

**CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL
BUDGET WORKSHOP**

NOVEMBER 4, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

The scheduled Council Budget Workshop of the City of Saint Marys was called to order by Mayor Christopher Pletcher on Thursday, November 4, 2021 at 6:00 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 October 28, 2021, posted at City Hall and published in the Daily Press.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor Christopher Pletcher, Deputy Mayor Bob Roberts, Andrew Mohny, Margie Brown, Shane Schneider, Manager Joe Fleming, Recording Secretary Lorrie Levenduski.

Gina Vrobel was excused.

City Staff: Public Works Director Tim Brennan, Public Works Deputy Director Travis Skrzypek, Finance Director Carol Muhitch, Deputy Finance Director, Kristi Wendel, Chief Operator Lad Kornacki and Maintenance Supervisor Ike Kraus.

VISITORS

Clythera Hornung, Tom Holleran, Ned Jacob and Jerry Sorg.

Lyle Garner did not sign in.

**BUDGET PACKET
OVERVIEW AND
SUMMARY**

Manager Fleming stated on behalf of the City staff he was presenting his first annual operating budget. The budget was carefully planned, and City staff worked hard to compile this budget. He believed this was the most important decision of the year for City staff and City Council.

**SHADE TREE
COMMISSION**

Clythera Hornung, Secretary of the Shade Tree Commission, explained they were requesting an increase from the 2021 amount of \$9,000 to \$16,000 in funds for the 2022 budget. She provided the following details:

Removal of two trees from the Diamond due to disease would occur this coming Saturday at an approx. cost of \$7,500. A grant application has been submitted to the Stackpole Hall foundation to cover the costs which they hoped to be notified of an approval soon. West Penn Power notified the commission of their intent to trim a selection of Shade Trees and the commission opted to have them properly trimmed for an approx. cost \$2,500. They also had a large project on Grant Street which consisted of five very large trees that required removal for an approx. cost of \$10,000. She noted the total cost for these projects exceeded their annual budget.

Council thanked her for the information.

**PRESENTATION FROM
HRG**

Carol Muhitch explained HRG was retained to perform a sewer rate study for non-residential customers.

Tom Holleran, Project Manager for HRG, explained a sewer rate study non-residential rate analysis was performed and the draft report was presented to City staff and City Council. He presented the following information:

He provided a brief history of the company and the services they provide. He listed the qualifications of those who compiled rate analysis. He explained the report reviews historical, present, and projected future costs through 2024 to

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determine the revenue requirement and the amount of revenue the City will need to pay sewer system operating expenses, existing debt service, current sewer line and infiltration and inflow abatement programs and to fund future capital needs. They additionally consider the need to have rates that are uniform and reasonable for all customer classifications. The other company representatives explained the process and structure used to determine their recommendations. They provided their conclusion and suggested rate schedule. They recommended a base rate determined by water meter size for all non-residential users with an increase of the consumption charges which should satisfy the revenue requirements.

**ENTERPRISE FUNDS:
SEWAGE TREATMENT
FUND**

The proposed rates contained in the budget were revised from the recommended rates in the study, since it was determined the rates would create substantial increases for local industry.

Council and City staff had a lengthy discussion on the information contained in the study and the proposed rates contained in the budget with the following noted concerns:

No accommodation for mixed use properties.

No changes for residential low-end users.

No changes based on consumption for high-end residential users.

Changing from a flat rate system for residential users.

No changes were proposed.

Manager Fleming noted due to the contention on this topic it was necessary to obtain an outside recommendation.

Mayor Pletcher noted the discussion will be continued at a future budget workshop.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Chris Pletcher made the following announcement:

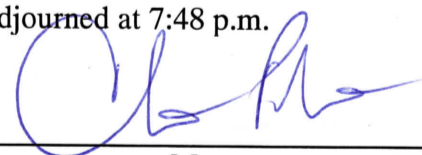
- Next Council Budget Workshop will be held on Monday, November 8, 2021, from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.



Recording Secretary



Mayor