

**CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING**

JANUARY 15, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

The regular monthly Council meeting of the City of Saint Marys was called to order by Mayor Lyle Garner on Monday, January 15, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. Notice of this meeting was sent to Council on January 11, 2024, posted at City Hall and published in the Daily Press.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL

Mayor Lyle Garner, Deputy Mayor Shane Schneider, Nedward Jacob, Jerome Sorg, Anthony Gregory, Stephen Bagley, Joe Sarginger, Manager Joseph Fleming, Solicitor Lauren Brennen, and Recording Secretary Lorrie Levenduski.

City Staff: Tina Gradizzi, Director of Community and Economic Development, Matt Young, Code Official, Dani Kugler, Director of Parks and Recreation, Thomas Nicklas, Chief of Police.

VISITORS

Joe Goetz, Roger Smith, Dick Parson, Richard Sadley, David Brown, Matt Pasi, Heather Celidonia, and Amy Cherry.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES
January 2, 2024 –
Reorganization Meeting
Motion Passed**

Stephen Bagley made a motion to approve the January 2, 2024 minutes, seconded by Joe Sarginger 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.

**PRESENTATION OF
CERTIFICATES OF
APPRECIATION TO
OUTGOING AUTHORITIES,
BOARDS AND
COMMISSION MEMBERS**

Mayor Garner presented certificates to the following:
David Brown – President, Vice-President, Secretary of the Police Civil Service Commission for a total of 30 years
Matt Pasi – Member of the Recreation Board for 15 years

The following will also receive certificates:
Tom Farley – Vice-Chairman of the Benzinger Township Golf Authority for 7 years
Jim Heary Jr. - member of the Planning Commission for 12 years
Derek Wolfanger – member of the Municipal Authority for 13 years
Robert Bauer – member of the Municipal Authority for 18 years

**CITIZEN COMMENTS ON
AGENDA TOPICS**

There were no citizen comments on agenda topics.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Fleming provided the following report:

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- “First off, I want to thank all of the outgoing members who served on our authorities, boards, and commissions. These individuals along with current members serve our community in their free time to make our city a better place. I applaud their hard work and efforts to move our community forward.
- The public hearing on the application of the Discovery House to operate a mobile methadone treatment facility will take place on Wednesday, January 24th at 7pm in this chamber.
- I wanted to share some interesting statistics calculated from 2023. Our social media platform had an increase of 36% of visits by users. We had a decrease of 56% Boulevard Sign Permits from 2022 for a total of 32 permits. On our digital community calendar, we had a total of 185 requests for the sign, so basically, for every one boulevard sign, there were six digital signs. Also, we have about 1900 downloads of our city app with 500 new users for 2023.
- The City has once again submitted an application to participate in the PA Wilds Remote Worker Program, and should know the decision sometime in early February.
- Everyone is project planning, getting our new city solicitor up to speed, and awaiting grant application decisions from the state level. We are closing out 2023.”

TREASURER’S REPORT

Manager Fleming provided the following Treasurer’s Report for December, 2023:

Total General Fund revenue for 2023 was \$8.6M or 101.5% of budget; for 2022: 8.5M 103%; for 2021 : \$7.3M or 97%; and for 2020: \$6.7M or 91% of budget. General Fund expenditures for 2023 was \$9M or 106% of budget; for 2022 it was 7.9M or 95%; for 2021 it was \$7.4M or 98% of budget; and for 2020 it was \$6.5M or 88.5% of budget. Total real estate taxes collected for 2023 were at 100% of budget; for 2022 they were at 99%; for 2021 they were 101%; and for 2020 they were 99.5% of budget. Earned income tax collected for 2023 is at 115% of budget: for 2022 it was 96% ; for 2021; 100% and for 2020 it was 94.5%. This was EIT collections for the year, not earned. The market value of the pension funds increased 12% from last year. At this time we have not received all the revenue for 2023 and some of the invoices due to be paid, so figures for the end of the year will change and will be adjusted in the following months.

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LEGISLATIVE ACTION:

Consider for adoption:

Resolution No. 24-02 – Annual Fair Housing Resolution for 2024

Resolution No. 24-02 – Annual Fair Housing Resolution for 2024 was presented for adoption.

Tina Gradizzi explained this was an annual requirement due to the City receiving federal funding.

Motion Passed

Shane Schneider made a motion to approve Resolution No. 24-02, seconded by Nedward Jacob and all were in favor.

Consider for publication:

An Ordinance amending City Code Part One, Administrative Code, Article I - Departments

An Ordinance amending City Code Part One, Administrative Code, Article I – Departments was presented for publication.

Manager Fleming explained this amendment would clarify responsibilities that were already in effect and would create separate departments for Parks and Recreation, and Code and Zoning Enforcement.

Motion Passed

Shane Schneider made a motion to publish the ordinance, seconded by Anthony Gregory and all were in favor.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

There were no topics for discussion.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS ON
NON-AGENDA TOPICS**

Dick Parson, Commander of the Legion Post #103 expressed his opposition to the recent change to the City Fee Schedule that will now charge an annual fee of \$500.00 per game of skill.

Roger Smith of the St. Marys Eagles also expressed his opposition to the fee.

Mayor Garner clarified that the PLCB requires a percentage of proceeds from other gaming revenue be donated. There is no donation requirement for the games of skill proceeds.

It was clarified that 40 percent of the proceeds from the games of skill is kept by the establishment.

**Games of Skill Fee
Motion**

Stephen Bagley made a motion to suspend the fee and the due date to allow Council to review the topic.

It was clarified there was not a due date for the fee.

Amended Motion

Stephen Bagley amended his motion to suspend collecting the fee until Council has a chance to reassess the fee by either lowering it or eliminate it for non-profits.

Discussion

Stephen Bagley stated it was an excessive fee all at once.

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Roger Smith stated a donation should be requested instead, since they are required to donate a portion of other gaming proceeds. If revenue is needed for the fire department etc. they could donate funds instead of the fee coming out of the game of skill fund.

Nedward Jacob suggested looking at possible refunds for non-profits.

Manager Fleming explained this fee was added for this type of amusement device once it was determined it was allowable to charge a fee. Previously it was not allowed. It will need to be determined that there can be a separation of fees based on non-profit versus for profit.

Motion Seonded

Shane Schneider seconded the motion.

It was determined no fees have been collected yet.

Motion Passed

All were in favor of the motion, except Nedward Jacob and Mayor Garner who opposed.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Jerome Sorg commented on the need to revise the City's ordinance for ATV's.

Nedward Jacob congratulated David Brown and Matt Pasi for their years of service.

Stephen Bagley and Mayor Garner welcomed the new Solicitor.


ANNOUNCEMENTS


Mayor Garner made the following announcements:

- Council will hold a public hearing on the application of Discovery House CU, LLC to operate a mobile methadone treatment facility on Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Room at City Hall.
- The next regular Council meeting will be held on Monday, February 19, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Jerome Sorg made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Anthony Gregory. Meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.


Recording Secretary


Mayor