

The motion was seconded by Margie Brown and all were in favor.

Appointments to the Golf Authority, Airport Authority, and the St. Marys Public Library Board

The following list was presented for appointments to the Golf Authority, Airport Authority, and the St. Marys Public Library Board:

NAME OF AUTHORITY, BOARD OR COMMISSION AND LENGTH OF TERM	TERM EXPIRING	NUMBER OF VACANCIES	LETTERS RECEIVED FROM	RECOMMENDATION
Benzinger Township Golf Authority (5 years)	J. Stephen Bagley	1 Vacancy	J. Stephen Bagley	J. Stephen Bagley
St. Marys Area Airport Authority (5 years)	Joseph Meyer – St. Marys Position	1 Vacancy	Jerry Bonfardine Greg Stauffer	Jerry Bonfardine
St. Marys Public Library	James Hoffman	1 Vacancy	James Hoffman	James Hoffman

Golf Authority Appointment

Chris Pletcher asked Joe Fleming if he would be interested in serving on the board and Mr. Fleming responded he could not commit to it at this time but would like to be involved.

Motion

Bob Roberts made a motion to appoint Stephen Bagley, seconded by Joe Fleming.

Discussion

Chris Pletcher stated his concerns with the appointment due to ongoing communication issues and financial concerns with the Golf Authority and the Golf Association.

Mayor Radkowski noted a meeting to discuss the matter would be scheduled soon. He was waiting for positive movement by the Authority. He noted not filling the vacancy at this time was not a reflection of Mr. Bagley.

Bob Roberts questioned if Council had an obligation to fill the vacancy and Mayor Radkowski responded Council also had an

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obligation to make sure the golf course was being run efficiently.

Joe Fleming concurred that this was not aimed at the applicant.

Mayor Radkowski restated the need to see positive activity at the golf course.

Chris Pletcher stated he preferred to wait on the appointment due to the inability to meet and discuss the situation at the golf course with the new Council members.

Joe Fleming stated he believed there should be more oversight and further discussions. He didn't think the Golf Course should need City money. He further noted the importance of having an 18-hole golf course.

Margie Brown stated she wanted the golf course to succeed.

Mayor Radkowski stated when there are concerns with any of the City's Authorities the only power Council has is who they appoint.

Roll Call Vote – Motion Failed

Bob Roberts and Joe Fleming voted in the positive and Gina Vrobel, Andrew Mohney, Chris Pletcher, Margie Brown and Mayor Radkowski voted in the negative. Motion Failed.

Motion to Table Passed

Chris Pletcher made a motion to table the appointment until February, seconded by Gina Vrobel and all were in favor, except Bob Roberts and Joe Fleming.

Airport Authority Appointment

Andrew Mohney made a motion to appoint Jerry Bonfardine to the Airport Authority, seconded by Margie Brown and all were in favor.

Motion Passed

Library Board Appointment

Andrew Mohney made a motion to appoint James Hoffman to the Library Board, seconded by Joe Fleming and all were in favor.

Motion Passed

Subdivision Application 20-01,
Barbara Dippold, Wilson Road

Subdivision Application 2020-01 was presented for Barbara Dippold for property located on Wilson Road. The subdivision proposed to divide a 1.273 ac lot from a 5-ac parcel as a front lot addition to an adjoining parcel. The receiving parcel contains an existing family dwelling with public water and private sewage disposal. The residual parcel is approximately 3.727 ac and contains an existing single-family dwelling with public water and private sewage disposal. No new building lots will be created as a result of this subdivision. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the subdivision with the comment to confirm the distance of the southern property line with the surveyor. The surveyor was contacted and provided a revised deed description for the combined lots that matched the plat, thus complying with the Commission's comment.

Andrew Mohney made a motion to approve 20-01 subdivision application, seconded by Gina Vrobel and all were in favor.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

There were no topics for discussion.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS ON
NON-AGENDA TOPICS**

There were no citizen comments on non-agenda topics.

MANAGER'S COMMENT

Manager Pearson explained a meeting was scheduled with the St. Marys Area School District and Stackpole Hall Foundation

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and Clearfield County Habitat for Humanity to work a project for Elk County.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Pletcher welcomed the new members and believed the last two years have been positive.

Joe Fleming reminded residents that the St. Marys Little League softball and baseball registrations were being accepted.

Gina Vrobel added that registrations for soccer were also being accepted.

Joe Fleming thanked the street crew for their work over the past weekend.

Mayor Radkowski also thanked the street crew, liked the recent writeup in the local newspapers on City staff members especially Dani Schneider the new Parks and Recreation Director and noted the Census is important to obtain funding, so please be counted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

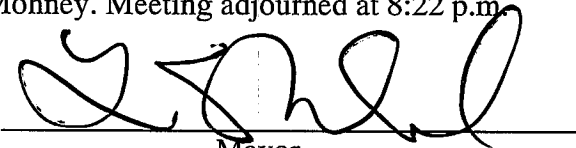
Mayor Radkowski made the following announcements:

- Council's next regular meeting will be held on Monday, February 17, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

Gina Vrobel made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Andrew Mohny. Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.


 Recording Secretary


 Mayor