

**CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING**

481

MARCH 21, 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, March 21, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. Notice of this meeting was sent to Council on March 17, 2022, posted at City Hall and published in the Daily Press.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL

Mayor Lyle Garner, Andrew Mohny, Shane Schneider, Nedward Jacob, Sally Geyer, Jerome Sorg, Manager Joseph Fleming, and Recording Secretary Lorrie Levenduski.

Deputy Mayor Bob Roberts was excused.
Solicitor Tom Wagner dialed in.

City Staff: Tina Gradizzi, Director of Community & Economic Development, Joe Kugler, Deputy Director of Community & Economic Development and Dani Schneider, Director of Parks and Recreation.

VISITORS

Ben Kronenwetter, Barb Feldbauer, Bob Carnes, Patty Carnes, May Kay Frey, Clythera Hornung, Amy Cherry, Carol Carr, Sydney Pontzer, Levi Meyer, Stephen Bagley, Daniel Lupole, Aaron Bleggi, Marshall Wolfe, Jude Fritz, Chuck Fritz, Cheyanne Sarnoski, and Dylan Meyer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 21, 2022 – Regular meeting
Motion Passed

Sally Geyer made a motion to approve the February 21, 2022 minutes, seconded by Shane Schneider and all were in favor.

March 11, 2022 – Special Meeting
Motion Passed

Jerome Sorg made a motion to approve the March 11, 2022 minutes, seconded by Nedward Jacob and all were in favor.

REPORT ON EXECUTIVE SESSIONS:

Executive Sessions were held on Monday, February 21, 2022 regarding personnel matters and immediately prior to tonight's meeting as an informational meeting on Real Estate matters. No decisions were made.

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION:

Mayor Garner presented the following Certificates of Appreciation.

Ben Kronenwetter – 14 years on the Zoning Hearing Board

Larry Lecker – 31 years on the Water Authority – Presented earlier today.

Seth Higgins – 2 years on the Planning Commission – was unavailable to attend tonight.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:
Proposed Housing Project

Aaron Bleggi, owner of Whitetail Real Estate Development, explained he was proposing a multi-phase housing development. He stated Public Hearings for the housing development will be held Thursday, March 24th at 10:00 a.m. and again at 4:00 p.m. here in the Council Room at City Hall. The project was proposed to consist of three phases. The first two phases will contain townhouses. The third phase will contain ranch level duplexes designed for seniors but not exclusive to them. The proposed location is on Bucktail Road, former Grotzinger land, on both sides of the road. He stated additional details will be available at the public hearing and public comments will be heard.

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CITIZEN COMMENTS ON
AGENDA TOPICS

There were no citizen comments on agenda topics.

MANAGERS REPORT

Manger Fleming provided the following Manager’s Report:

- The following appointments have been made:

RJ Samick to Asst. Superintendent of the Street Department. RJ has been on the street department for over 25 years and member of the fire department for about the same amount of time. His hard work and dedication has earned him the appointment. Second, as we look to expand the Economic Development Department of the City, we appointed Joe Kugler as Deputy Director of Economic Development. An Army veteran, Joe brings the experience of sales and marketing to the department. Not only will Joe be working with non-profit organizations, but he will be able to assist with for profit companies. On a different note, Kristi Wendel Deputy Director for Finance/Human Resources has accepted a position with another organization. Kristi brought great energy and hard work to City Hall. She was one of the key components in getting the “My City app” up and running along with other advancements of our systems. She will be missed, and I want to wish her the best on her new journey.
- The Street Department is starting its transition phase from winter maintenance to spring activities and planning is taking place for its projects.
- Street sweeping program officially starts next Monday, but the crew is out now gathering all excess material at this time. Advertisements are posted so I urge the public to review them.
- On parks and recreation, 300 kids have already signed up for the Easter Egg Hunt taking place at Benzinger Park on April 9th, the walking club has seen an increase in participates, 27 lifeguards have signed up to work at the pool this summer. A public meeting will take place on April 21st at the Memorial Park Clubhouse pertaining to the comprehensive plan which the parks are going through right now. April 1st is the start date for individuals to sign ups for almost 60 programs happening at our area parks.
- Reminder, April 4th we will have a public workshop to go over the ARPA Funds here in the Council Chamber.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Manager Fleming provided the following Treasurer’s report for February, 2022:
Total revenue for the General Fund as of 2/28/22 was \$44,186 or 0.5% of budget. This does not include the EIT for the 4th Quarter 2021 -collected in Jan & Feb of 2022 of \$511,733.82. Total expenditures for the General fund as of the end of February 2022, was \$962,245 or 12% of budget. We will not see revenue collections for 2022 until the end of March or first part of April for Real Estate Taxes and for the Earned income tax for the 1st quarter of 2022, will be received in May. Total revenue

