

**CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING**

153

NOVEMBER 20, 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, November 20, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. Notice of this meeting was sent to Council on November 17, 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, Shane Schneider, Sally Geyer, Manager Joseph Fleming, Solicitor Tom Wagner and Recording Secretary Lorrie Levenduski.

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

VISITORS

Cly Hornung, Stephen Bagley, Joe Sarginger, Eric Wolfe, Charles Nunamaker, Amy Cherry, and Richard Sadley.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES
October 18, 2023 – Regular
Meeting
Motion Passed**

Sally Geyer made a motion to approve the October 18, 2023 minutes, seconded by Andrew Mohny and all were in favor.

**November 6, 2023 – Budget
Workshop
Motion Passed**

Sally Geyer made a motion to approve the November 6, 2023 minutes, seconded by Jerome Sorg and all were in favor.

**November 8, 2023 – Budget
Workshop
Motion Passed**

Andrew Mohny a motion to approve the November 8, 2023 minutes, seconded by Deputy Mayor Bob Roberts and all were in favor.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS ON
AGENDA TOPICS**

There were no citizen comments on agenda topics.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Fleming provided the following report:

- "I wish to start by saying thank you to all the emergency services that participated in handing out candy on Halloween night, I believe we had over 20 emergency vehicles out and about in neighborhoods that night.
- Despite some iffy weather, the Haunted Forest held at Benzinger Park had another successful year and thanks to everyone involved with this great event.

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- Also, thank you to the American Legion for their annual Veteran's Day activity held on the Diamond.
- We held productive budget workshops and thank you to Council and presenters for the discussions which were held. City Council granted increases to EMS of 0.3 of a mill and Fire Protection received 0.7 of a mill respectfully, for a total of one mill increase. The operating general fund was presented which was balanced with zero increases in millage. Council will be voting on its publication later in the meeting.
- I met with representatives from Comcast earlier this month and they have already begun their walk-through of our area so I wanted to advise residents that you may see individuals from Comcast in neighborhoods as they plan their build.
- Reminder for those who have past due sewer payments to please bring their accounts current to avoid being placed on our collection's list. The list will be compiled at the end of the year.
- A selection has been made to succeed our outgoing Finance and Human Resource Director Carol Muhitch. The selection made was Charles Nunamaker and is in the audience tonight. His start date will be January 2, 2024.
- Parks and Recreation is holding their Letters to Santa activity through December 15th which can be mailed directly to City Hall or dropped off in the main lobby entrance. Please see their website for other upcoming activities.
- Leaf collection is still ongoing, mill and fill projects are completed and will be transitioning the truck in preparation for our winter season. Street Department and area organizations have been busy decorating the City in preparation for Light Up Night which will be held this coming Saturday with the parade starting at 630pm. Pertaining to Light Up Night, no parking will be allowed around the Diamond to ensure safe passage of the apparatuses taking part in the parade and safety for the people attending the event.

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- Congratulations goes out to our new members of City Council who will be sworn in on Tuesday, January 2nd during our Re-organizational Meeting here at City Hall.
- I also want to send out a special recognition to the Elk County Catholic Lady Crusader Fall Sports Program, not only did they have one team become state champions but two teams, first it was the Lady Crusader Cross Country team and more recently, the Lady Crusader Volleyball team. It is a rare feat to have multiple teams in the same season achieve this honor. Congratulations to these programs.
- The City offices will be closed this coming Thursday and Friday in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday and resume normal business hours Monday November 27th.
- Good luck to all area hunters as rifle season will begin this Saturday.
- Finally, from everyone at City Hall, I want to wish all of Saint Marys a very Happy Thanksgiving and enjoy the time with friends and family. “

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

The General Fund has collected 86.4% of its budgeted revenue and spent 90.68% of the budgeted amount. Last year at this time revenue collected was at 86.75% and expenditures were at 75.25% of budget and in 2021 budgeted revenue collected was 85% and expenses were at 79% of budget. Benchmark figures would be at 83%. Market value in pension funds decreased this month. Earned Income is at 67.4% of budget; in 2022 earned income was 55% of budget; for 2021 it was 58% of budget.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Consider for publication:

An Ordinance providing for the levy and assessment of taxes for the fiscal year 2024

An Ordinance providing for the levy and assessment of taxes for the fiscal year 2024 was presented for publication.

Nedward Jacob made a motion to approve the Ordinance for publication, seconded by Andrew Mohny and all were in favor.

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A Resolution for the 2024 City Preliminary Budget for various funds

A Resolution for the 2024 City Preliminary Budget for various funds was presented for publication.

Andrew Mohny made a motion to approve the Resolution for publication, seconded by Shane Schneider and all were in favor.

Cooperation Agreement between the City and the St. Marys Area Economic and Development Corporation

Tina Gradizzi Director of Community and Economic Development explained a Cooperation Agreement between the City and the St. Marys Area Economic and Development Corporation was being presented for approval. This agreement is as result of approving the Updated Program Income and Non-Program Income Reuse Plan that was approved at the last meeting and to implement the recommendation contained in the Strategic Management Plan from HRG to start an Economic Development fund.

