

**CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING**

211

AUGUST 19, 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, August 19, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. Notice of this meeting was sent to Council on August 15, 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 Lorrie Levenduski.

City Staff: Tina Gradizzi, Director of Community and Economic Development and Dani Kugler, Director of Parks and Recreation

VISITORS

Kim Fenice, Cly Hornung, Angela Regulski, Amy Cherry, Bill Makufka, Kelly Breindel, Kurt Nesbitt, Mary Schneider, Steve Schneider, Jacques Duplessis, Alexis and Jeff Stipe, Richard Sadley, Aaron Straub, Elyse Notarianni, Klein Aleardi, and Martin Dornisch.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES
July 15, 2024 – Regular
Meeting
Motion Passed**

Shane Schneider made a motion to approve the July 15, 2024 minutes, seconded by Anthony Gregory and all were in favor.

**REPORT ON EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

An Executive Session was held immediately prior to tonight's meeting regarding legal matters. No decisions were made.

**INTRODUCTION OF WILDS
ARE WORKING
PARTICIPANTS**

Tina Gradizzi, Director of Community and Economic Development explained during the month of August the City has been hosting the Wilds are Working Program. She had the following participants introduce themselves to Council: Klein Aleardi, originally from New Jersey; Elyse Notarianni, from Scranton; and Alexis Stipe, of Wrightsville PA, and her husband, Jeff. The couple has six children. Not at the meeting were Devin Ostertag and her partner, Rob of Portland Oregon.

Mayor Garner commented he hopes they enjoy their stay as much as we all enjoy St. Marys.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION:
Community Pool Update**

Manager Fleming presented the following details regarding the revenue and expenses of the Community Pool.

Purpose: This presentation addresses the need for a revised aquatic feasibility study for the Community Pool.

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Current Financial Overview:

- Annual Cost: \$182,741 if the status of the pool is 100%, Community Pools usually operate in a loss of \$10k to \$25k, we are running at an average of \$40k to \$75k annually
- Operational Days: 83
- Daily Cost: \$2,201
- Average Membership Cost: \$140 annually or \$1.70 daily
- Membership Types: 21 classifications
- Daily Non-Member Admission: \$5
- Revenue Sources: Memberships, admissions, concessions, swim lessons
- Projected Revenue for 2024: Approximately \$75,000 (fluctuates)

Revenue vs. Expenditure Analysis:

- To balance the pool's annual budget: if non-members, swim lessons, concessions stay the same.
 - Required Memberships: 970 memberships if 100% (\$182,741)
 - Historical Average Expenditure (2021-2023): \$147,000
 - Required Memberships for Historical Average: 645 memberships
 - Current Average Memberships: 131 members annually for the past 4 years

Daily Admissions Needed: if memberships were to stay the same.

- To meet the \$182,000 annual cost with current memberships:
 - Daily Non-Members Required: 297
 - Based on Historical Average: 188 non-members daily
 - Actual Average Daily Non-Members: 48

Visitor Statistics:

- Total Member Visits: ~2,700 annually
- Total Non-Member Visits: ~4,000 annually

Average Daily Attendance:

- Members: 33
- Non-Members: 48

Next Steps:

- Revise the previous aquatic feasibility study.
- Develop an effective plan to meet community needs and achieve a balanced budget.

Conclusion:

A revised feasibility study is essential to identify sustainable strategies for the Community Pool, ensuring it meets financial targets while meeting the needs of the community effectively.

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CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA TOPICS There were no citizen comments on agenda topics.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Fleming presented the following Manager's Report for July 2024.

- He welcomed the participants for the PA Wilds are Working Program to our community.
- As we near the end of our summer season in the city, he thanked all of the summer workers for their help.
- He thanked Girl Scouts who volunteered their time and repainted one of the bridges at Benzinger Park.
- Thursday the 22nd, marks the first day of school for students.
- The Boys and Girls Club of St. Marys will be celebrating their 100th Anniversary of operation in St. Marys during Community Night on Monday, August 26, which the city is also a part of.
- The Weather Channel has been featuring Coudersport on the Zito network for local forecasting. It should switch back to St. Marys soon.
- Comcast is still coming to the area.
- The new playground equipment has arrived for Memorial Park, once the surface is completed, the contractors will be installing it.
- The City is waiting on railroad permits to begin the downtown sewer replacement project.
- Oil and chipping has started on the roadways. The schedule of roadways is posted on our website under the public works section.
- The City is seeking application for the position of Executive Assistant, as Lorrie will be retiring at the end of the year. We will accept applications until the end of September.
- City offices will be closed September 2nd in observance of Labor Day.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

