

TELECONFERENCE REGULAR MEETING

APRIL 20, 2020

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mayor Radkowski announced this meeting is a teleconference meeting and will be an "audio only" broadcast on the City Channel - Zito Media 96.2 and live streamed on The River 98.9 website. Citizens were encouraged to provide comments on agenda topics prior to the meeting by emailing info@stmaryspa.gov The Council meeting agenda and minutes can be found on the City's website www.stmaryspa.gov under the City Council tab.

CALL TO ORDER

The regular monthly Council meeting of the City of Saint Marys was called to order by Mayor Louis Radkowski on Monday, April 20, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held via a teleconference. Notice of this meeting was sent to Council on April 16, 2020, posted at City Hall and published in the Daily Press with the above-mentioned directions for public comment.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**ROLL CALL**

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

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

VISITORS

There were no visitors.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 March 23, 2020 – Rescheduled
 Regular Teleconference Meeting
 Motion Passed

Bob Roberts made a motion to approve the March 23, 2020 minutes, seconded by Chris Pletcher and all were in favor.

PROCLAMATIONS:

Proclamations were signed by Mayor Radkowski for Arbor Day and Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month. They will be distributed at a later time.

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

A Certificate of Appreciation for Phil Fitch, Health Officer – for his 21 years of service will also be distributed at a later time..

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA TOPICS

The following correspondence received regarding agenda topics was included in the Council packet:

- Letter from Bobbie Mullaney – opposition to the Unreasonable Noise Ordinance
- Response from City Manager to Mrs. Mullaney with attachments that included current City Code references
- Letter from John Zelt – Add engine brakes to the Unreasonable Noise Ordinance

The above comments were reviewed by Council and noted for the record.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Manager Pearson provided the following Treasurer's Report for March 31, 2020:

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March 31st marks the end of the 1st quarter of 2020 and Revenue collected for the General Fund was at 19.8 percent of budget. Expenditures for the General Fund was at 20.4 percent of budget. Last year revenue was at 19.9 percent and expenditures were at 21.4 percent of budget. In 2018, revenue was at 22 percent and expenditures were at 23 percent of budget. In 2017, revenue was at 23 percent and expenditures were at 22 percent of budget. Revenue collected for Real Estate taxes for 2020 was 18.2 percent of budget, in 2019 it was 18.6 percent and in 2018 it was 18.4 percent and in 2017 it was 21.7 percent of budget. Earned Income Tax revenue for the 1st quarter was at 26.6 percent, for 2019 was 19.4 percent, for 2018 was 25.6 percent and in 2017 was 28.3 percent of budget. The City should have a better idea of collections on the Earned Income Tax in May when the City receives the 1st quarter payments. Pension Plans market value had dropped below the market recorded in March of 2017.

Manager Pearson noted in 2019 the Earned Income tax was increased so the figures are now reflecting better percentages. It is unclear of the projections due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the large number of layoffs across the state and country due to stay at home orders and the shutdown of many businesses. The Pension Plans broker will be providing an update to the Pension Committee soon.

Mayor Radkowski noted the school district had agreed to not increase their property taxes for the 2020-2021 year to alleviate any additional burden on taxpayers at this time.

It was noted the Finance Committee will be reviewing possible shortfalls in any of the City's budgets.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION:

Consider for adoption:

Ordinance No. 317 - regulating unreasonable noise from dogs and other animals and imposing penalties

Ordinance No. 317 - regulating unreasonable noise from dogs and other animals and imposing penalties was presented for adoption.

It was reclarified the ordinance adds language to Chapter 4 Section 4 – Animals. The change was to provide the Animal Control Officer the authority along with a Police Officer to enforce the language already in the current Code Book under Chapter 6 Section 101.

Motion Passed

Bob Roberts made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 317, seconded by Joe Fleming and all were in favor.

Ordinance No. 318 - revising City Code Chapter 18, Part 5 Retaining Tanks

Ordinance No. 318 amending the City Code Book, Chapter 18, Part 5, Use of Retaining Tanks, to allow the permanent use of retaining tanks under specific circumstances was presented for adoption.

Matthew Pfeufer explained the ordinance change would allow the permanent use of a retaining tank for institutions, commercial and recreational vehicle dump stations, which was necessary to comply with DEP regulations. No comments were received.

Motion Passed

Joe Fleming made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 318, seconded by Deputy Mayor Pletcher and all were in favor.

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Resolution No. 20-07 – Parking Permit Changes

Resolution No. 20-07, parking permits changes was presented for adoption.

Bob Roberts explained the Parking Committee had reviewed and recommended the proposed changes. The resolution will correct language previously approved in Resolution No. 19-07 and will provide permit parking at color coded meters. The new language was as follows:

(c) Limited Parking Permit – the monthly fee of Twenty Dollars (\$20.00), which will allow non-priority parking at color-coded meters in any metered parking lot, at specially color-coded on-street meters, and at the parking garage within the City between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M.

