

CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING

MARCH 18, 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, March 18, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. Notice of this meeting was sent to Council on March 14, 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, Dani Kugler, Director of Parks and Recreation.

VISITORS

Cly Hornung, Kim Fenice, Frank Kaul, Joe Jacob, Bill Laird, Bob Roberts, Tim Ruffner, Travis Reed, Alyssa Dobson, Greg Gebauer, Kurt Nesbitt, Richard Sadley, Christian Paulson, Amy Cherry, and Angela Regulski.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES
February 19, 2024 – Regular
Meeting**

Jerome Sorg made a motion to approve the February 19, 2024 minutes, seconded by Nedward Jacob and all were in favor.

**Motion Passed
March 8, 2024 – Special
Meeting
Motion Passed**

Nedward Jacob made a motion to approve the March 8, 2024 minutes, seconded by Shane Schneider and all were in favor.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:
Parks and Recreation –
Playland Design**

Dani Kugler, Parks and Recreation Director presented the following information regarding the new playland area design.

- The former Play Land has been removed and pieces were salvaged and given to the Historical Society.
- This replacement of Play Land was due to the recommendations contained in the Comprehensive Plan
- The goal of the new “playland” is to provide an all-inclusive playground for all to enjoy
- Reviewed the reason for the vendor chosen
- Provided an overview of the project
- Explained the surfacing
- Reviewed the free standing equipment chosen
- Provided a breakdown of the project costs
- Community voting for the color scheme will occur
- Anticipated timeline for construction – July-August

Emergency Management Plan

Greg Gebauer, Emergency Management Coordinator for the City of St. Marys, explained the history and the members of the

**CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING**

MARCH 18, 2024

Emergency Management Committee. The Emergency Management Plan was recently revised as general guide that provided information in case of a disaster, as well as an updated resource list. The Plan is structured to have the Mayor and City Manager as the decision makers in order to expedite the process. The Emergency Management committee will continue its mission to keep the community safe during an emergency or disaster and to alert the residents. He requested approval of the Plan from Council.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS ON
AGENDA TOPICS**

There were no citizen comments on agenda topics.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Fleming provided the following Manager's Report for February 2024.

- "With tomorrow being the official first day of Spring, mother nature did not get the memo with the weather that is forecasted this week. Thankfully, with the warmer weather of the past week or so, it has kept the ground temperature above freezing.
- I want to thank Dani and the Parks and Recreation Board for moving the new playground area forward. A lot of hard work is being put into this project.
- I also want to thank Greg and the City's EMA team for putting together a current EMA plan, which was definitely needed.
- Street sweeping is scheduled to start next Monday, of course, pending the weather conditions. Please check our normal media outlets for updates, along with the City's Cleanup Day which will be scheduled sometime in the latter part of April. It will be held at the same location at the lower end of Kaulmont Park parking lot.
- Waiting on KLH to get the Erie Ave/Washington St sewer/water project out to bid. As soon as we hear back, I would like to get this project moving forward.
- As soon as the weather is more favorable, we will also be starting the pedestrian pathway on Wehler Road as it connects to Benzinger Park.
- Preparations were being made for the painting of crosswalks in the downtown area to be completed by Memorial Day.
- Community and Economic Development and Code Enforcement are working on the Center Street Sidewalk Replacement Project. The project is currently out for bid and they will be accepted until April 10th. There are currently 2 phases of the project with Phase 1 being the

CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING

MARCH 18, 2024

south side of the street from the N. Michael Intersection to the Administrative Building of Sacred Heart. Phase 2 consists of the north side of the street from the N. Michael Intersection to Sacred Heart Church. Information letters are going to the residents of Center Street to advise them of the project and phases to keep them informed.

- HOME Senior Housing New Construction is moving fairly quickly.
- Tina and Kim will also be soliciting for the 2024 CDBG projects. Public Hearings will be conducted in the next couple of weeks, so please watch for advertisements on these hearings.
- The city offices will be closed March 29th to observe Good Friday. Finally, I want to wish everyone a happy and healthy Easter.”

TREASURER’S REPORT

Manager Fleming provided the following Treasurer’s Report for February 2024:

Total revenue for the General Fund as of 2/29/2024 was .92% of budget. This does not include the EIT for the 4th Quarter 2023 - collected in Feb of 2024 of \$646,823. Collections in 2023 were \$588,158. Total expenditures for the General fund as of the end of February 2024, were \$1,176,836 or 13% of budget. Last year at this time we were at 11% of budget. We will not see revenue collections for 2024 until the end of March or first part of April for Real Estate Taxes. Earned income tax for the 1st quarter of 2024, will be received in May. Total revenue for the Sewage Treatment fund as of 2/29/2024 is \$276,100 or 6.5% of budget and expenditures are \$202,718 or 4.8% of budget. In 2023, we collected \$113,188 more in sewer charges than budgeted. Pension plans increased again this month. Balances as of 2/1/2024 were adjusted to actual with 2023-year end adjusting entries.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:
Consider for adoption:**

Resolution No. 24-06; Adopting the City of St. Marys Emergency Operations Plan
Motion Passed

Resolution No. 24-06; Adopting the City of St. Marys Emergency Operations Plan was presented for adoption.

