

CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING

SEPTEMBER 20, 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, September 20, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. Notice of this meeting was sent to Council on September 16, 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, Gina Vrobel, Margie Brown, Shane Schneider, Solicitor Tom Wagner, Manager Joseph Fleming, and Recording Secretary Lorrie Levenduski.

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

VISITORS

Clythera Hornung, Frank Kaul, Joe Jacob, John Schatz, Greg Gebauer, Ned Jacob, Joyce Bauer, Jerry Sorg, Aaron Bauer, Mark Greenathaner, and Amy Cherry.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
August 16, 2021 – Regular meeting
Motion Passed

Margie Brown made a motion to approve the August 16, 2021 minutes, seconded by Shane Schneider and all were in favor.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW ASSISTANT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR

Gregory Gebauer, Emergency Management Coordinator, introduced the newly appointed Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator, Mark Greenathaner.

Mr. Greenathaner provided a brief history of his diverse experience in emergency management and the medical field.

Council welcomed him to the Emergency Management team.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:
Parks and Recreation Update

Danielle Schneider, Parks and Recreation Director provided the following information:

I wanted to give you all a brief update on how things fared for the 2021 season. We recently implemented a new online system for the purchase of pool memberships and registration for all summer activities, called RecDesk. This is a yearly subscription service that assists us in keeping track of emergency information for all participants of our programs, the fees associated with those programs, the attendance for all programs, as well as having the ability to open and close registration based on the number of participants. In the first two days of registration, we filled 13/19 Day Camps.

To give some background information on the programs we hosted this year:

Recreation Leagues:

- Co-Ed Volleyball at Benzinger: 12 teams
- Women’s Power Volleyball at Memorial: 9 teams
- Women’s Basketball at Benzinger: 5 teams
- Men’s Basketball at Benzinger: 19 teams

Youth Programs:

- Arts in Education with ECCOTA painted a mural on the exterior walls of the Clubhouse
- Day Camps PreK-5th grade: 70 students
- Youth Basketball: Over 115 students participated

Community Pool:

- Memberships for 2021 (WE HAD 50 MORE MEMBERSHIPS THAN 2020)

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- Adult: 5
- Family: 115
- Student: 4
- Senior: 19
- **TOTAL 2021: 143 MEMBERSHIPS**
- compared to 93 TOTAL in 2020
- **Average Daily Attendance: 112 PATRONS**
- Swimming Lessons: Full for 2021
 - Will be remodifying them for 2022 completely
- Hired a new Aquatic Supervisor: Traci Meeker
- Hired a new Head Lifeguard: Aiden McKay

Since September of last year, we have:

- Received a DCNR Grant for an Open Space and Recreation Plan
- Installed the first portable Ice-Skating Rink at Benzinger
- Implemented our new online management system
- Installed a GaGa Ball Pit at Benzinger
- Implemented a multitude of new programs for kids and adults

In addition, we have been working with the City Manager for the implementation of a Sponsorship Initiative, which will be explained later in the agenda.”

**CITIZEN COMMENTS ON
AGENDA TOPICS**

Jerry Sorg asked what benefit the sewer line replacement project would provide.

MANAGERS REPORT

Manager Fleming provided the following report:

“Fall Fest concluded yesterday at the Downtown Park. It was wonderful to see the community come together for the festival. The Park served as a great venue for the event. Great job to everyone involved. It was a success.

Sara Road Bridge is now open. We had to divert school traffic for 3 days. Public Works and the Police Department worked with the school bus company to minimize any delays or issues.

Downtown Park Fitness pad and ADA parking slots were completed. I was hoping to see the start of the fitness area assembly begin around the time of the festival but unfortunately the concrete needs to cure for 28 days. Still looking for completion of the fitness area at the end of October.

I reported last month PennDot will be doing their Bruxelles Street re-surfacing project in October but looks like they are a couple weeks ahead of schedule and they started today. So, I wanted to remind residents of the delay from the Sheetz area to the Bucktail Plaza.

On September 7th, in conjunction with Wreaths Across America, a remembrance service was held in honor of the 20th Anniversary of 9/11. Deputy Mayor Roberts served as the Master of Ceremonies and I want to thank you all the agencies and organizations for their involvement in the program.

The Park Sponsorship Initiative is completed and will be discussed later in the meeting. I want to thank Dani for her work involved in this program.

I want to thank the Boys and Girls Club for hosting a tour and presentation to Council and myself, especially to Joe Jacob and

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Derek Hansen who presented the facility to us.

Letters were sent out to Boards, Committees, and Authorities to notify them of the expiring terms of members. I wish to encourage citizens to apply for vacancies by submitting a letter of interest to City Hall. Selection of candidates will be made during the December City Council Meeting.

With Budget preparation in full gear, time to set the budget workshop meetings for the first part of November later in the meeting.

Tar and Chipping will be wrapping up shortly and the Street Department will be switching gears toward leaf collection sometime in October, early November.

Union negotiations for their new contract are continuing and we meet again tomorrow.

Reminder, an Executive Session will be held after the conclusion of the meeting tonight. ”

TREASURER’S REPORT

Manager Fleming provided the following August, 2021 Treasurer’s Report:

Total revenue for the General fund was 75% of budget compared to 2020 of 64% of budget and in 2019 revenue was at 67% of budget. Expenditures were at 59% of budget compared to 2020 of 52% of budget and in 2019 expenditures were 53% of budget. Total real estate tax collections as of the end of August was at 97% of budget, for 2020 it was 95% of budget and for 2019 real estate collections were at 94% of budget. Earned Income Tax collected as of 8/31/21 was at 52% of budget, for 2020 it was 47.5% of budget and in 2019 EIT collections as of the end of August were 49% of budget. Pension plans continue to increase in value as of the end of August.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION:

Consider for adoption:
Resolution No 21-05 – 2021
CDBG Application

Resolution No 21-05 – 2021 CDBG Application was presented for adoption to authorize submitting the grant application to the CDBG Program.