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for the Sewage Treatment fund as of 2/28/22 was \$322,193 or 8% of budget and expenditures were \$226,637 or 6% of budget. Revenue is lower than previous years - we are billing quarterly for residential customers compared to the monthly invoicing of previous years. Pension plans continue to decrease in value for 2022, but are still above value from last year at this time. Balances as of 2/1/2022 were adjusted to actual with 2021 year end adjusting entries.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION:

Consider for adoption:

Ordinance No. 329: Relative to the establishment and maintenance of the City Police Employees' Pension funds to update the Internal Revenue Code provisions
Motion Passed

Ordinance No 329, relative to the establishment and maintenance of the City Police Employees' Pension funds to update the Internal Revenue Code provisions was presented for adoption.

Nedward Jacob made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Sally Geyer and all were in favor.

Ordinance No. 330: Relative to the establishment and maintenance of the City Non-Uniformed Employees' Pension funds to update the Internal Revenue Code provisions.
Motion Passed

Ordinance No. 330, relative to the establishment and maintenance of the City Non-Uniformed Employees' Pension funds to update the Internal Revenue Code provisions was presented for adoption.

Sally Geyer made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Nedward Jacob and all were in favor.

PUBLIC HEARING: Ordinance amending the City of St. Marys Zoning Ordinance regarding political and temporary signs

Mayor Garner opened the Public Hearing at 7:15 p.m.

There were no comments from the public.

The Solicitor explained the zoning ordinance tends to regulate permanent structures and uses. The regulations for temporary sign placement were being removed due to the difficulty in regulating and enforcement. He noted language cannot be regulated but obscene graphics or pictures could. The regulations will be moved to a different section of City Code. A public hearing is required to amend the zoning ordinance.

Nedward Jacob clarified temporary (political) signs would be restricted to 90 days before and 30 days after an election on public property.

Mayor Garner closed the hearing at 7:22 p.m.

Ordinance No. 331: Amending the City Code to remove specific regulation of political signs and to establish general regulation of temporary signs
Motion Passed

Ordinance No. 331, amending the City Code to remove specific regulation of political signs and to establish general regulation of temporary signs was presented for adoption.

Andrew Mohny made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Sally Geyer and all were in favor.

Award of Bid: City Hall Elevator Reconstruction

Manager Fleming explained the Solicitor was reviewing the award of bid and again, would need to be tabled.

Motion to Table Passed

Andrew Mohny made a motion to table the item, seconded by Shane Schneider and all were in favor.

Land Development: 2022 - 03 - Cameron Group, LLC - South St

Land Development: 2022 - 03 - Cameron Group, LLC - South St Marys St. was presented for approval. The land development

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Marys St. proposed to construct a 3,500 square foot medical office building with associated parking lot and stormwater management system. The two existing dwellings will be demolished, and the lots will be consolidated. The applicant received variances form the St. Marys Zoning Hearing Board on February 16, 2022 for a 14 foot side setback for a building, a parking lot setback of five feet and the maximum slope for an access drive. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the land development with no comments.

Motion Passed Sally Geyer made a motion to approve the 2022-03 Land Development application, seconded by Nedward Jacob and all were in favor.

Appointment to the Zoning
Hearing Board

BOARD	NUMBER OF VACANCIES	TERMS EXPIRING	LETTERS RECEIVED FROM	RECOMMENDED
Zoning Hearing Board Remainder of 5-year term	1 Vacancy	To fill the unexpired term of Ben Kronenwetter	Clark Pearson	CLARK PEARSON

Motion Passed Jerome Sorg made a motion to appoint the above as recommended, seconded by Shane Schneider and all were in favor.