Shane Schneider made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 24-06, seconded by Nedward Jacob and all were in favor.

Resolution No. 24-07; Amending the City’s Fee Schedule

Resolution No. 24-07; Amending the City’s Fee Schedule was presented for adoption, as directed by motion of Council from the last meeting. The Resolution changes the Games of Skill annual fee from \$500.00 to \$250.00 per machine.

**CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING**

MARCH 18, 2024

Motion Passed

Jerome Sorg made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 24-07, seconded by Stephen Bagley and all were in favor, except Mayor Garner who opposed.

Acceptance of Bid: Boys and
Girls Club A.D.A. Project -
C.D.B.G. Funds

Frank Kaul explained the history, details and modifications to the Boys and Girls Club A.D.A. project. Due to a portion of the project being funded by the City's C.D.B.G. funds, approval of Council was needed to accept the bid for the project. He provided the following bid results:

Daghir Construction, Inc. Base Bid - \$783,760.00
Alternate 1 (Asphalt Paving) - \$12,540.00
Alternate 2 (Classroom Addition) - \$109,270.00

He proposed Council accept the base bid with Alternate 1, since they were unable to fund the Alternate 2 option.

Motion Passed

Jerome Sorg made a motion to accept the base bid with Alternate 1 option, seconded by Nedward Jacob and all were in favor.

L.E.R.T.A. Application 2024-01
– Housler Family Eye Care

L.E.R.T.A. Application 2024-01 – Housler Family Eye Care was presented for approval.

Manager Fleming explained Housler Family Eyecare had submitted an application to the City in regards to the Local Economic Revitalization Act (LERTA) Program for a new commercial office building at 949 S. St. Marys St. with a projected cost of \$598,570. The request was approved by Elk County and the St. Marys Area School Board.

Motion Passed

Nedward Jacob made a motion to approve the 2024-01 L.E.R.T.A. application, seconded by Anthony Gregory and all were in favor.

Approval of City appropriations:
Airport Authority request of
matching funds for grant
PA Wilds Remote Worker Funds

Manager Fleming explained at the last meeting Council approved the Airport and PA Wilds worker funds, but a clarification of the motion was needed.

He requested approval of (2024) City appropriations for the Airport request of matching funds for grant (\$25,000) and for the PA Wilds Remote Worker Funds (\$10,500)

Motion Passed

Anthony Gregory made a motion to approve both above listed appropriations, seconded by Stephen Bagley and all were in favor.

CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING

MARCH 18, 2024

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:
Open all City Roadways to
A.T.V.'s

Jerome Sorg made a motion to discuss opening all City roadways to All Terrain (ATV and UTV) vehicles, seconded by Shane Schneider and all were in favor.

Jerome Sorg explained he believed the City should open all streets for the use of A.T.V.'s and listed the following information:

- Current City Code provides for the use of snowmobiles on certain City streets in the former Township
- He would rather designate all street now then have to go back and add streets
- Drivers will no longer run away from the Police
- He clarified this would not include State roadways
- He provided examples of other towns that allow the same type of use
- He noted a driver's license would be required along with the use of a helmet
- He believed it would be a benefit for the City

Mayor Garner questioned where the closest trail was and Jerome Sorg responded that it was still being worked on.

Stephen Bagley disagreed with opening all City streets.

Mayor Garner recommended it be placed as a referendum on the ballot.

Nedward Jacob stated the use of A.T.V.'s on City streets was already an issue.

Mayor Garner suggested starting with a couple of streets, but believed first a trailhead was necessary.

Jerome Sorg explained the current riders are not legal on City streets.

Shane Schneider stated he believed it would be hard to enforce.

Mayor Garner stated Right of Way's would be needed to connect a trail to the City.

Jerome Sorg agreed, but believed Council must be open to the idea and willing to support it.

Anthony Gregory questioned using State roads and Jerome Sorg responded if it is a 90-degree crossing it is permitted by the State.

**CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING**

MARCH 18, 2024

Motion Passed

Stephen Bagley made a motion to table the discussion until a more concrete plan can be presented, seconded by Nedward Jacob and all were in favor.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS ON
NON-AGENDA TOPICS**

Alyssa Dobson representing the Elk County Fair questioned the criteria for placing information/events on the City's digital Community sign.

It was confirmed that it was for City events and City non-profit events. It was further clarified that if the event didn't qualify it could still be advertised on the boulevard with a sign.

Chris Haberberger commented she would like to see more events in the area especially for seniors.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council and the Mayor thanked those that gave presentations and wished everyone a Happy Easter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

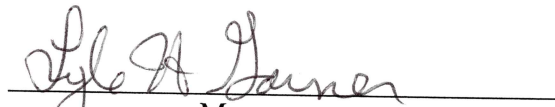
Mayor Garner made the following announcements:

- The next regular Council meeting will be held on Monday, April 15, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Jerome Sorg made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Anthony Gregory. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.


 Recording Secretary


 Mayor