

**CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING**

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APRIL 17, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

The regular monthly Council meeting of the City of Saint Marys was called to order by Mayor Lyle Garner on Monday, April 17, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. Notice of this meeting was sent to Council on April 13, 2023, posted at City Hall and published in the Daily Press.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL

Mayor Lyle Garner, Deputy Mayor Bob Roberts, Nedward Jacob, Andrew Mohny, Shane Schneider, Jerome Sorg, Sally Geyer, Manager Joseph Fleming, Solicitor Tom Wagner and Recording Secretary Lorrie Levenduski.

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

VISITORS

Cly Hornung, Sarah D'Amore, Michael D'Amore, Jaxson Friedl, Leon Boschert, Fritz Lecker, Cathy Lenze, Bill Brock, Greg Gebauer, Kurt Nesbitt, Kelly Breindel, Richard Sadley, Angie Vollmer, Heather Cuyler, Stephan Bagley, Gene Garner, Martin Dornisch, Matt Pasi and Aaron Straub.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES
March 20, 2023 – Regular
Meeting
Motion Passed**

Sally Geyer made a motion to approve the March 20, 2023 minutes, seconded by Andrew Mohny and all were in favor.

**REPORT ON EXECUTIVE
SESSION:**

An Executive Session was held immediately prior to tonight's meeting regarding personnel matters. No decisions were made.

**PROCLAMATION: ARBOR
DAY**

Mayor Garner presented Cly Hornung from the Shade Tree Commission with the 2023 Arbor Day Proclamation.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION:
Comprehensive Recreation
Park and Open Space Plan**

Heather Cuyler of PASHEK+MTR presented the following information regarding the Comprehensive Recreation Park and Open Space Plan:

Where are we in the process?

PHASE ONE

Understanding the community's needs
Initiate committee meetings
Conduct various types of public engagement
Distill key issues, visions, goals

PHASE TWO

Drilling down for solutions
Analyze public input

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Consider steering committee feedback and direction
Develop specific recommendations
Refine recommendations
Draft plan

REVIEW AND ADOPTION

Chapter review by committee, staff and officials
Review by DCNR
Final Review
Adoption vote

2022 NRPA Agency performance Review – Park Facilities

Park Facility	1 facility (Less than per X 10 people municipal parks)	Existing	Recommended
Playgrounds	4906	7	3
Basketball Courts	7000	7	2
Tennis Courts (outdoors)	3978	6	3
Diamond fields: Youth	5425	10	3
Rectangular fields-multi-use	6000	3	2
Swimming Pool (outdoor)	10500	1	1
Skate park	19500	0	0
Multi-purpose synthetic field	8663	0	0
9.9 acres/1,000 Residents + approx. 128 acres	Acres		
Memorial	15.3		
Benzinger	21		
Diamond Street	0.26		
Kaulmont	2		
Luhr	2.47		
City Diamond	0.38		
Downtown Event Park	2.22		
Total	47.21		

Community Engagement

Steering Committee
Stmarysparks.com
Community questionnaire
Stakeholder interviews and focus groups
Key Issues survey
April 21 open house

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**Community Questionnaire
Fall 2021**

- 653 responses
- Most important issues:
 1. Improve amenities in existing parks
 2. Update the community pool
 3. Increasing safe connections within and beyond neighborhoods for walking and biking
 4. 4. Protection of natural resources

MISSION

To enrich the lives of our evolving community by providing all-inclusive, year-round recreational activities, facilities, and natural spaces that would instill an appreciation of the outdoors, strengthen community engagement, provide economic benefits, and promote the health and wellness of all those living and visiting our City.

VISION

To enhance the quality of life by providing the best possible public recreational facilities, open natural spaces and inclusive programs for our citizens

GOAL ONE

PARK REDEVELOPMENT

Provide a Park System that is safe, usable, attractive, sustainable and fun.

- Remove outdated play equipment
- Revisit community pool renovations options
- Increase park maintenance staff capacity
- Develop work order system
- Develop Berwind Park agreement
- Update recreation areas to minimize impacts on the environment or conflicts among user groups
- Identify areas in the City parks which are not ADA compliant including parking, pavilions, playgrounds, sports fields and amenities

GOAL TWO

SUSTAINABLE FUNDING

Establish and secure funding

- Develop and adopt a ten-year Capital Improvement Plan
- Establish annual budget
- Leverage funds through grants
- Adopt updated Mandatory Dedication Ordinance
- Increase sponsorship opportunities
- Create a Recreation and Parks Foundation/Recreation Committee

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**GOAL THREE
PARTNERSHIPS**

Enhance the Recreation Board's capacity as an Advisory Board.

