

CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING

JANUARY 17, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

The regular monthly Council meeting of the City of Saint Marys was called to order by Mayor Lyle Garner on Monday, January 17, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. Notice of this meeting was sent to Council on January 13, 2022, posted at City Hall and published in the Daily Press.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG
ROLL CALL

Mayor Lyle Garner, Deputy Mayor Bob Roberts, Andrew Mohny, Shane Schneider, Nedward Jacob, Sally Geyer, Jerome Sorg, Manager Joseph Fleming, and Acting Recording Secretary Katie Lanzel.

Solicitor Tom Wagner dialed in.

City Staff: Tom Nicklas, Chief of Police, Tina Gradizzi, Community Development Director and Dani Schneider, Parks and Recreation Director.

VISITORS

Gary Anderson, Todd Nester, Amy Cherry, Richard Sadley and Stephen Bagley.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
January 3, 2022 –Reorganization
Meeting
Motion Passed

Sally Geyer made a motion to approve the January 3, 2022 minutes, seconded by Nedward Jacob and all were in favor.

SWEARING IN AND
INTRODUCTION OF NEW
POLICE OFFICER

Chief Tom Nicklas introduced Alexander Nester as the new full time Police Officer for the City. He intended to introduce another full-time officer Brett Herzing, but he was unavailable due to being out on a call.

Mayor Lyle Garner then swore in Alexander Nester as the City’s new Police Officer.

PRESENTATION OF
CERTIFICATE OF
APPRECIATION TO
OUTGOING BOARD
MEMBERS
PARKS AND RECREATION
SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM
UPDATE

Mayor Garner presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Gary Anderson for his years of service on the Vacancy Board.

Dani Schneider provided the following update on the Parks and Recreation Sponsorship Program:

The program started in October of 2021 and ends January 31st, 2022. Currently they have 22 sponsors, which 21 of those are local businesses and 1 personal sponsor. They are still looking for sponsors for various programs. She noted a list of sponsors would be completed sometime in February. This list would not include those sponsors that wished to remain anonymous. Any amount would be accepted, recognized, and appreciated.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON
AGENDA TOPICS

There were no citizen comments on agenda topics.

MANAGERS REPORT

Manager Fleming provided the following comments and updates:

- The road crew did great job cleaning up after the storm.
- We are in the planning and preparation phase for this fiscal year projects. Bid packets are being assembled and the request for bids will be coming in the near future.
- We have been busy with marketing of the city.
- For the past 2 to 3 years, bags were placed on the No

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Parking signs along Parade Street. I recently had those bags removed and reinstated the No Parking status of that street for the following reasons: 1.) According to St. Marys Code Book under ordinance states that Parade Street is designated as No Parking on both sides of the of the street. 2.) Parade Street is the main artery between North Saint Marys Street and North Michael Street, especially for the southbound traffic of North Saint Marys Street. 3.) The ease of access and traffic for emergency vehicles and road clearing during the winter months. Notice letters were sent out to residents along Parade Street in December and enforcement began on January 16th.

- Road crew has been called out 5 times past normal operation hours so far this winter season for road clearing. We normally budget for 30 call outs and usually the busiest time is late January and all of February.
- Parks and Recreation Sponsorship initiative is ending this month. As it being the first year of the program, we had a great response to the program. I thank the community for the continued support of our parks.
- The ice-skating rink is open at Benzinger Park.
- Waiting on the State approval for the funding of the Early Intervention Plan study, which will also be doing the feasibility study of the relationship between the Municipal Authority and the City.
- Reminder to Council, an Executive Session will be held following the Council meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

Total General Fund revenue for 2021 was \$7.3M or 97% of budget; for 2020: \$6.7M or 91%; for 2019: \$6.7M or 92% and for 2018 \$6.4M or 100% of budget. General Fund expenditures for 2021 was \$7.4M or 98% of budget; for 2020 it was \$6.5M or 88.5%; for 2019: \$7.26M or 99.8% and for 2018; \$6.7M or 105% of budget. Total real estate taxes collected for 2021 was at 101% of budget; for 2020 they were 99.5%; 2019 collections were at 99% of budget and for 2018, 100% of budget. Earned income tax collected for 2021 was 100% of budget; for 2020 it was 94.5% of budget for 2019 it was 92.5% and for 2018, 2017 and 2016, EIT collections were at 100% of budget. This is EIT collections for the year, not earned. The market value of the pension funds increased 12% from last year. At this time we have not received all the revenue for 2021 and some of the invoices due to be paid, so figures for the end of the year will change and will be adjusted in the following months.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION:

Consider for adoption:
Resolution No. 22-01 – Fair Housing Resolution for 2022

Tina Gradizzi explained Resolution No. 22-01 Fair Housing Resolution for 2022 was being presented for adoption. This is an annual requirement due to receiving federal funding.

