

**CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING**

DECEMBER 18, 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, December 18, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. Notice of this meeting was sent to Council on December 14, 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, Jerome Sorg, Sally Geyer, Manager Joseph Fleming, Solicitor Tom Wagner and Recording Secretary Lorrie Levenduski.

Shane Schneider joined via teleconference.

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

VISITORS

Cly Hornung, Joe Sarginger, Angie Vollmer, Karen Mohny, Lance Mohny, Stephen Bagley, Martin Dornish, Joseph Geci, Kurt Nesbitt, Jacob Sorg and Amy Cherry.

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

Sally Geyer made a motion to approve the November 20, 2023 minutes, seconded by Jerome Sorg and all were in favor.

**PRESENTATION OF
PLAQUES TO OUTGOING
COUNCIL MEMBERS AND
CITY SOLICITOR**

Mayor Garner presented plaques to the following:

Councilman/Deputy Mayor Bob Roberts 2020-2024
Councilwoman Sally Geyer 2022-2024
Councilman Andrew Mohny 2016-2024
Solicitor Tom Wagner 2012-2024

**CITIZEN COMMENTS ON
AGENDA TOPICS**

There were no citizen comments on agenda topics.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Fleming provided the following report:

- "This report will be somewhat brief due to the full meeting agenda.
- I want to start off by saying thank you to the St. Marys Chamber of Commerce for putting together the Light Up Night event. Every year it seems like more and more people are coming to this event as we pack the downtown area. It's wonderful seeing everything come together.

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- We are working together with the Boys and Girls Club to help celebrate their 100th anniversary which will take place next year along with the SMILE project which will have its 10th anniversary which was created by John Schlimm. John is putting together a press release which will be released soon on this topic.
- Numerous activities are being held by the Recreation department such the Gingerbread 5K, Letters to Santa and other events.
- The road crew is in winter mode at this time. They recently removed some of the park equipment at Diamond Street Park where updates will be taking place, and this is being spearheaded with the collaborative efforts of the Parks and Recreation Board and Shiloh Presbyterian Church.
- I had a great conversation with SMASD Superintendent Dr. Ramsey as we will again keep each other informed of any adverse weather conditions and any impacts on the logistics and transportation efforts of the school district. We started this type of communication line last year and it has been beneficial for both of us.
- The new incoming council members have received their welcome packets, and they look forward to serving our community.
- The City has received a resolution opposing privatization adopted by the St. Marys Area Water Authority Board of Governors, which took place at last Monday's meeting. This resolution was per request of City Council.
- I want to thank the outgoing members of Council for their hard work and service to our City. I wish you the best on your next steps.
- Finally, I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year!"

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

The revenue collected for the General fund was at 99% of budget. For 2022 revenue was at 95.6%; for 2021 it was 94% and for 2020 revenue was at 86% of budget. The expenditures for the General Fund was at 97% of budget and in 2022 expenditures were 94%; for 2021 they were 87% and for 2020 expenditures compared to budget was 81%. Benchmark would be at 91.6%. The Sewage Treatment Fund billed 84% of the budgeted revenue and had expenditures of 83% of budget. For 2022 - Revenue was 89% - Expenditures 79%. Earned Income tax collected as of the end of November was 113% of budget; for 2022 - 90.5% and for 2021 -

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98%; for 2020 - 93%. Amount Earned in 2023 is at 89%. Total Real Estate taxes collected as of the end of November was 99% of budget; for 2022 - it was at 99% of budget and for 2021 - 100%; for 2020 - 98% of budget. The market value of the pension plans has increased for November.

PUBLIC HEARING: Discovery House CU LLC Conditional Use Application -Mobile Methadone Facility

Solicitor Wagner explained the Public Hearing was postponed due to procedural problems. There are three outgoing Council members that could possibly recuse themselves from participating in the hearing, and a current Councilman that may not have been able to participate via teleconference for tonight's meeting. This could have created a situation of not having enough members for a quorum. Also, a decision in writing would be necessary after holding the public hearing and it would be unlikely that a decision would occur before the end of this year.

He requested the applicant consider postponing the public hearing until January and they agreed. The required notifications will occur before the rescheduled date in January.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION:
Conditional Use Application –
Discovery House CU LLC –
Mobile Methadone Facility

No action was taken since there was not a public hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING: 2024 City Budget

Mayor Garner opened the public hearing for the 2024 City Budget at 7:16 p.m.

There were no public comments.

Mayor Garner closed the public hearing at 7:17 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION:

Consider for adoption:
Ordinance No. 340, providing
for the levy and assessment of
taxes for the fiscal year 2024
Motion Passed

Ordinance No. 340, providing for the levy and assessment of taxes for the fiscal year 2024 was presented for adoption.

Nedward Jacob made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 340 for adoption, seconded by Deputy Mayor Bob Roberts and all were in favor, except Andrew Mohny who opposed.

Resolution No. 20-20 for the
2024 City Budget for various
funds
Motion Passed

Resolution No. 23-20 for the 2024 City Budget for various funds was presented for adoption.

Deputy Mayor Bob Roberts made a motion to approve Resolution No. 23-20 for adoption, seconded by Nedward Jacob and all were in favor, except Andrew Mohny who opposed.