- Adopt new Recreation Board by laws
- Add a youth recreation Board member
- Identify desired Board skills for future members
- Provide educational opportunities: PRPS/NRPA/DCNR
- Establish partnerships
- Fundraising strategies

**GOAL FOUR
CONNECTIVITY & OPEN SPACE**

Develop a System of Multi-use, interconnecting Trails and Greenways that provide opportunities for exercise, alternative transportation and recreation.

- Create a Share the Road signage and road program
- Promote the health and wellness of trails
- Partner with neighboring trail groups
- Connect to West Creek Trail into Kaulmont
- Increase connections from neighborhoods to City parks
- Update the City Mandatory Dedication Ordinance: Fee in Lieu and review annually
- Increase mobile connectivity in outdoors and trails
- Acquire land and trail easements for the development of trail and the expansion of greenways

**GOAL FIVE
RECREATION PROGRAMMING**

Ensure that a wide variety of Recreation Programming is available to meet the needs of residents.

- Market as outdoor recreation
- Develop inclusive and diverse programs
- Develop counselor in training opportunities
- Establish cost recovery pricing policy/sustainable programs
- Secure commercial or non-profit sponsors
- Create partnerships
- Seek opportunities for cooperative programming with surrounding community

**GOAL SIX
BRANDING & MARKETING**

Develop an Identity of St. Marys Parks and Recreation.

- Promote health, wellness and outdoor recreation opportunities
- Increase internal and external communication
- Develop consistent wayfinding and signage

Council thanked her for the presentation.

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CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA TOPICS There were no citizen comments on agenda topics.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Fleming provided the following report:

- "I want to thank Heather for her hard work on the Parks and Recreation Comp Plan and acknowledge all the individuals involved in bringing it together.
- I want to mention the passing of Father Eric Vogt. Father Eric was part of so many lives within our community. He devoted his life to helping others and our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and parishes.
- The City of Saint Marys has officially received the agreement between the City and the Social Security Administration. The transition is now complete for the Social Security Administration to recognize the City of Saint Marys.
- I also want to acknowledge the Webelos Scouts with us this evening to observe the council meeting with their Den Leader Fritz Lecker. I want to thank them for coming this evening.
- City of Saint Marys will be hosting the District Meeting for the Pennsylvania Municipal League on Wednesday at Maker's Warehouse. Final preparations are being made and we are looking forward to the event.
- Road and street sweeping continues along with ditching and some patchwork being performed.
- Public Works is finishing up design and engineering of projects and will have them in front of Council either at the May or June monthly meeting.
- Maintenance is being performed at our community parks along with preparations of the summer programs.
- Heritage Preservation Group will be around the downtown area this coming Friday morning the 21st as they are volunteering to do some spring cleaning of the area.
- The final hiring processes are being completed for a part-time police officer who is scheduled to be sworn in by

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the Mayor at the beginning of next month's meeting.

- Clean Up Day has been announced for April 28th and 29th with the same location as last year at the lower parking lot of Kaulmont Park. Please check our usual media platforms for more information."

TREASURER'S REPORT

Manager Fleming provided the following Treasurer's Report for March 2023:

March 31st marks the end of the 1st quarter of 2023, and revenue collected for the General Fund is at 16% of budget. Expenditures for the General Fund were at 24% of budget. Last year revenue was at 12% of budget and expenditures were 21% of budget. For 2021, revenue was 14% of budget and expenditures were 18% of budget and for 2020, revenue was recorded at 12% of budget and expenditures at 20%. Revenue collected for Real Estate taxes for 2023 is 24% of budget and for 2022 it was 23% of budget; for 2021 it was 25%; and for 2020 it was 18%. Earned Income Tax revenue for the 1st quarter of 2023 is 29% of budget and in 2022 it was 19% of budget; for 2021 it was 26%; for 2020 it was 27%. This is actual cash received, and not earned, which means that the majority of the EIT was for the last quarter of 2022.

PUBLIC HEARING:

This public hearing is being held for the intermunicipal transfer of liquor license R-18962 for Straub Brewery, Inc.

Open Hearing

Mayor Garner opened the public hearing at 7:21 p.m.

