

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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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:

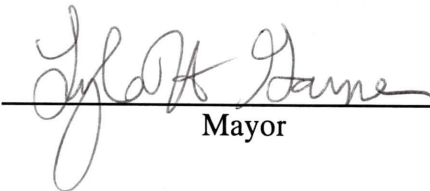
- Council's next regular meeting will be held on Monday, April 18, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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



Recording Secretary



Mayor