Solicitor Wagner explained this agreement will set aside funds for Economic Development for the City with the Economic Development Corporation (EDC). The question was, who should manage the fund? Either City Council or an entity that is in the business of economic development. The City currently provides \$5,000 annually in support of the EDC's programs, which will not change. This agreement will allow the City to use non-program funds to meet the \$5,000 obligation. If the non-program funds are greater than \$5,000 in any given year, the excess will have to be placed into the fund. If the funds are less than \$5,000 the City will still be obligated to make sure there is a minimum of \$5,000 allocated into the fund. The agreement provides auditing and reporting requirements and an option to withdraw from the agreement at any time.

Tina Gradizzi confirmed that this fund will be separate and only for St. Marys projects. The projects will be reviewed per the guidelines and presented to the City Manager and the Director of the EDC.

There was a brief discussion regarding the agreement and what the funds would be used for and how reporting would be handled.

Motion

Andrew Mohny made a motion to approve the agreement, Deputy Mayor Bob Roberts seconded the motion.

Discussion

Nedward Jacob stated he wanted to know how he would get the reports.

Manager Fleming responded Council will be informed.

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Solicitor Wagner noted if the agreement states the reports will be filed with the City or the City Manager the same exact thing will happen. Council can just request the reports.

Sally Geyer stated it should be in writing that the City Manager has to provide City Council with the reports.

Amended First

Andrew Mohnney amended his motion to approve the agreement dependent on the Solicitor changing the verbiage in the agreement to state that Council will get a quarterly report of what is happening.

Clarification

Tina Gradizzi offered to come and report to Council, but noted there may be permission needed from applicants due to confidentiality with loan fund requests.

Amended Second

Deputy Mayor Bob Roberts amended his second to mirror Andrew Mohnney's amended motion.

Motion Passed

All were in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

**Offers for Airport Industrial
Park lots**

Manager Fleming explained an offer was received for Lot 10 in the Airport Industrial Park in the amount of \$10,000 per acre for a total of \$50,000. The offer was from Jacob Auman, owner of City Transfer Trucking.

It was determined the proceeds will be placed in the Airport Industrial Park fund.

Carol Muhitch provided details of the former loan on the property.

Manager Fleming noted the sale of lot 10 was contingent upon the purchase of the adjacent Lot 12. He believed there was already a signed agreement of sale on Lot 12 between Mr. Auman and Mr. Chicola, who the current owner of Lot 12.

**Lot 10
Motion Passed**

Andrew Mohnney made a motion to approve the sale of Lot 10 to Jacob Auman, seconded by Sally Geyer and all were in favor.

Manager Fleming explained an offer of \$45,000 was received for Lot 14 in the Airport Industrial Park from Scott Rodich, owner of SE Rodich Excavating.

**Lot 14
Motion Passed**

Andrew Mohnney made a motion to approve the sale of Lot 14 to Scott Rodich, seconded by Shane Schneider and all were in favor.

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TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

Nedward Jacob requested proposals be solicited for the Solicitor position, since Mr. Wagner is retiring at the end of this year.

Solicitor Wagner stated his firm is willing to take over that responsibility.

The Manager would have to take care of the required advertisements.

Nedward Jacob requested permission from Council to advertise for a Solicitor.

Andrew Mohny noted the lack of lawyers in the area.

Motion

Nedward Jacob made a motion to solicit for a new Solicitor, seconded by Sally Geyer.

Discussion

Andrew Mohny commented there should be requirements for the position.

Solicitor Wagner commented that this is a professional service and experience and availability matters.

Nedward Jacob commented he has seen Attorney Kraus attend Council meetings but wasn't sure of the other members of his firm's knowledge of government, like Mr. Wagner has. He believed there were a few experienced attorneys in the area.

Motion Passed

All were in favor of the motion except Andrew Mohny, Deputy Mayor Bob Roberts and Jerome Sorg who voted in the negative. Motion passed 4 to 3.

Sally Geyer questioned if the Redevelopment Authority should be reestablished.

It was determined the Cooperation Agreement approved earlier would cover what was needed.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS ON
NON-AGENDA TOPICS**

There were no citizens comments on non-agenda topics.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Andrew Mohny reminded everyone of Light Up Night this coming weekend.

Sally Geyer congratulated Andrew Mohny on winning the Halloween decorating contest. She offered her chair next to the Mayor to the newly elected Council members.

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Shane Schneider congratulated the ECCHS Cross Country and Volleyball teams for their championship wins and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and that everyone be safe on the first day of deer rifle season.

Jerome Sorg also congratulated the ECCHS teams. He also encouraged those who expressed an interest in serving on one of the City Boards to come and introduced themselves to Council.

Nedward Jacob also congratulated the teams at ECCHS and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mayor Garner congratulated Tricia Bauer for receiving coach of the year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

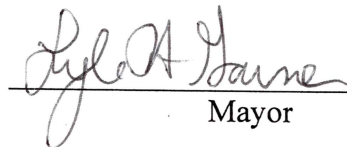
Mayor Garner made the following announcements:

- The next regular Council meeting will be held on Monday, December 18, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Nedward Jacob made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Andrew Mohney. Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.


Recording Secretary


Mayor