Total revenue collected for the General Fund as of July 31 was \$5.4 million or 61% of budget, last year was \$5.4 million (64%) and in 2022 it was \$4.7million (56%). Total Expenditures for the General Fund as of July 31, was at \$5.2 million or 58% of budget, last year it was \$4.2 million (50%) and in 2022 it was \$3.9 million (47%). Real Estate Tax revenue was at 95.59% of budget for

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2024. In 2023 it was 96.14% and in 2022 it was 93.6%. Earned Income tax collected is at 60% of budget and for 2023 it was 63% and for 2022 it was 47% of budget. Pension plans increased in value for the month of July.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION:

Consider for publication:
An Ordinance Amending the Saint Marys City Code to add wording to Chapter 1, Part 5, § 507 Providing for monetary liability for repairs, removal, and replacement of Shade Trees removed or otherwise damaged without City and Commission approval

An Ordinance Amending the Saint Marys City Code to add wording to Chapter 1, Part 5, § 507 Providing for monetary liability for repairs, removal, and replacement of Shade Trees removed or otherwise damaged without City and Commission approval was presented for publication.

Solicitor Brennen explained the proposed amendment to the ordinance would change the language from “a fine of not more than \$600 together with the costs of prosecution” to the above language to cover the actual expenses incurred.

Motion Passed

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

An Ordinance submitting to a vote of the registered electors, a proposed amendment of the City Code Article XIV, § 1403 (f) to increase the current tax limit for community ambulance services and rescue squads from “not exceeding ½ mill” to “not exceeding 2 mills.”

An Ordinance submitting to a vote of the registered electors, a proposed amendment of the City Code Article XIV, § 1403 (f) to increase the current tax limit for community ambulance services and rescue squads from “not exceeding ½ mill” to “not exceeding 2 mills.” was presented for publication.

Solicitor Brennen explained as a follow-up to Council’s motion at the last meeting, she had drafted an ordinance that would present a referendum on the ballot to increase the tax limit for community ambulance services and rescue squads.

Nedward Jacob questioned why rescue squads were included in the language and Manager Fleming responded he recommended to leave the language as written in the Charter. The millage has historically only gone to the St. Marys Ambulance Service.

Motion Passed

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

Consider for adoption:
Resolution No. 24-16 – Multimodal Transportation Fund grant application

Resolution No. 24-16 – Multimodal Transportation Fund grant application was presented for adoption.

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Tina Gradizzi explained this was an increase of 1.5M to the original funding request.

Council was concerned of additional costs, but it was believed that this was the last increase.

Motion Passed

Jerome Sorg made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 24-16, seconded by Stephen Bagley and all were in favor.

Appointment of the City's 2024 P.M.L. Voting Delegate for the Resolutions Committee

Appointment of the City's 2024 P.M.L. Voting Delegate for the Resolutions Committee.

Manager Fleming explained this an annual appointment for the Manager or Council member that plans on attending the PML Annual Conference.

Motion Passed

Jerome Sorg made a motion to appoint the City Manager, seconded by Anthony Gregory, and all were in favor.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

There were no Topics for Discussion.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA TOPICS

There were no citizen comments on non-agenda topics.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council had the following comments:

Thanked the PA Wilds workers
Reminded everyone of the start of school
Enjoy the upcoming Labor Day Holiday

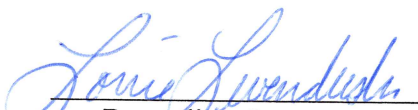
ANNOUNCEMENTS


Mayor Garner made the following announcements:

- The next regular Council meeting will be held on Monday, September 16, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.
- "Trick or Treat" will be held on Thursday, October 31st from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. by porchlight invitation only.

ADJOURNMENT

Nedward Jacob made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Joseph Sarginger. Meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.


Recording Secretary


Mayor