Management Wage Schedule Manager Fleming explained due to various position changes he was requesting a modification to the current Management Wage Schedule. The following positions were being modified:
Deputy Finance Director
Financial Assistant
Parks and Recreation Director/Community Specialist

The modifications would provide a cost savings of \$18,000.

Motion Passed Jerome Sorg made a motion approve the modified Wage Schedule, seconded by Shane Schneider and all were in favor.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION: Jerome Sorg requested a discussion regarding South Michael Road extension. Currently the City considers it a private portion of South Michael Road. He explained the history of the Airport roadways, maintenance of roadways, runway extensions, Right of Ways and ownership of the Airport property.

Bob Carnes had the following questions:
Who’s private road is it?

Who is liable for accidents or injury?

Has Council driven on the road? (Some of Council responded yes)

What progress has been made with the review of this situation?

Nedward Jacob stated the Boro granted a ROW to the residents across the roadway, but Mr. Carnes stated he believed the ROW was granted to the Boro.

Solicitor Wagner stated there are facts that we are aware of and facts that we are not aware of. There are a number of legal

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principles that come into place with respect to private and public roads and this matter should be based on a number of legal principles. He requested the list of questions and noted the facts should be discussed along with the law. He would review the questions and provide his findings to Council for their further consideration.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS ON
NON-AGENDA TOPICS**

Carol Carr noted her dissatisfaction with the newly implemented quarterly sewer billing and Manager Fleming responded she could continue to send in monthly payments.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Shane Schneider thanked the recognized outgoing board members for their service.

Sally Geyer encouraged citizens to attend the upcoming workshop and provide their input.

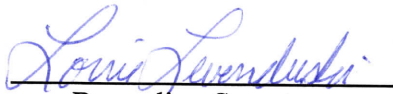
ANNOUNCEMENTS


Mayor Garner made the following announcements:

- Council will hold a workshop on April 4, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss projects for the American Rescue Plan Act Funds (ARPA)
- Council's next regular meeting will be held on Monday, April 18, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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


Recording Secretary


Mayor

CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL
WORKSHOP

APRIL 4, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

The Council workshop of the City of Saint Marys was called to order by Mayor Lyle Garner on Monday, April 4, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. Notice of this meeting was sent to Council on March 31, 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 Recording Secretary Lorrie Levenduski.

Solicitor Tom Wagner was excused.

City Staff: Tina Gradizzi, Director of Community & Economic Development, Joe Kugler, Deputy Director of Community & Economic Development and Dani Schneider, Director of Parks and Recreation/Community Specialist.

VISITORS

Amy Cherry, Mike Goetz, Richard Gavazzi, Cherie Pichler, Lori Wehler, Leah Meyer, Laurel Thiers, Yvonne Hooper, Lois Nedzinski, Betsy Healy, Kris Kronenwetter, Dave Kneidel, Richard Sadley, Chris Smith, Morgan Shumaker, Eric Wonderly, Kevin Smith and Sandy Buerk.

DISCUSSION: Projects for the American Rescue Plan Act Funds (ARPA)

Mayor Garner explained tonight’s discussion was to review proposed projects for the American Rescue Plan Act funds.

Manager Fleming explained the following requests were submitted from City departments. The City has received half of the \$1.2M in ARPA funds and the other half are expected to be received in May of this year. This workshop was to discuss and have public input for the use of these funds.

Community & Economic Development Department Proposed Project

Manager Fleming explained the Amphitheater Project presented would be located in the new Downtown Event Park. This project was in the original plans of the parking garage and downtown park project. He noted the presented drawing and location were flexible at this point. The total projected cost was \$700,000.

Public Works Department Proposed Projects

Public Works Department has the following proposed projects:

Market St. CIPP project – This project proposes to “Cast in place” a 12-inch sanitary sewer line. Total projected cost was \$120,000.

John St. Stormwater Project – This project proposes to address stormwater sewers, catch basins and curb line upgrades. This project will prepare the area for a future resurface project. It was clarified this project would not extend past the Bruxelles St. intersection. Total projected cost was \$200,000.

Depot St. Stormwater Project – This project proposes to address stormwater drainage, curbing, and road base repair. The location is from the intersection of Fourth St. towards Stackpole St. Total projected cost was \$247,000.