Motion Passed

Andrew Mohny made a motion to adopt resolution No. 22-01, seconded by Bob Roberts and all were in favor.

Revision Requests to CDBG-CV Activities

Tina Gradizzi explained at the July 20, 2020, Council meeting the following two projects were approved as part of the 2020 CDBG application Contract #C0000 75556:

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Utility Assistance Program \$33,662
Christian Food Bank Drive Thru (\$115,500) and Supplies (\$2,000) \$117,500.

The Food Bank project is a joint project between the City (77%) and Elk County (23%). Due to the total bid for the project in the amount of \$166,390, she requested the following revision:

Decreasing the Utility Assistance Program from \$33,662 to \$21,042 (difference of \$12,620) and increase the Food Bank project from \$117,500 to \$130,120 (increase of \$12,620 /77%)

Motion Passed

Sally Geyer made a motion to approve the proposed revision to the CDBG-CV Activities, seconded by Jerome Sorg and all were in favor.

AFSCME Non-Uniformed Contract

Manager Fleming explained the AFSCME Non-Uniformed Contract was being presented tonight for approval. Council had received the summary of the changes to the contract which has an effective date of January 1, 2022, thru December 31, 2024. The union membership had ratified the contract.

Motion

Shane Schneider made a motion to ratify the contract changes as presented, seconded by Nedward Jacob.

Jerome Sorg questioned the section regarding compensatory time limits and Manager Fleming responded it was capped at 40 hours for the calendar year and would need to be used by the end of each calendar year.

Motion Passed

All were in favor of the motion.

Airport Lot Bid

Manager Fleming explained a revised bid was received from Steve’s Lawnmower Sales and Service for Lot 12 in the Airport Industrial Park. The revision was due to unanticipated utility (electric) costs.

Motion Passed

Sally Geyer made a motion to accept the bid, seconded by Shane Schneider and all were in favor.

Appointment to the Water Authority

The Water Authority had a vacancy due to the resignation of Larry Lecker. A letter of interest was received from William T. Greg to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Lecker. The Water Authority submitted a letter of recommendation to appoint Mr. Gerg to fill the vacancy.

Motion Passed

Nedward Jacob made a motion to appoint William Gerg as recommended, seconded by Deputy Mayor Roberts and all were in favor.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:
Solar Energy

Deputy Mayor Bob Roberts explained other municipalities were exploring solar energy options within their zoning ordinance. He noted the restrictions of revenue sources for the City. He wanted to gauge Council’s interest in having the Manager explore the possible locations of solar panels on City owned property. He believed the old City landfill off the end of Robin Road and even on the parking garage could be viable options.

After a brief discussion, the following motion was made.

Motion Passed

Deputy Mayor Roberts made a motion to authorize the City

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Manager to explore solar options on City property, and report his findings to Council, seconded by Sally Geyer and all were in favor.

Political Signs

Manager Fleming explained after a review of the ordinance regarding political signs he had concerns with the enforcement of signs based on content and those on private property. Placement can be regulated on City property and rights of ways. He wanted to obtain Council's opinion on how to move forward with amending the ordinance.

Solicitor Wagner commented he had reviewed the current regulations and believed they were inappropriate and needed revised. He explained the regulations cannot be broken down by classifications. Since signs are a form of speech and because of the 1st amendment there are strong constitutional requirements and limitations on how signs can be regulated. Regulations for temporary signs are permissible. He will review the regulations with the Manager and will provide Council with a recommendation.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS ON
NON-AGENDA TOPICS**

There were no citizen comments on non-agenda topics.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Shane Schneider welcomed Officer Nester, thanked Mr. Anderson and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Jerome Sorg announced he would be attending PML training in February. He also stated he attended the Municipal and Airport Authority meetings. He then questioned winter maintenance for the private portion of S. Michael and Solicitor Wagner offered to provide a memo to Council after reviewing the paperwork on the matter.

Ned Jacob commented on great job the Street Crew did with the recent weather.

Sally Geyer also welcomed Officer Nester and thanked the City Street Department.

Deputy Mayor Bob Roberts thanked Dani Schneider for her update and efforts.

Mayor Garner commented on the needed support for the Airport and the Drag Races.

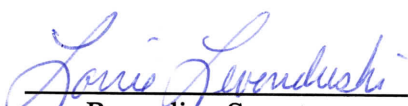
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Garner made the following announcements:

- Council's next regular meeting will be held on Monday, February 21, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Sally Geyer made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Shane Schneider. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.


Recording Secretary


Mayor