

**CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING**

NOVEMBER 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, November 18, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. Notice of this meeting was sent to Council on November 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, Jerome Sorg, Nedward Jacob, Stephen Bagley, Anthony Gregory, Joe Sarginger, City Manager Joseph Fleming, Solicitor Lauren Brennen, and Recording Secretary Rachael Hughes.

VISITORS

Cly Hornung, Marilyn Secco, Gwen Auman, Tim Ruffner, Richard Gavazzi, Ronald Samick Jr, Fran Pasi, Warren Stuart, Thomas Herzing, Jodi Guisto, Torie Brem, Andrew Mohney.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

October 21, 2024 – Regular Meeting

Motion Passed

Nedward Jacob made a motion to approve the October 21, 2024 minutes, seconded by Shane Schneider, and all were in favor.

November 04, 2024 – Budget Workshop

Motion Passed

Jerome Sorg made a motion to approve the November 04, 2024 minutes, seconded by Anthony Gregory, and all were in favor.

November 15, 2024 –Special Meeting

Motion Passed

Nedward Jacob made a motion to approve the November 15, 2024 minutes, seconded by Shane Schneider, and all were in favor.

REPORT ON EXECUTIVE SESSION

An Executive Session was held on November 15, 2024 regarding personnel matters. No decisions were made.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION
Northern Pennsylvania
Regional College- Jodi Guisto**

Jodi Guisto, of Northern Pennsylvania Regional College, presented the following:

NPRC provides services to a nine-county area for 70 percent less than the bigger brick and mortar institutions. They offer five Associate Degree programs and low-cost education opportunities for both high school students and adult learners. They offer interactive courses which provide a live real time instructor in the classroom, and starting in the Spring of 2025, the option of fully remote learning will be available. In addition, the NPRC will be adding the opportunity for students to apply for Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) while continuing to offer scholarships and institutional aid.

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No questions were asked and Council thanked Jodi for her presentation.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS ON
AGENDA TOPICS**

There were no citizen comments on agenda topics.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Fleming presented the following report:

- "I want to thank our emergency services for their participation in handing out treats on Halloween night. Also, it seems like the area events surrounding Halloween are growing each and every year.
- I want to introduce Rachael Hughes, she will be taking over Lorrie's position at the end of the year since Lorrie will be retiring.
- The area projects are wrapping up for the season. The Erie Ave/Washington St. Sewer Replacement Project should be wrapped up for the season before Thanksgiving. They shall return in the Spring for finishing touches and paving.
- The pedestrian pathway at Benzinger Park should be completed by the end of the week depending on the weather.
- I want to commend City Council and City Staff for their efforts towards the 2025 Annual Budget, as the budget is balanced and recommendation of no tax increases or sewer rate increases.
- Leaf collection activity is in progress, but we are starting to transition over to winter mode as the city could see its first accumulating snow on Thursday into Friday.
- City offices will be closed November 28th and 29th in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.
- I want to wish everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving."

TREASURER'S REPORT

Manager Fleming, provided the following Treasurer's Report for October 2024:

Total revenue for the General Fund as of October 31st, 2024 is \$7.25 million or 82% of Budget. Last year was \$7.32 million or 87% and 2022 was \$7.18 million or 87%. Expenditures for the General Fund as of October 31st, 2024 are \$7.67 million or 87%

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of Budget. Last year was \$7.68 million or 91%, and 2022 was \$6.23 million or 75%. Total Real Estate tax collections as of the end of October are at 98% of budget. In 2023 it was 98% and 2022 was 99%. Earned Income tax collection as of 10/31/2024 is at 86% of budget. In 2023 is was 92% of budget and 2022 was 72% of budget. Pension plans saw a decrease in value for October 2024. In October 2024 the City of St Marys contributed the minimum municipal obligated funds to the pension plans.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION:

Consider for publication:
An Ordinance providing for the levy and assessment of taxes for the fiscal year 2025

An Ordinance providing for the levy and assessment of taxes for the City of Saint Marys for the fiscal year 2025 was presented for publication.

