

**CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING**

19

SEPTEMBER 19, 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, September 19, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. Notice of this meeting was sent to Council on September 15, 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, Manager Joseph Fleming, Solicitor Tom Wagner and Recording Secretary Lorrie Levenduski.

Councilman Jerome Sorg was excused.

City Staff: Tina Gradizzi, Director of Community & Economic Development, Joe Kugler, Deputy Director of Community & Economic Development and Dani Schneider, Parks and Recreation Director, Carol Muhitch, Finance Director and Travis Skrzypek, Deputy Public Works Director.

VISITORS

Faisal Y. El Awar, John Schatz, Rick Stover, Mason Schloder, Richard Sadley, Devin Brock, Mary Sorensen, and Amy Cherry.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August 15, 2022 – Regular
Meeting
Motion Passed

Deputy Mayor Bob Roberts made a motion to approve the August 15, 2022 minutes, seconded by Sally Geyer and all were in favor.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION:
Parks and Recreation**

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

Summer Season Overview (April-August)

2022 Staffing:

Lifeguards: 22

Activity Leaders: 20

Aquatics Supervisor: Traci Meeker

Head Lifeguard: Aidan McKay

Program Coordinators: Sheila Bauer and Cheyenne Bothun

Miscellaneous: 21

Demographics:

Number of people served:

Under 18: 1242

Between 18-65: 361

Over 65: 196

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Community Pool:

172 memberships (28 more than 2021)

163 residential memberships/9 non-residential memberships

36 levels of Swimming Lessons served 277 students

Parks:

20-day camps served 387 students

7 youth sport programs served 187 students

Easter Egg Hunt, Kickoff to Summer Bash, and Inner Park Day served 600 students

3 recreational adult leagues served 35 teams

Upcoming Events:

2nd Annual Haunted Trail at Benzinger: October 21-22

PJ's n' Pancakes at Maker's Warehouse: December 18

Ice Skating: ASAP dependent on weather

Holiday Pool Membership Sale: December 1

Miscellaneous:

Storywalk being installed at Benzinger Park Spring of 2023

Purchased on behalf of a Lions Club Grant

2023 Sponsorships will be out mid-October

Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, and Open Space plan to be completed this Fall

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION:
Statewide Tax Recovery –
Delinquent Per Capita Taxes**

Rick Stover from Statewide Recovery provided the following information:

- History of the Company
- Objective – The opportunity to recover the delinquent tax debt for the City Per Capita tax
- Described the relationships with other entities within Elk County and services provided
- Explained the collection process and confirmed all collections costs (\$25.00) are the responsibility of the taxpayer

He further explained the company has a sister company called Central Credit Audit, that collects municipal delinquent debt other than taxes. Ex. Delinquent Trash billing, delinquent sewer billing and delinquent code office enforcement tickets.

There was a brief discussion and Council requested additional information from the tax collector regarding delinquent per capita taxes and from the Finance Department regarding delinquent sewer bills.

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MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Fleming provided the following report:

- "I want to congratulate the Fall Fest for the event over the past weekend and thank you to the City staff who assisted. Definitely larger than last year and saw huge crowds over the weekend.
- The City did receive our 2nd round of the ARPA funds.
- The traffic camera project is moving forward. Cameras were ordered and if they haven't already, they will be delivered soon. We are working with the Commissioners to receive the match we were promised on this project.
- Planning Commission is working with Mr. Wagner on BitCoin Mining and their recommendation should be in front of you next month.
- Work continues on the budget and the Uniform Contract is currently being negotiated.
- In pursuit of an agreement with the Social Security Administration, the second phase will be completed on this Thursday the 22nd. This portion of the process is the education phase of the agreement. It is to inform the City staff of the process and answer any questions we may have.
- The Donation Campaign for the Diamond Digital Sign runs until September 30th, as of last Friday we have had a total of 23 donors. The electric lines have been installed to accommodate the sign.
- Tar and chipping of our City roadways is wrapping up.
- Waiting on the contractor to patch up Villa and North Michael roadways. The City portion of those projects is completed.
- Cast in place sanitary sewer work will be performed on Market Street and again on Maurus Street (George St. to the funeral home)
- Jackson Road Culvert Replacement project is currently taking place along with about a quarter of a mile road improvement.
- Working on repairs of manholes throughout the City, you will notice steel plates covering the one being worked on.
- Wish to remind residents to watch for the announcement of the City's leaf collection sometime in October.
- Finally, with Halloween around the corner, I urge extra caution to motorists to pay attention to our roadways as Trick or Treaters will be canvassing the City."