Manager Fleming noted the above projects were in the City’s 5-year plan, so if approved it would ease future budgets. It was clarified these projects would not alleviate flooding issues.

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Police Department Proposed
Projects

Tom, Nicklas, Chief of Police, explained the following proposed projects:

Two-way Radio Upgrades/Replacements – This project proposes to replace the radios for officers. The replacement is currently scheduled for 2025 and if approved would offset the future capital costs. Total projected cost was \$29,466.

Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Replacement and Expansion Project – This project proposes to replace obsolete AED equipment in patrol cars and will expand the availability of units within the City facility at 319 Erie Ave. Total projected cost was \$16,150.

Downtown Pedestrian and Traffic Monitoring Camera Project – This project proposes to install cameras at strategic locations in the downtown area to allow review of incidents and assist in criminal and traffic investigations. The system has the ability to be expanded upon through local merchant and organization partnerships. The Elk County Commissioners have approached several municipalities with a matching funding proposal for the system. Total projected cost was up to \$20,000 and is contingent on matching funds from the County of Elk.

Fire Department Proposed
Projects

Mike Goetz, Secretary of the Crystal Fire Department, presented the following proposed projects:

Replacement of all manual flush valves and faucets in the Fire and Police State at 319 Erie Ave. – Current fixtures are over 20 years old. Will reduce spreading viruses, disease, and sickness. Total projected cost \$42,200.

Upgrade Fire and Police Physical Training Room equipment – Current equipment is nearly 20 years old. Police and Fire Department members use daily to maintain physical fitness. Total projected cost \$3,000.

Replacement of the emergency generator at the Fire Department’s radio tower at the end of Poplar Rd. near the Water Authority’s reservoir. – Total projected cost \$24,500.

Fire Department Ice Machine Replacement – Current machine is no longer working. Used for rehab operations for emergency personnel and to provide cold refreshments for personal at fire and rescue scenes. Total projected cost \$5,700.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Kevin Smith requested funds be used for upgrades to the Sanitary Sewer system.

Dave Kneidel noted his agreement with an amphitheater or at least a bandstand or gazebo.

Laurel Theirs, Fall Fest Committee member, stated the amphitheater would be a welcome addition to the downtown park. The last Fall Fest was held for the first time at the new Downtown Event Park and is a great location.

Sandy Buerk noted her agreement with an amphitheater. She has coordinated local concerts for the last 10 years. She stated they brought in people to the area from all over the country.

Eric Wonderly suggested Council invest in the right things and

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WORKSHOP

APRIL 4, 2022

something for our community.

Richard Sadley stated he was in favor of the amphitheater.

Mayor Garner noted the original cost estimate for the amphitheater was \$350,000 and now is \$700,00. The cost is only going to go up.

Jerome Sorg noted the large companies are no longer here to donate to this type of big project.

Deputy Mayor Roberts suggested a scaled down version of the amphitheater. (Removing restrooms and/or dressing area)

Sally Geyer was in favor of the amphitheater but agreed with a lower amount.

Manager Fleming explained Council could cap the amount and he could work within that amount.

Sandy Buerk warned not to reduce the stage size since that would limit the number of bands.

Leah Meyer representative from the St. Marys Senior Center requested funds for people that live here. She noted the Senior Center could use help with numerous items, even a new location.

Lori Wehler noted the issue with parking at the Senior Center and that they lease the current space.

Tina Gradizzi explained originally the Redevelopment Authority worked on the stage project. She believed it could be scaled back. She noted the other funding requests submitted for the amphitheater are still pending. She further explained the Heritage Preservation Group was looking for funding to replace or repair the current Welcome to St. Marys Signs. The projected cost was between \$5,000 - \$6,000.

Nedward Jacob agreed a stage is needed, but preferred a modified version.

Manager Fleming requested an Executive Session following adjournment of tonight's meeting regarding personnel matters.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Garner made the following announcements:

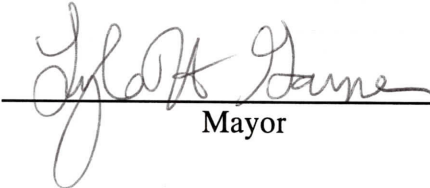
- Council's next regular meeting will be held on Monday, April 18, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Jerome Sorg made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Sally Geyer. Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.



Recording Secretary



Mayor