Motion Passed

Anthony Gregory made a motion to approve the Ordinance for publication, seconded by Shane Schneider, and all were in favor.

A Resolution for the 2025 City Preliminary Budget for various funds

A Resolution for the 2025 City Preliminary Budget for various funds was presented for publication.

Motion Passed

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

Consider for adoption:
Resolution No. 24-23 –Local Share Assessment Grant for Crystal Fire Department Station 2 Renovation

Resolution No. 24-23 – Local Share Assessment Grant for Crystal Fire Department Station 2 Renovation was presented for adoption.

Motion Passed

Anthony Gregory made a motion to approve Resolution No. 24-23, seconded by Jerome Sorg, and all were in favor.

Rescinding Local Share Assessment Grant Application for Shawmut Park

The Local Share Assessment Grant Application for Shawmut Park was presented for rescindment.

Discussion

Manager Fleming informed Council the reason for the grant to be rescinded, which was not to compete with the grant for the Crystal Fire Department Station 2 Renovation.

Shane Schneider wanted to clarify by stating that the application was submitted, then a week later, the reward for the grant for the previous year was received.

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Manager Fleming agreed, noting that amid applying for the 2024 grant, we were awarded the 2023 grant.

Motion Passed

Jerome Sorg made a motion to approve the Rescindment of the Local Share Assessment Grant Application for Shawmut Park, seconded by Anthony Gregory, and all were in favor.

**Amending the Agreement
between the St. Marys Airport
Authority and the City re: lots
1, 2, and 2A in the Industrial
Park**

The Agreement between the St. Marys Airport Authority and the City of St. Marys re: lots 1, 2, and 2A in the Industrial Park was presented for amendment.

Discussion

Manager Fleming stated that the Airport Authority asked Council to amend the agreement regarding lots 1, 2, and 2A because according to the agreement, the lots are lease-only but the Airport Authority would like those lots to be available for purchase.

Nedward Jacob commented that there would be better luck selling the lots than leasing them.

Motion Passed

Jerome Sorg made a motion to approve the Amendment of the Agreement between the St. Marys Airport Authority and the City regarding lots 1, 2, and 2A in the Industrial Park, seconded by Shane Schneider. All were in favor, except Nedward Jacob who abstained.

**TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:
Free Parking for Light Up Night**

Manager Fleming provided information regarding the request from St. Marys Area Chamber of Commerce for free parking on November 30, 2024 for Light Up Night and Small Business Saturday.

Shane Schneider clarified that it is similar to what Council approved for the Business Trick-or-Treat held in October.

A motion was made by Anthony Gregory to approve free parking all day on November 30, 2024, seconded by Stephen Bagley, and all were in favor.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS ON
NON-AGENDA TOPICS**

There were no citizen comments on agenda topics.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council had the following comments:

Shane Schneider reminded everyone of Light Up Night on November 30, wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and good luck on the first day of rifle season.

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Jerome Sorg seconded Shane Schneider and added that City Council needs to address parking in the downtown area before May when Dickinson Center will open.

Nedward Jacob wished everyone a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

Joe Sarginger wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and to be careful driving due to snow.

Stephen Bagley thanked all City employees that were involved in helping the American Legion Post 103 conduct their Veteran's Day Ceremony on the Diamond. He thanked Manager Fleming for the use of the grounds for the ceremony and also thanked the Police Department. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Anthony Gregory wished everyone a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

Mayor Garner challenged everyone to come to Light Up Night to see what costume he would be wearing. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

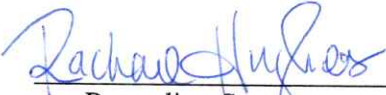
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Garner made the following announcements:

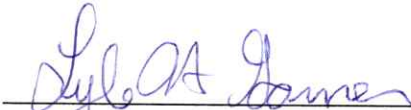
- The next regular Council meeting will be held on Monday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m in the Council Room at City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

Jerome Sorg made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Anthony Gregory, and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:35p.m.



Recording Secretary



Mayor