Public Comment

Bill Brock, President and CEO of Straub Brewery, explained they did not expect a lot of big changes from this transfer. It was an opportunity to serve their customers better. This will free up the brewery license.

Sally Geyer asked if this was existing license and Mr. Brock responded, no this was a restaurant license that was in Benezette Township and they need approval to transfer it to the City of St. Marys.

Jerome Sorg questioned if they were going to use the license for their restaurant instead of the Brewery and Mr. Brock responded, correct, it is for the Tap Room.

Nedward Jacob questioned what type of license they have now and Mr. Brock responded, it is a brewery license which allows them to serve beer, spirits and wines that are produced in

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Pennsylvania. This new license will allow the sale of liquor and wine produced outside of Pennsylvania, but they intend to continue to sell Pennsylvania products.

Council members clarified the details of his statement amongst themselves.

Mr. Brock stated this was an opportunity that they wanted to take advantage of.

Hearing Closed

Mayor Garner closed the public hearing at 7:24 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Consider for adoption:

**Resolution No. 23-08 –
Approve intermunicipal
transfer of liquor license R-
18962 for Straub Brewery, Inc.
Motion Passed**

Resolution No. 23-08, approval of an intermunicipal transfer of liquor license R-18962 for Straub Brewery, Inc. was presented for adoption.

Andrew Mohny made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 23-08, seconded by Shane Schneider and all were in favor.

**Resolution No. 23-07 –
Authorizing the submission of
a Traffic Signal Maintenance
Agreement with PennDOT**

Resolution No. 23-07 – Authorizing the submission of a Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement with PennDOT was presented for adoption.

Manager Fleming explained this was to allow for the maintenance and updates of traffic signals.

Motion Passed

Deputy Mayor Bob Roberts made a motion to adopt resolution No. 23-07, seconded by Sally Geyer and all were in favor.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

**Term limits imposed by Section
304(b) and 402 of the City
Charter**

Deputy Mayor Bob Roberts explained the topic of Council term limits has been brought up in previous discussions and thought it best for Council to determine which direction they wanted to take.

He noted if a Council member resigns or does not complete their elected term for whatever reason, it creates a vacancy on Council. Once that vacancy occurs Council may appoint someone to fill the position until the next election. The problem is that as interpreted from the current Charter, that appointment counts as a term which then limits them for the time that they could serve by reelection to the position. He stated he would like this issue to be proposed to the citizens by referendum. He then confirmed with the Solicitor this was the process for any changes to the Charter. He explained if someone was appointed, they did not run for reelection due to this language in the Charter and this has

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occurred numerous times. He noted the amount of candidates running for Council has decreased over the years.

Sally Geyer stated she agreed that if someone is appointed it should not count as a term.

Shane Schneider explained he submitted a letter of interest for a vacancy on Council and the existing Council voted on the appointment. He noted if someone was appointed for two months it would count as a term.

Jerome Sorg explained he did not apply for the last Council vacancy since he knew it would count as a term.

Motion Passed

Deputy Mayor Roberts made a motion to have the Solicitor prepare and ordinance that moves the issue of term limits onto the referendum ballot for the fall election, seconded by Andrew Mohny and all were in favor.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS ON
NON-AGENDA TOPICS**

There were no citizen comments on non-agenda topics.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Shane Schneider thanked the cub scouts for attending.

Jerome Sorg commented Father Eric will be sorely missed. He also thanked the scouts for attending and encouraged them to continue to participate.

Sally Geyer also thanked the scouts for attending and noted a lot of progress is happening in town.

Andrew Mohny requested voters to educate themselves before voting.

Deputy Mayor Bob Roberts thanked Manager Fleming for finalizing the Social Security Agreement. He also reminded everyone of the upcoming cleanup day being held by the Heritage Group. He thanked Straub Brewery for what they do for St. Marys.

Mayor Garner commended Manager Fleming on the recent award received in Harrisburg and noted we have a good City Manager.

Manager Fleming commented on how proud he was of receiving the award.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Garner made the following announcements:

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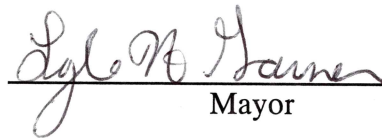
- The next Council regular meeting will be held on Monday, May 15, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Nedward Jacob made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Shane Schneider. Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.



Recording Secretary



Mayor