The list of meters that would be color coded was presented to Council. It was noted the list could be adjusted to accommodate demand or complaints. It also would allow customers the ability to park downtown during peak hours. The meters will have a color-coded tape on the bottom of the meter head, which is located at the top of the meter post.

Motion Passed

Margie Brown made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 20-07, seconded by Deputy Mayor Pletcher and all were in favor.

Bob Roberts listed the following:

AVAILABLE PARKING PERMITS FOR LIMITED NON-PRIORITY PARKING

- 24 spaces Detsch lot. (Entire Lot)
- 4 spaces Angular on Diamond (First 4 across from City Hall)
- 14 spaces in Depot St. Lot. (Entire row along sidewalk on Depot St.)
- 10 spaces Angular Boulevard (First 10 meters starting at Clock going South) 10
- 8 spaces in Market St. Lot (From Market St. to Belltower, North side)
- 7 spaces in Bruxelles St. Lot (Top of lot on Right side)
- 67 Total Available
- 56 Limited Permits as of March 1st
- 60 Proposed limit of permits

Note: This permit is non-priority, meaning other coin or Meter Feeder customers can use them.

Resolution No. 20-08- Authorizing the execution of an agreement with PennDOT for acceptance of the funds for the Airport Industrial Park access road improvements

Resolution No. 20-08- Authorizing the execution of an agreement with PennDOT for acceptance of the funds for the Airport Industrial Park access road improvements was presented for adoption.

Manager Pearson explained Council previously approved Resolution No. 18-02 in the amount of \$585,576.00 and since then the project costs had increased substantially due to the project being under PennDOT regulations and requirements. The City was then awarded additional ARC funds to cover the costs. The revised Resolution No. 20-08 was in the amount of 905,601.00.

Motion Passed

Bob Roberts made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 20-08, seconded by Joe Fleming and all were in favor.

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Revised Citizen Participation Plan

A revised Citizen Participation Plan was presented for approval. Tina Gradizzi explained Section 10 of the plan was amended due to the COVID-19 impacts and limits to public gathering. This will allow the ability to expedite the process and the relax the rules for holding a public hearing and obtaining public comment.

Motion Passed

Andrew Mohney made a motion to approve the revised Citizen Participation Plan, seconded by Margie Brown and all were in favor.

Emergency Management Coordinator Position

Manager Pearson stated the following:

Emergency Management Committee met on April 7th to interview the 3 Candidates who submitted letters of interest for the Emergency Management Coordinator position. Each candidate was given time to discuss their interest with the committee and answer questions. All 3 candidates did a great job talking with the committee and providing their inputs. Candidate Marty Kim removed his letter of interest during his interview.

After good deliberation, the committee recommends that Greg Gebauer be the next Emergency Management Coordinator. The committee felt that Greg had the right experience, vision and background with the City and the committee to be the coordinator. Greg was on City Council when the committee was formed and led the way for the committee's initial creation and became an active member. Coupled with his experience with the Fire Department, Saint Marys Ambulance and the County, the committee felt he had the right background to be the coordinator.

The committee was also impressed with the inputs from both Marty Kim and Joe Fleming and was excited that they both are and will remain members of the committee. The committee felt their experience will greatly help the EMA committee moving forward.

Manager Pearson requested Council make a motion and approve the nomination of Greg Gebauer as the next Emergency Management Coordinator. If approved, his name will be submitted to the county and forwarded to PEMA and then to the State for the Governor's consideration. Manager Pearson stated he will work with Mr. Gebauer on the transition and provide the needed support until the letter is received from the Governor and this change is official. He noted this is especially important during this pandemic.

Margie Brown made a motion to recommend Greg Gebauer to the Emergency Management Coordinator position, seconded by Bob Roberts and all were in favor.

Mayor Radkowski thanked the applicants and the Manager.

Joe Fleming stated he believed Mr. Gebauer was a good choice.

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Appointments to Authorities,
Boards and Commissions

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 Water Authority	To fill the unexpired term of Tom Greg	1 Vacancy	Stephen M. Straub	Stephen M. Straub
Board of Health	To fill the unexpired term of Jennifer Challingsworth	1 Vacancy	Danielle Corrigan Gabler Victor Lahnovych	Danielle Corrigan Gabler
Youth Activities Commission (2 years)	Newly Formed	2 – Adult 7 – Youth	Seth Higgins – Adult Joe Jacobs - Adult Maria Chiappelli – Youth Samantha Hayes- Youth Aidan Bobik – Youth Emma Gavazzi - Youth	N/A- Council's discretion

Golf Authority
Motion

Joe Fleming made a motion to reappoint J. Stephen Bagley to the Golf Authority, seconded by Margie Brown.