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TREASURER'S REPORT

Manager Fleming provided the following August, 2022 Treasurer's Report:

Total revenue for the General fund was 67% of budget compared to 2021 of 75% of budget and in 2020 revenue was at 64% of budget. Expenditures were at 54% of budget compared to 2021 of 59% of budget and in 2020 expenditures were 52% of budget. Total real estate tax collections as of the end of August was at 96% of budget, for 2021 it was 97% of budget and for 2020 real estate collections were at 95% of budget. Earned Income Tax collected as of 8/31/22 was at 50% of budget, for 2021 it was 52% of budget and in 2020 EIT collections as of the end of August was 48% of budget. Pension plans continue to decrease in value as of the end of August. Interest rates are increasing - PLGIT rates average 2.25% and PLGIT TERM is at 3.63%

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Consider for publication:
An Ordinance amending the Pension Plan for the benefit of the City's full-time employees other than police officers.

An Ordinance amending the Pension Plan for the benefit of the City's full-time employees other than police officers was presented for publication.

Manager Fleming explained the ordinance would provide vesting at 12 years, with survivor benefits and would include an extra ½ percent increase to the employee contribution for full time employees hired on or after January 24, 2001 and terminating after November, 2022.

Motion Passed

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

Solicitor Wagner noted he would review the ordinance for typos and any discrepancies.

Award of Bid – Depot Street Rehabilitation Phase Two

City staff recently received bids for the Depot St. Rehabilitation Phase Two Project. The work for Contract 2022-01: consists of the total rehabilitation of Depot Street (from Fourth Street to Stackpole Street). The existing asphalt, curbs and storm sewer systems are to be replaced. This project will tie into the previously reconstructed Fourth and Stackpole Street projects on both ends. ARPA moneys were allocated to the project in the amount of \$247,000. The remaining portion will be funded through the City's budgeted capital reserve funds (EIT) set aside for streets, roads and bridges. This reserve has the balance to sufficiently cover the remaining amount.

These bids were received on August 30th and opened/read aloud at a public meeting.

For this project, three (3) contractors submitted sealed bids. The

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bid results are as follows:

<u>Contactore Name</u>	<u>Base Bid</u>
1. Dave Roman Excavating, Inc.	\$ 439,912.00
2. Glenn O. Hawbaker, Inc.	\$ 518,707.50
3. HRI, Inc.	\$ 543,095.00

It was recommended that the Council award this contract to **Dave Roman Excavating, Inc.** for **\$439,912.00**. This construction should take approximately 2 months to complete, weather depending.

Motion Passed

Nedward Jacob made a motion to award the bid as recommended, seconded by Sally Gayer and all were in favor.

2023 Minimum Municipal
Obligation (MMO) for Pension
Plans

Carol Muhitch explained the 2023 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 \$219,117 for the Police Pension and \$126,283 for the Non-Uniformed Pension, seconded by Shane Schneider and all were in favor.

2022-12 – Hamlin Bank and
Trust Company Land
Development on Bruxelles
Street

2022-12 Hamlin Bank and Trust Company Land Development application for property located on Bruxelles Street was presented for approval. The land development proposed to construct a 4,800 square foot bank with drive-thru, and associated parking lot. The development is in compliance with the zoning ordinance; the developer has received approval from PennDOT, and the stormwater management plan is under review by the City Engineer. The Planning Commission had no comments on the land development application.

