

CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING

FEBRUARY 15, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

The regular monthly Council meeting of the City of Saint Marys was called to order by Mayor Christopher Pletcher on Monday, February 15, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held as a combination of in-person and teleconference. Notice of this meeting was sent to Council on February 11, 2021, posted at City Hall and published in the Daily Press.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG
ROLL CALL

Mayor Chris Pletcher, Deputy Mayor Bob Roberts, Andrew Mohny, Joe Fleming, Interim Manager Lou Radkowski, and Recording Secretary Lorrie Levenduski.

Margie Brown, Gina Vrobel and Solicitor Tom Wagner dialed in.

VISITORS

Dan Nedzinski, Faisal El-Ewar, Jacqueline El-Awar, Shane Schneider, Stephen Bagley, Seth Higgins, Ned Jacob, Amy Cherry, Tom Nicklas and Richard Sadley.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
January 18, 2021 – Regular meeting
Motion Passed

Bob Roberts made a motion to approve the January 18, 2021 minutes, seconded by Margie Brown and all were in favor.

REPORT ON EXECUTIVE SESSION:

An Executive Session was held Monday, February 8, 2021 regarding personnel matters. No decisions were made.

PRESENTATION OF
EMPLOYEE YEARS OF
SERVICE AWARDS

Mayor Pletcher presented Chief of Police, Tom Nicklas with a 25 years of service award.

The following was not in attendance and would receive his award after the meeting.

Robert Cunningham Retired Employee – 46 years of service

PRESENTATION OF
CERTIFICATES OF
APPRECIATION TO
OUTGOING BOARD
MEMBERS

Mayor Pletcher presented the following Certificates of Appreciation to outgoing board members:

Faisal El-Awar	Airport Authority – 19 years
Dan Nedzinski	Airport Authority – 5 years
Stephen Bagley	Shade Tree Commission – 3 years

The following was not in attendance and would receive his certificate after the meeting:

James Catalone Airport Authority – 2 years

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON
AGENDA TOPICS

There were no citizen comments on agenda topics.

MANAGERS REPORT

Interim Manager Radkowski provided the following report:

- Thanked Chief Nicklas and Robert “Hoss” Cunningham for their years of service.
- Provided a timeline for the response to the pending snowstorm.
- City Council and Mayor positions are currently circulating petitions for the 2021 election.
- Personnel Committee along with the HR representative is in the interview process for the Manager position.
- Reviewing options for the vacant LEDVANCE building

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on how to market and fill the space.

- Reviewing marketing option for the Airport Industrial Park lots.
- Reviewing downtown businesses, infrastructure projects, beautification and walkability.
- Public Works is preparing for the bridge and mill and fill summer projects.
- The Airport Road Access Project is working with the Airport on upcoming events.
- Requested an Executive Session regarding personnel matters.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Interim Manager Radkowski provided the following January, 2021 Treasurer's Report:

For 2021, revenue for the General Fund was at 1.13% of budget; for 2020 it was 1.55%; for 2019 it was 1.75% of budget and for 2018 revenue was 2% of budget and 2021 expenditures were at 5.1% of budget for the General Fund; for 2020 expenditures were 5.85% of budget; for 2019 expenditures were at 5.5% of budget; and for 2018 was 6.4% of budget. Revenue will be low for the first few months of the year, since real estate tax bills are not mailed out until March 1st. Earned income collected in January of 2021, was at 2.8% of budget; for 2020 it was 4.14% of budget; for 2019 it was 4.36%; and for 2018 it was 5.3% of budget. Pension plans decreased in January, but current value was higher than the last three years. There were 455 new resident customers added to the sewer billing. Industry and other customers will be billed quarterly by Routes, so you will see the normal billing for them starting in March. Balances as of 1/1/2021 were adjusted to actual with 2020 year-end adjusting entries and will also be adjusted again in February.

Mayor Pletcher noted the Finance Committee met after the new appointment was made at the last Council meeting.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION:

Appointment to fill Council vacancy

Mayor Pletcher explained the following four candidates were being presented for consideration for appointment to the Council vacancy:

Andrew Wright
Shane Schneider
Nedward Jacob
Seth Higgins

Each Candidate presented their personal history, experience and qualifications for the vacancy.

Nominations

Deputy Mayor Bob Roberts nominated Shane Schneider, seconded by Joe Fleming.

Mayor Pletcher nominated Andrew Wright, seconded by Andrew Mohny.

Mayor Pletcher nominated Nedward Jacob, seconded by Andrew Mohny.

Mayor Pletcher nominated Seth Higgins, seconded by Margie Brown.

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Mayor Pletcher explained all the candidates were nominated for the roll call vote.

Roll Call Vote

On a roll call vote Deputy Mayor Bob Roberts, Joe Fleming, Margie Brown and Gina Vrobel voted for Shane Schneider.

Andrew Mohny voted for Nedward Jacob and Mayor Pletcher voted for Andrew Wright.

Winner Declared

Mayor Pletcher declared Shane Schneider the winner with four votes.

Appointment to Youth Activities Commission

The Youth Activities Commission still had two youth vacancies and received one letter of interest from Daulton Bauer. The Commission recommended the appointment of Daulton Bauer.

