

**CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING**

**OCTOBER 18, 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, October 18, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. Notice of this meeting was sent to Council on October 14, 2021, posted at City Hall and published in the Daily Press.

**PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

**ROLL CALL**

Mayor Christopher Pletcher, Deputy Mayor Bob Roberts, Andrew Mohny, Margie Brown, Shane Schneider, Solicitor Tom Wagner, Manager Joseph Fleming, and Recording Secretary Lorrie Levenduski.

Gina Vrobel dialed in.

City Staff: Tina Gradizzi, Community Development Director and Dani Schneider, Parks and Recreation Director.

**VISITORS**

Clythera Hornung, Susan Goetz, Jerry Sorg, Ron Samick, Amy Cherry, Joyce Bauer, Aaron Bauer, Ned Jacob, DeAnna Brooks, Lynelese Rusciolelli, Richard Sadley, Cara Fedder and Brinley Fedder.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  
September 20, 2021 – Regular meeting  
Motion Passed

Bob Roberts made a motion to approve the September 20, 2021 minutes, seconded by Andrew Mohny and all were in favor.

**PRESENTATION OF YEARS OF SERVICE PLAQUE:**  
**Ronald Samick Jr. – City Employee 25 years**

Mayor Christopher Pletcher presented Ronald Samick Jr. a plaque for his 25 years of service as a City Employee.

**CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION – David Larkin – 11 years – Shade Tree Commission**

Mayor Pletcher explained due to the recent unexpected passing of David Larkin he was presenting a Certificate of Appreciation, to Clythera Hornung, Shade Tree Commission Secretary, for his 11 years of service as a member and Chairman to the Shade Tree Commission.

Ms. Hornung accepted the certificate and described how dedicated David was to the Shade Tree Commission and many other community services. She stated he will be greatly missed.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA TOPICS**

There were no citizen comments on agenda topics.

**MANAGERS REPORT**

Manager Fleming provided the following report:

- As you can see, the flooring in the Council area has been updated.
- Besides preparing the budget, budget, and more budget, the following are other items for the update. Along with that, the budget workshop dates have been set for November 4<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and if necessary the 9<sup>th</sup>. I will get a schedule out to Council this week for the workshops.
- Attended the Pennsylvania Municipal League Leadership Summit at the first part of October. Great conference and learned a lot. Some of the topics of discussion included economy, community parks, Manager-Council

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relationship, ARPA funds, and policing among other things.

- I am currently having meetings with other municipalities and agencies on how best to determine the destination of the ARPA funds which we have received. The City has until 2024 to earmark those funds.
- I will be meeting with a representative from PA DCED to discuss refreshing our STMP EIP Study next week. The last study was performed back in 2014 and with the change of leadership I felt it would be a good thing to have these plans updated since it reflects a 5-year plan.
- Pertaining to the Commercial/Industrial Sewer rates for budgeting purposes, we outsourced for a study on the recommendations on what the rates should be for these entities. The study was just completed (a draft report) and I will be forwarding the study to Council and the Sewer Rate Committee for your review tomorrow, to give you time to analyze the data prior to the workshop. The company HRG Inc. who performed the study will be present during the budget workshop on November 4<sup>th</sup> for any discussion needed.
- In collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce, a haunted forest will take place at Benzinger Park, attendees are encouraged to enter the park on the South Michael side.
- Finishing up tar and chipping of the area roadways.
- Leaf collection will be beginning around the 25<sup>th</sup> of October, I wanted to advise residents that the city will be collecting loose leaves and not bagged leaves. The schedule presented to me looks like they will be collecting from northern part of the city to the southern part.
- Tyler Technologies Civic App is nearing completion and will be available to the residents very soon.
- The financial portion of the new technology the city is going to will be up and running after the first of the year.
- Union negotiations for non-uniformed employees is still ongoing with the next meeting being in December, so the next council will be approving the contract.
- Marketing material for the new park sponsorship initiative has been put together and looking to start giving out to businesses and individuals around the first part of November. Deadline to sponsor the parks for year 2022 will be January 31<sup>st</sup> 2022. The content will be pushed for all media platforms.
- Stormwater project in the Benedict Road area is nearing completion.
- The assembly portion of the fitness area of the Downtown Event Park is currently being performed. I want to thank the individuals involved in the process and the high school students from SMA for their work

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towards the project. Still looking at a grand opening for the fitness on October 29<sup>th</sup>.