Deputy Mayor Pletcher and Andrew Mohny stated their concerns with the appointment due to the ongoing financial situation with the Golf Course.

Council noted they wanted to enable the Authority to move forward.

Motion Passed

On a roll call vote Margie Brown, Gina Vrobel, Bob Roberts and Joe Fleming voted in the positive and Deputy Mayor Pletcher, Andrew Mohny and Mayor Radkowski voted in the negative, motion passed 4 to 3.

Water Authority
Motion Passed

Bob Roberts made a motion to appoint Stephen M. Straub to the Water Authority to fill the unexpired term of Tom Gerg, seconded by Chris Pletcher, and all were in favor.

Board of Health
Motion

Andrew Mohny made a motion to appoint Danielle Corrigan Gabler to the Board of Health to fill the unexpired term of Jennifer Challingsworth, seconded by Gina Vrobel.

It was confirmed the Board of Health members concurred with the recommendation.

Motion Passed

All were in favor of the motion.

Youth Activities Commission

Bob Roberts made a motion to table the appointments to the Youth Activities Commission, seconded by Andrew Mohny.

Motion to Table

Bob Roberts stated he believed it was better to wait to have the full amount of seven youth members to appoint.

Discussion

Manager Pearson noted he recommended Council consider the appointments as presented due to school was not in session and summer break would also begin in June.

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- Mayor Radkowski and Margie Brown agreed to consider appointing the current list of candidates.
- Motion Failed Bob Roberts and Andrew Mohny voted in the positive and Gina Vrobel, Margie Brown, Deputy Mayor Pletcher, Joe Fleming and Mayor Radkowski voted in the negative, motion failed.
- Motion Joe Fleming made a motion to appoint the candidates, seconded by Gina Vrobel.
- Clarification of Motion Solicitor Wagner suggested the candidates names be listed for the record.
- Amended Motion Passed Mayor Radkowski listed the candidates names and position. (as listed above).
- Amended Motion Passed Joe Fleming amended his motion to appoint the names and positions listed to the Youth Activities Commission, Gina Vrobel amended her second and all were in favor, except Bob Roberts and Andrew Mohny who opposed.
- TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:
COVID-10 VIRUS
UPDATES/ACTIONS** Mayor Radkowski explained tonight's topic for discussion was to allow for questions from Council and for discussion regarding the COVID-19 virus pandemic and how it is impacting our City. He reviewed some of the additional duties he had assumed since declaring the state of emergency and, in part, due to State Representative Gabler's National Guard Unit deployment. He had been interacting with businesses and providing information to assist them with the available state programs. He also coordinated a twice a week informational teleconference with Federal, State and County representatives along with the President of the Hospital, representatives from all of the Public Safety and Emergency Services, City staff, both public and private schools and the local mental health provider. The teleconference provided a source of communication and accurate information for the group.
- Mayor Radkowski noted to date there were approximately 118 negative tests in Elk County and two positive cases. He noted the state has not agreed upon the process of how to reopen and he believed the City and Council should be aware of the possibility that a plan to reopen will be needed that makes the best sense for our area. He recognized Amphenol for providing a significant donation of PPE to various organizations and businesses. There were other donations that the City was assisting with, receiving and distributing.
- Manager Pearson explained the City was fully staffed, but there were a few that were working from home and staff was adhering to the Governor's guidance for businesses that are open. Staff was wearing face masks when moving through common areas. The meeting that the Mayor had organized was a great resource for staff and provided the coordination with Elk County as the area begins to reopen. The Governor had issued additional guidance for the reopening of a small amount of certain businesses on May 8th. He noted the amount of positive cases in the state was under 1000. It has not been under that amount since April 4th. He also noted Tina Gradizzi was working with North Central and the state to determine the availability of programs for our area businesses.

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Joe Fleming stated he believed it was a compliment to the citizens of Elk County due to only having two positive cases. He noted they were taking it seriously and taking the proper precautions. He also thanked the Mayor and City staff for everything they were doing during this crisis.

Mayor Radkowski thanked all of City staff, Emergency Services, local schools and other services for all the additional work being done while we all try to work through this event.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Radkowski made the following announcements:

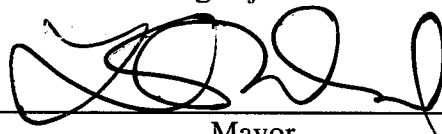
- Council's next regular meeting will be held on Monday, May 18, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.
- Council will adjourn to an Executive Session regarding legal matters.

ADJOURNMENT

Margie Brown made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Chris Pletcher. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.



Recording Secretary



Mayor