Tina Gradizzi explained the 2021 CDBG Entitlement amount was \$330,015 with \$50,000 being earmarked for program administration, leaving \$270,615 for projects. At Council’s last meeting they approved the tentative project that was presented to them for the Boys and Girls Club handicap accessibility multi-year project.

Deputy Mayor Bob Roberts stated his concerns with the project being a multi-year project due to a new slate of Council members at the beginning of 2022.

Tina Gradizzi provided numerous options for Council to consider for the commitment of funds to the project.

Frank Kaul, President of the holding corporation, explained the details of the proposed project and the current limited access for children with disabilities. He clarified that they would explore other grant funding opportunities.

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After a brief discussion the following motion was made:

Motion Passed

Gina Vrobel made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 21-05, seconded by Andrew Mohny and all were in favor.

Council discussed the multi-year contribution options and the following motion was made:

Motion of Intent

Gina Vrobel made a motion to approve an intent to commit to a multi-year project not to exceed a total of \$600,000, seconded by Margie Brown.

Discussion

Solicitor Wagner suggested the new incoming Council in 2022 could also approve their intent to fund the project as multi-year.

Manager Fleming noted this would allow them to better plan for the project funding.

Motion Passed

All were in favor of the motion, except Deputy Mayor Bob Roberts, who opposed.

Consider for adoption: Resolution No. 21-06 – H2O PA Program Grant Application – Erie Ave./Washington St. Sewer Line Replacement Project

Resolution No. 21-06 – H2O PA Program Grant Application – Erie Ave./Washington St. Sewer Line Replacement Project was presented for adoption.

Tina Gradizzi explained the amount of the grant application was \$1,250,000 and this was a 50/50 match grant. Total project costs were estimated at over 2 million.

Andrew Mohny noted these sewer lines were some of the oldest in the City.

Motion Passed

Andrew Mohny made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 21-06, seconded by Shane Schneider and all were in favor.

2022 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for Pension Plans

Carol Muhitch explained the 2022 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for Pension Plans was on tonight's agenda for approval. This is an annual requirement by Act 205.

Motion Passed

Deputy Mayor Bob Roberts made a motion to approve the 2022 MMO amounts of \$196,179 for the Police Pension and \$103,091 for the Non-Uniformed Pension, seconded by Margie Brown and all were in favor.

Sponsorship Initiative

Manager Fleming explained the Sponsorship Initiative was developed to reach out to potential private sponsors in order to gain funding for the programs and services provided by our Parks and Recreation Department. This new initiative invites businesses, organizations, and individuals to further engage into community improvements while taking advantage of the unique marketing opportunities which our city can provide. This initiative will provide a strong, positive impact on the community parks. There are a variety of opportunities to enhance our community parks. Whether this be through playground improvements, providing activities geared towards children and adults, as well as the development of new services. The booklet of information showed the estimated cost of providing each individual program and service. A sponsor may also wish to contribute to a new project or have their recognition associated with the name of an individual park. The City of Saint Marys takes great pride in our parks which are used by individuals of all ages and abilities. In addition, the parks strive to continue to

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provide programs and events each year and hope to continue to increase the leisure services we have to offer.

Motion Passed

Margie Brown made a motion to approve the Sponsorship Initiative, seconded by Andrew Mohny and all were in favor.

Setting dates and times for the Budget Workshops

It was determined no motion was needed to set the dates and times for the budget workshops. Item was tabled. An email poll will be done to determine the dates available for Council members.

Appointment to the St. Marys Public Library Board – St. Marys position

The St. Marys Public Library requested the City accept Bruce Gibbons as the City appointed member to the St. Marys Public Library Board of Trustees. Mr. Gibbons will replace Jackie Herbstritt.

Motion Passed

Andrew Mohny made a motion to appoint Bruce Gibbons as requested, seconded by Bob Roberts and all were in favor.

Appointment to the Elk County Planning Commission – St. Marys position

Letters of interest were solicited, and two letters were received for the Elk County Planning Commission St. Marys position vacancy. The position was previously filled by former Mayor Lou Radkowski.

Motion Passed

Bob Roberts made a motion to appoint John Schatz to the position, seconded by Andrew Mohny and all were in favor.

Appointment to the Shade Tree Commission

Clythera Hornung explained the Shade Tree Commission received a letter of interest from Gwen Hoffman for their board vacancy and recommended her to be appointed.

Motion Passed

Andrew Mohny made a motion to appoint Gwen Hoffman as recommended, seconded by Margie Brown and all were in favor.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

There were no topics for discussion.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA TOPICS

Joyce Bauer provided a history of code violations sent to property owners.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council thanked Dani Schneider and Manager Fleming for their work on the Sponsorship Initiative.

Mayor Pletcher noted the recent Fall Fest held at the new Downtown Event Park was a success.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

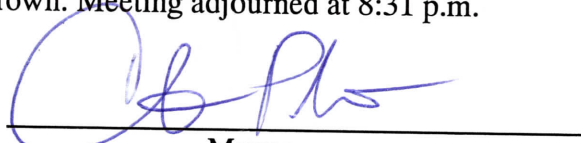
Mayor Pletcher made the following announcements:

- Council's next regular meeting will be held on Monday, October 18, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.
- "Trick or Treat" will be held on Sunday, October 31, 2021 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. by porchlight invitation only

ADJOURNMENT

Gina Vrobel made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Margie Brown. Meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.


Recording Secretary


Mayor