Motion Passed

Deputy Mayor Roberts made a motion to appoint Daulton Bauer, seconded by Gina Vrobel and all were in favor.

Consider for adoption:

Resolution No. 21-02 - Authorizing the Mayor and/or the Manager/Secretary to sign agreements with PennDOT for 2021

Resolution No. 21-02 - Authorizing the Mayor and/or the Manager/Secretary to sign agreements with PennDOT for 2021 was presented for adoption. This is an annual requirement of PennDOT.

Motion Passed

Joe Fleming made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 21-02, seconded by Andrew Mohny and all were in favor.

Consider for publication:

An Ordinance amending Chapter 15 of the St. Marys City Code related to parking and parking meters

An Ordinance amending Chapter 15 of the St. Marys City Code related to parking and parking meters was presented for publication. The proposed ordinance was a clean up effort by City staff and the Solicitor. Over time changes have occurred to the parking regulations by resolution that were tied to the City Code by ordinance but never changed. With the addition of the Meter Feeder application, it was necessary to review the parking regulations and during that process the Solicitor condensed and simplified the parts of the ordinance relevant to the on-street parking, parking lots and parking permits and passes to make them current and correct.

Deputy Mayor Roberts requested to remove "observed by the City" language referenced in Section 7 for Federal Holidays and Sundays of the ordinance.

Motion Passed

Deputy Mayor Roberts made a motion to publish the ordinance, with the above noted change, seconded by Margie Brown and all were in favor.

An Ordinance amending Chapter 22 of the St. Marys City Code (the City of St. Marys subdivision and land development ordinance) relating to final approval of minor subdivisions

An Ordinance amending Chapter 22 of the St. Marys City Code (the City of St. Marys subdivision and land development ordinance) relating to final approval of minor subdivisions was presented for publication. This transfer of authority would help expedite the approval process. The Planning Commission discussed the transfer of approval authority for minor subdivisions. While in favor of the revision to the Subdivision Ordinance, the Commission did have questions about bonding and liability. The insurance agent recommended adding an endorsement to the City's current policy to pay any awarded damages. The estimated cost was \$1,043 per year.

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Motion Passed

Joe Fleming made a motion to publish the ordinance, seconded by Deputy Mayor Roberts and all were in favor, except Andrew Mohny who opposed.

An Ordinance amending Chapter 16 of the St. Marys City Code, relating to the regulation of public parks within the City

An Ordinance amending Chapter 16 of the St. Marys City Code, relating to the regulation of public parks within the City was presented for publication. With the new downtown event park ready to hold events, it was necessary to address the permit and approval process for special event requests. The solicitor had reviewed the current ordinance and drafted the changes which included an alcohol waiver permit process and cleanup of the ordinance.

Deputy Mayor Roberts questioned the language regarding the operation of motor vehicles within the parks, and allowable animals within the park.

After a brief discussion, Solicitor Wagner noted the language referred to by Deputy Mayor Roberts was the original ordinance language.

Motion

Mayor Pletcher made a motion to publish the ordinance, seconded by Joe Fleming.

Clarification

Mayor Pletcher clarified the ordinance would need modified once the downtown park was officially named.

Manager Radkowski confirmed the naming of the park was still necessary and he would check on the process.

Motion Passed

All were in favor to publish the ordinance except Deputy Mayor Roberts who opposed.

**TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:
COVID Updates**

Manager Radkowski explained St. Marys Parish recently had a vaccination clinic thru Penn Highlands. St. Marys Pharmacy will hold a second dose vaccination clinic. A mass testing event was held last week at the Bucktail Plaza and the results will show in the County total of positive cases report issued by the Department of Health.

Joe Fleming noted the Emergency Management Committee was concerned with the supply versus demand of the vaccinations. He noted more clinics would be held as the vaccine becomes available.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS ON
NON-AGENDA TOPICS**

There were no citizen comments on non-agenda topics.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Gina Vrobel noted the recent clinic was handled very professionally.

Margie Brown thanked Chief Nicklas for his service. She also thanked all the applicants for the Council vacancy and encouraged them to run for election to the 2022 seats. She also thanked the Youth Activities Commission for their continued involvement.

Joe Fleming thanked the Street Department for their dedication during the winter weather. He also thanked the Parks and

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Recreation Department and the Woman Who Care Group for the new ice-skating rink at Benzinger Park.

Deputy Mayor Roberts reminded everyone of the Annual Rotary Auction to be held Sunday, February 28th which raises at least \$20,000 that would be put back into the community.

Mayor Pletcher explained the American Legion along with member of the Meyer family were planning a memorial for General Edward Meyer in the new downtown park on August 7th of this year. He noted General Meyer was a very famous and prestigious native son of the City. He also congratulated the new Council member, Shane Schneider.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

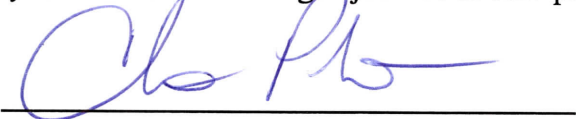
Mayor Pletcher made the following announcements:

- Council’s next regular meeting will be held on Monday, March 15, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.
- An Executive Session will be held following adjournment of tonight’s meeting regarding personnel matters.

ADJOURNMENT

Andrew Mohney made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Gina Vrobel. Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.


Recording Secretary


Mayor