- I mentioned before about placing the letters of interest for our Boards and Committees before this current Council, I am going to retract that statement and have them placed before the new upcoming Council so they may vote on the individuals during the Re-organization meeting to be held at the beginning of next year.
- Trick or Treat will be held on Halloween October 31<sup>st</sup> from 6pm to 8pm by porchlight invitation only, so I wanted to express to motorists to use extra caution that evening traveling on the city roads because of the trick or treaters.
- For Halloween, Emergency Services will be taking part with giving treats out to the kids.
- On Tuesday November 2<sup>nd</sup>, our municipal election will be held. I cannot express enough how important these elections are. They deeply impact local policies, so please get out and vote.
- One final note, City Hall Offices will be closed on November 11<sup>th</sup> to honor our Military Veterans. St. Marys Burial Details will be performing their ceremony on the Diamond at 11am on that date.

Mayor Pletcher congratulated Manager Fleming on his recent appointment to the Pennsylvania Municipal League (PML) Board of Directors.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Manager Fleming provided the following September, 2021 Treasurer's Report:

Revenues collected for the General Fund was at 82% of budget. For 2020 it was 74%; for 2019 - 77% and revenue collections in 2018 was 81%. Without the ARPA revenue it was 74% of budget. Expenditures were at 74% of budget and for last year it was at 66% and for 2019 it was at 67% and in 2018 expenditures compared to budget was 64%. Real Estate tax revenue was at 98.5% of budget and last year at this time it was at 96.2% and in 2019 it was 96.5%. Earned Income was at 54% of budget compared to last year of 49.5% of budget and 2019 was 51.5% and 2018 was 53%. Market value for the pension plans decreased this month but was above market value as of the end of September, 2020. ACT 205 monies received for the pension plans totaled \$292,634.23 - Total MMO was \$318,100. - For the Fireman's Relief Association, they received from Act 205 - \$59,332.02. For the Debt Fund - the refinancing of the 2016 bonds was reflected in the revenue and expenditures.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:**

None

There was no legislative action.

**TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:**

Elk County Solid Waste  
Advisory Committee member  
recommendation

Manager Fleming explained Elk County just started working on a new 10-year solid waste plan update. Part of that entails the appointment of a solid waste advisory committee (SWAC). The SWAC will review the plan as it's being developed, make suggestions and propose changes it believes is appropriate. The SWAC must include members from the public and private sector, including a representative from all classes of municipalities in the

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county. The County is looking for someone from the City who would be interested in serving on this board. It was anticipated the first meeting will be sometime during the first quarter of 2022. The County Commissioners will do the formal appointment, but the request was for a recommendation from the City for the authority's review and recommendation to the Commissioners.

Manager Fleming suggested to advertise to the public and internally to obtain letters of interest for the St. Marys representatives.

Council agreed with the suggestion.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS ON  
NON-AGENDA TOPICS**

DeAnna Brooks and Lynell Rusciollelli from The Mecca-Mann Mission, Inc. provided information regarding their mission of prevention, awareness and recidivism. They stressed the importance of informing as many people as possible of the current deadly threat from fentanyl hidden in illegal drugs and even gum or candy. Both are parents that lost children that suffered from substance abuse disorder. They did not want others to go thru the same pain and suffering of losing a child due to this "poisoning" that was occurring in our communities.

Mayor Pletcher thanked them for their presentation,

Joyce Bauer again presented a history of code violations sent to property owners and requested a review of ordinances.

Susan Goetz explained her grandchildren's wonderful experience with swimming lessons and commended Dani Schneider, Parks and Recreation Director and the pool lifeguards.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Council offered their condolences to David Larkin's family and friends.

Andrew Mohny noted the Haunted Forest at Benzinger Park was occurring this weekend and he acknowledged the Elk County Fair Queen was in attendance at tonight's meeting.

Deputy Mayor Roberts noted the Rotary Club will hold their drive thru Trick or Treat at Memorial Park.

Mayor Pletcher wished Council good luck on the upcoming election.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Pletcher made the following announcements:

- "Trick or Treat" will be held on Sunday, October 31, 2021 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. by porchlight invitation only.
- Council Budget workshops will be held Thursday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, Monday November 8<sup>th</sup> and if needed, Tuesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Council's next regular meeting will be held on Monday, November 15, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.


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**ADJOURNMENT**

Andrew Mohney made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Deputy Mayor Roberts. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

  
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Recording Secretary

  
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Mayor