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Resolution No. 23-21–
Disposition of City Records

Resolution No 23-21, authorizing the disposition of City records, was presented for adoption.

Manager Fleming explained a list of records was attached to the Resolution.

Motion

Jerome Sorg made a motion to approve Resolution No. 23-21, seconded by Deputy Mayor Bob Roberts.

Clarification

Sally Geyer questioned the recent dates on some of the records and it was clarified that some of the records were duplicate records.

Motion Passed

All were in favor of the motion.

Resolution No. 23-22 –
Revisions to City Fee Schedule

Resolution No. 23-22 – Revisions to City Fee Schedule was presented for adoption.

Manager Fleming and Matt Young explained a comparison to other municipalities regarding various permit fees was made and included with Council's packet. The proposed revisions to the Fee Schedule would keep the City's fees equal to or less than surrounding municipalities.

Motion

Jerome Sorg made a motion to approve Resolution No. 23-22, seconded by Andrew Mohny.

Clarification

Solicitor Wagner commented that a clarification of measurement should be added to the building permit chart of fees.

Motion Passed

All were in favor of the motion, except Sally Geyer who opposed.

Resolution No. 23-23 –
Component 3s Small Flow
Treatment Facility – Andy
Buehler, 124 Valley Rd.

Resolution No. 23-23 – Component 3s Small Flow Treatment Facility – Andy Buehler, 124 Valley Rd. was presented for adoption.

Manager Fleming explained this Resolution was requested due to a failed perk test and inspection for the property.

Matt Young explained the process for this request and confirmed an annual inspection will occur.

Motion Passed

Nedward Jacob made a motion to approve Resolution No. 23-23, seconded by Andrew Mohny and all were in favor.

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Resolution No. 23-24 – Asset
smoothing for the Police Pension
Plan

Resolution No. 23-24 – Asset smoothing for the Police Pension Plan was presented for adoption.

Manager Fleming explained this would provide an extra layer of protection and the ability to compensate for any big changes in the market.

Carol Muhitch noted this will also reduce the cost for the 2025 Minimum Municipal Obligation.

Motion Passed

Deputy Mayor Bob Roberts made a motion to approve Resolution No. 23-24, seconded by Shane Schneider and all were in favor.

2024 Wage Schedule for
Management Employees

2024 Wage Schedule for Management Employees was presented for approval.

Sally Geyer and Nedward Jacob both agreed that they wanted to discuss the matter further and did not agree with the increases.

Motion to Table

Nedward Jacob made a motion to table the item, seconded by Sally Geyer.

Roll Call Vote – Motion Denied

On a roll call vote, Andrew Mohny, Sally Geyer and Nedward Jacob voted in the positive. Deputy Bob Roberts, Shane Schneider, Jerome Sorg and Mayor Garner voted in the negative. Motion Denied.

Motion

Jerome Sorg made a motion to approve the 2024 Wage Schedule for Management Employees, seconded by Deputy Mayor Bob Roberts.

Comments

Jerome Sorg stated the following:

I reviewed the wages and I wasn't comparing them to the State wages. I was looking to keep the people we already have. There is a number on there that is too low, and I hope to work on changing that next year. Some of these employees did not receive any increases in prior years. New hires were hired at 30 percent less than the person they replaced. That is not how you run a business and it is not how you obtain good applicants. There is a labor shortage and if you want good applicants, you have to pay them.

Nedward Jacob stated that was why he wanted to table the item. He felt there were some employees that were underpaid and questioned a new hire at the same rate, but there would be a learning curve and this is taxpayer money.

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Sally Geyer commented the taxes were raised for Fire and Ambulance, fees were raised and there are people unemployed.

Roll Call Vote – Motion Passed

On a roll call vote Deputy Mayor Bob Roberts, Shane Schneider, Jerome Sorg and Mayor Garner voted in the positive and Andrew Mohney, Sally Geyer and Nedward Jacob voted in the negative. Motion Passed.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

There were no topics for discussion.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS ON
NON-AGENDA TOPICS**

There were no citizens comments on non-agenda topics.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Deputy Mayor Bob Roberts thanked Mayor Garner and Council. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Andrew Mohney read a prepared statement.

Sally Geyer wished everyone a Merry Christmas and stated Nedward Jacob was the best Council member.

Shane Schneider wished everyone a Merry Christmas and best wishes to the outgoing members.

Jerome Sorg thanked the outgoing members and Tom Wagner and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Nedward Jacob wished everyone a Merry Christmas and thanked outgoing Council members and Tom Wagner.

Mayor Garner thanked Tom Wagner and the outgoing Council members.

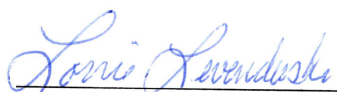
ANNOUNCEMENTS

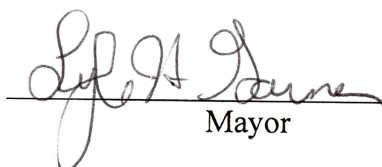
Mayor Garner made the following announcements:

- Council's reorganization meeting will be held Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.
- The next regular Council meeting will be held on Monday, January 15, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Nedward Jacob made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Andrew Mohney. Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.


Recording Secretary


Mayor