Motion Passed

Sally Geyer made a motion to approve the 2022-12 Hamlin Bank Land Development application, seconded by Andrew Mohney and all were in favor.

Approval of Public Works
equipment purchase (2023)

Travis Skrzypek, Deputy Public Works Director explained he was unable to order last year's approved purchase of a truck. He was recently informed the opportunity to order would occur in the first week of November. Due to this limited window of opportunity to order, he requested to order another truck (F600) that would be within the 2023 proposed budget request. The cost would be up to \$65,000. It was unclear when actual delivery would occur.

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Shane Schneider confirmed this order would only be the cab and chassis and Mr. Skrzypek concurred.

Motion Passed

Nedward Jacob made a motion to order one truck for 2023, seconded by Sally Geyer and all were in favor.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:
Salary compensation for new
Council electees

Deputy Mayor Bob Roberts provided the following comments:

“In 1992 Home Rule Charter, Under City Council section 305, compensation :

Each Council Member shall receive compensation to be fixed by ordinance at any time, subject to the following limitations.

1. The maximum compensation shall be \$3000. Per year, subject to the adjustment permitted under this article:

2. Council may, by ordinance, provide for the adjustment of the maximum compensation of Council members above the limits provided in this article, except that such adjustments shall not be more than 10 % at any one time, nor shall such adjustments be made more than once every two years. No adjustments shall be made in the compensation of a Council Member during his term of office.

27 years have passed since this compensation was accepted. Maximum of \$3,000 was reached around 2002. No other increases have occurred. This rate is a major drawback to attracting Citizens to run for this office. Many times, resulting in either the exact number of vacancies as there are candidates, sometimes not enough, increasing the rate may help to convince citizens to run.”

Motion

Deputy Mayor make a motion to create an ordinance providing for an increase of 10% every 2 years, until a maximum of \$10,000 is reached, seconded by Andrew Mohny.

Discussion

Deputy Mayor Bob Roberts noted this would be effective with the next municipal election. At this increase rate it will take 20 + years to reach maximum. No sitting member can benefit unless he or she is reelected.

Solicitor Wagner noted the other option was to amend the Charter which would require a referendum on the ballot.

Mayor Garner requested more information before making a decision.

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Motion Rescinded

Deputy Mayor Bob Roberts rescinded his motion and Andrew motion rescinded his second.

Motion to Table Passed

Deputy Mayor Bob Roberts made a motion to table the matter until further information could be obtained, seconded by Andrew Mohney and all were in favor.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS ON
NON-AGENDA TOPICS**

Fasial El Awar again provided his comments, suggestions and stated his opposition to the proposed pedestrian entrance to Benzinger Park on Wehler Road.

Mary Sorenson requested to be informed of the decisions being made regarding the pedestrian walkway and Manager Fleming responded he intended to do that.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Sally Geyer provided comments for Vern VanAlstine regarding his satisfaction with recent work done by the Street Crew.

Shane Schneider thanked Dani Schneider and the Parks and Rec Team.

Nedward Jacob thanked all those involved with the recent car show and aviation festival. He noted it was very well attended.

Deputy Mayor Bob Roberts asked when Trick or Treat was being held in the City?

Mayor Garner thanked the Fall Fest Committee for a great job.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

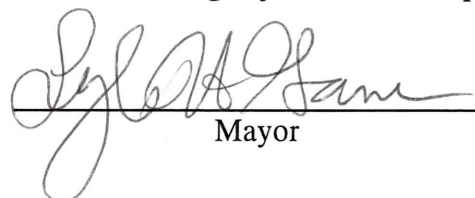
Mayor Garner made the following announcements:

- Council's next regular meeting will be held on Monday, October 19, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.
- "Trick or Treat" will be held on Monday, October 31, 2022, from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. by porchlight invitation only.
- Council will hold an Executive Session immediately following adjournment of this meeting regarding personnel matters.

ADJOURNMENT

Sally Geyer made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Shane Schneider. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.


Recording Secretary


Mayor