

**CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL
BUDGET WORKSHOP**

NOVEMBER 6, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

The scheduled Council Budget Workshop of the City of Saint Marys was called to order by Mayor Lyle Garner on Monday, November 6, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the Council Room of City Hall, 11 LaFayette Street. Notice of this meeting was sent to Council on November 2, 2023, posted at City Hall and published in the Daily Press.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Lyle Garner, Deputy Mayor Bob Roberts, Andrew Mohny, Shane Schneider, Nedward Jacob, Sally Geyer, Jerome Sorg, Manager Joe Fleming, Recording Secretary Lorrie Levenduski.

City Staff: Finance Director Carol Muhitch, Tina Gradizzi, Director of Community and Economic Development, Dani Kugler, Parks and Recreation Director.

VISITORS

Clythera Hornung, Gail Shturtz, Bill Kraus, Jim Heary Jr., William Goetz, Ken Weidow, Tom Bauer, Jeffy Smith, Tom Kerchinski, Scott Bauer, Greg Gebauer, Richard Gavazzi, Nicholas Burdick, Susie Fledderman, Amy Cherry, and Kelly Breindel.

**BUDGET OVERVIEW AND
SUMMARY**

Manager Fleming provided the following comments:

“Council, welcome to the 2024 budget workshops. According to the city charter, the administration prepares and presents a proposed annual budget to City Council for your review. It is the single most important legislation placed before you in any given year. It sets the vision and direction for the upcoming year in serving our community. During the course of these workshops, you will be provided with presentations and in-depth explanation of the proposed budget. The session being held this evening will cover the special revenue funds. On Wednesday, November 8th, a re-cap will be provided of this session, and we will then proceed to present the proposed General Fund, Capital Fund, and our Enterprise Fund. The proposed operating budget is balanced with no recommendations for any increases in real estate taxes. If needed and at your request, we can hold an additional workshop session on Tuesday, November 14th. I request that the sessions be kept to the time allotted and please feel free to ask questions as needed as you will be given a large amount of information. Finally, I would like to thank all staff for their assistance in preparing this annual budget, especially the directors who will

**CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL
BUDGET WORKSHOP**

NOVEMBER 6, 2023

be present during the workshops. Carol, our Finance Director, will provide the explanation of the budget to Council. I wish to thank Carol for her hard work getting the budget ready as these sessions will be her last since she plans to retire at the end of May 2024. Without further delay, I will hand it back over to you Mayor to begin the presentations.”

**PRESENTATIONS
St. Marys Area Ambulance
Service**

Nick Burdick, Manager of St. Marys Area Ambulance Service provided the following information:

- There is an EMS crisis in the country.
- Poor funding from insurance reimbursement, staffing issues and lack of funding are contributing to the problem.
- An increase in the ambulance fund millage was being requested.
- An overview and history of the department.
- Average of 3,500 calls annually.
- Breakdown of insurance billing, rates and reimbursements.
- Operational Finances with an estimate of possible closure of the service within 3 – 5 years at current pace.
- The establishment of an EMS Task Force with state level representatives has been helpful in obtaining an increase in mileage reimbursements.
- Insurance reimbursements for Medicare and Medicaid are federally regulated.
- The millage rate has not been increased in 30 years.
- Currently, those funds offset the fuel costs.
- One mill increase was requested, but any increase would be welcomed and appreciated.

Council discussed the request and noted the total millage could not exceed 5 tenths without needing a voter referendum. It was suggested to approve 4 tenths increase that would bring their total millage to 5 tenths. This would amount to an \$85,000 increase in funds.

Crystal Fire Department

Bill Kraus, Fire Chief presented the numerous members of the Crystal Fire Department that attended tonight’s meeting. He explained the number of calls and coverage area, He provided an apparatus overview, and noted their ISO rating keeps costs down for industry and residents.

CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL
BUDGET WORKSHOP

NOVEMBER 6, 2023

Jeff Smith and Tom Kerchinski presented the following requests and information:

- Replacement of outdated air packs \$12,850
- Replacement of gear - \$4,000
- Replacement of apparatus fund receives a total of \$100,000 from the Relief Association, and from Fire Department grants and donations. Currently the department has no debt on equipment. A recent repair to the aerial truck cost \$100,000. They requested to purchase an engine/tanker with a cost savings of \$700,000 by combing the two into one.
- They have seen a 30 percent increase in costs for equipment. They confirmed their last increase was in 2016 and allowed them to purchase equipment.
- They requested a one mill increase in millage to allow them to build the necessary capital funds to purchase equipment.

Nedward Jacob stated he wanted to stay within a total of a one mill increase for both the Ambulance and Fire and suggested 3 tenths for the Ambulance and 7 tenths for the Fire Department.

Nedward Jacob made a motion to increase the Ambulance three tenths and the Fire Department seven tenths, seconded by Jerome Sorg.

Nedward Jacob commented on other millage rates.

All were in favor of the motion, except Andrew Mohny who opposed.

Andrew Mohny commented for the record, he opposed the motion because he did not like the split.

Shade Tree Commission

Gail Shturtz, President of the Shade Tree Commission and Clythera Hornung, Secretary/Treasurer of the Shade Tree Commission presented the following information:

Kaulmont Park was in need of attention and had surface water issues. The Commission had previously spent \$25,000 to plant trees along a waking path in the park. Now some of those trees are dying. They obtained the advise of a professional who provided them with a plan to plant trees and plants similar to a rain garden to help with the surface water issues.

**CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL
BUDGET WORKSHOP**

NOVEMBER 6, 2023

Motion

Andrew Mohney made a motion to approve the \$5,000 cost for the project.

Clarification

Manager Fleming noted the \$5,000 was already in the Shade Tree Fund for the project. If Council wanted to remove the amount then a motion would be needed. Otherwise, the funding would be considered approved and as a one-time only increase to their budget for 2024.

Motion Withdrawn

Andrew Mohney withdrew his motion.

**SPECIAL REVENUE
FUNDS**

Carol Muhitch explained the Special Revenue Funds are millage-based funds set by Council.

Street Lighting Tax Fund

There were no changes to the Street Lighting Fund.

Fire Protection Fund

Fire Protection Fund would be 2.1 mills. An increase of seven tenths.

Recreation Fund

There were no changes to the Recreation Fund.

Library Fund

There were no changes to the Library Fund.

Ambulance Fund

Ambulance fund would be four tenths. An increase of three tenths.

Fire Hydrant Fund

There were no changes to the Fire Hydrant Fund.

Debt Fund

There were no changes to the Debt Fund.

Shade Tree Fund

There were no changes to the Shade Tree Fund. The amount listed in the budget of \$21,000 for one year includes the \$5,000 request for the Kaulmont Park Project.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Lyle Garner made the following announcement:

- The next budget workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, November 8, 2023 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. in the Council Room at City Hall.
- Next Council regular meeting will be held on Monday, November 20, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

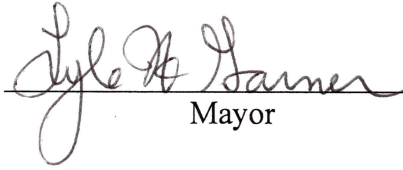
Jerome Sorg made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Nedward Jacob. Meeting adjourned at 8.03 p.m.

CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL
BUDGET WORKSHOP

NOVEMBER 6, 2023



Recording Secretary



Mayor