

JANUARY 20, 2025

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 20, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. Notice of this meeting was sent to Council on January 16, 2025, posted at City Hall, and published in the Daily Press.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL

Mayor Lyle Garner, Deputy Mayor Shane Schneider, Anthony Gregory, Stephen Bagley, Joe Sarginger, Manager Joseph Fleming, Solicitor Lauren Brennen, and Recording Secretary Rachael Hughes.

City Staff: Matt Young, Chief Code Enforcement Officer and Matt Pfeufer, Director of Community and Economic Development.

Councilmen Nedward Jacob and Jerome Sorg were excused.

VISITORS

John Bogacki, Cortney Foote, Amy Jo Foote, Andy Hoy, Carl Sadley, and Amy Cherry.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES
December 16, 2024 – Regular
Meeting**

Motion Passed

Joe Sarginger made a motion to approve the December 16, 2024 minutes, seconded by Anthony Gregory, and all were in favor.

**PRESENTATION OF
CERTIFICATE OF
APPRECIATION FOR
OUTGOING BOARD
MEMBERS**

Mayor Lyle Garner presented Scott Bennett a Certificate of Appreciation for serving two years as a member of the Airport Authority. Scott Bennett was not in attendance.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION:
Annual Building Permit Report-
2024**

Matt Young, Chief Code Enforcement Officer, presented the following information:

- 2024 was an outstanding year. The annual building construction value for 2024 in St. Marys was \$33.3 million. This includes \$4 million in residential construction, \$13.4 million in commercial construction and nearly \$16 million in industrial construction.
- Some of the larger commercial and industrial projects include SGL Carbon, Mersen, Housler Family Eye Care, Dickinson Center, Inc, and Sheetz.
- \$225,000 was collected in building permit fees for 2024, and the City issues 80-100 permits each year.

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- Typically, the annual construction value within the City averages \$10 million. Some years there was an anomaly such as 2017 when that value was \$22 million or in 2011 at \$20 million.
- Among the lower years of construction value was in 2009 at \$4 million due to the “Great Recession”, and 2021 also at \$4 million during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In 2023, building construction value was \$12 million including \$3.6 million in residential construction, \$5.2 million in commercial construction and nearly \$3.3 million in industrial construction.
- In 2022, building construction value was \$8.5 million including \$2.9 million in residential construction, \$1.3 million in commercial construction and \$4.3 million in industrial construction.

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

MANAGER’S REPORT Manager Fleming provided the following report:

- “I hope everyone is having a Happy New Year. As we enter into the new year, operations are more about planning and designing projects for the coming year, hence the light agenda placed before Council this evening.
- With the weather we have been experiencing so far this winter, the street department has been busy working on clearing the roadways.
- On January 14th, we held a public input meeting here in the Council chamber to gain feedback from the community about what they would like to see happen with our community pool. It had a very good turnout of about 50 residents. All responses were recorded and the agency performing the pool feasibility study will provide updates periodically throughout the year.
- Still negotiating a contract with non-uniform union, I am hopeful to have a contract before Council next month, or the month after.
- Finally, just a reminder, please bundle up as the next couple of days will be bitterly cold.”

Shane Schneider questioned when the summary of the pool feasibility study would be available to review.

Manager Fleming stated the updates will be quarterly, so by

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March or April we should have some type of feedback on the citizen engagement.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Manager Fleming provided the following December 2024 Treasurer's Report:

Total General Fund revenue for 2024 is \$9M or 102% of budget. We still have not received all of the revenue so far for 2024, but we get it periodically during the first quarter of the new year. In 2023 it was at \$8.6M or 101% of budget and for 2022 it was at 8.5M or 102% of budget. General Fund expenditures for 2024 were \$8.9M or 101% of budget. For 2023 it was \$9M or 106% of budget and for 2022 it was 7.9M or 95% of budget. Total real estate tax collected for 2024 are at 98% of budget. In 2023 it was at 100% of budget and for 2022 they were at 99% of budget. Earned Income tax collection for 2024 is at 108% of budget, 2023 was at 115% and 2022 was at 96%. This is EIT collections for the year, not earned. The pension accounts were down in December but ended the year with a market value increase of 9.5% over last year.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Consider for adoption:

Resolution No. 25-01:
Disposition of City Records

Resolution No. 25-01 – Disposition of City Records was presented for adoption.

Manager Fleming explained the list of records that Council had before them was requested by the Police Department for disposition. Disposition is within their rights to do so, as nothing is active, and these records are left over from years gone by.

Stephen Bagley asked if this is just the standard, annual purge of records.

Manager Fleming stated that yes, it is basically making room for new records.

Joe Sarginger stated he sees records dated 2021 and 2022 and questioned if it is typical to throw away records that recent.

Manager Fleming stated that records may be disposed of when they have been cleared and are not active, or if there is no possibility of appeal.

Motion Passed

Shane Schneider made a motion to approve Resolution No. 25-01, seconded by Stephen Bagley, and all were in favor.

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Resolution No. 25-02: Annual Fair Housing Resolution for 2025

Resolution No. 25-02 – Annual Fair Housing Resolution for 2025 was presented for adoption.

Matt Pfeufer, Director of Community and Economic Development, explained the following:

The Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination in housing because of race or color, national origin, religion, or sex. The Department of Housing and Urban Development requires adoption of fair housing rules for the receipt and utilization of federal grant funding such as CDBG and HOME Funds. In addition, a local government with more than 15 employees must designate one employee as a Fair Housing Officer for the organization, and this will be accomplished by passing Resolution 2025-02.

Shane Schneider asked who the Fair Housing Officer would be for the City.

Pfeufer stated that the position usually lies within his department, so he would be the Fair Housing Officer for the City.

Joe Sarginger asked if this was something that needs to be done yearly in which Pfeufer responded yes, it is done annually.

Motion Passed

Shane Schneider made a motion to approve Resolution No. 25-02, seconded by Stephen Bagley, and all were in favor.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

There were no topics for discussion.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA TOPICS

Andy Hoy, member of the Elk County Cruisers and St. Marys Servicemen’s Burial Detail, updated Council members on ongoing plans to erect a flagpole and monument at Shawmut Park.

He explained that during a veteran’s assembly on the Diamond about a year and a half ago, he had difficulty hearing the speakers due to the heavy traffic downtown. This is when the idea of transferring veterans’ activities to Shawmut Park came about, but there is no flag to salute there.

The Servicemen’s Detail Committee decided on the location of the monument, which will be situated in the center of the park in a swatch of grass located adjacent to the fountain area. The

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monument portion will be 4 feet high and take inspiration from the monument at Memorial Park. St. Marys Monuments will assist with the footer for the monument as it will be very heavy.

Andy Hoy stated that the overall cost of the project is \$15,650, which includes the flagpole at \$7,200 and the monument at \$8,450. The St. Marys Servicemen's Detail and Elk County Cruisers joined efforts in collecting donations for the project, and they are well on their way to finishing it thanks to generous contributions from community organizations and businesses. The Elk County Cruisers donated their Fall Festival proceeds of \$5,800 to the project, and Local American Legions, Legion Riders, and other local clubs and businesses raised \$8,750 toward their goal.

The flagpole installation will be done by Kronenwetter Electric, and the equipment has been donated.

The completion date could be as early as June 2025.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Joe Sarginger reminded everyone to drive carefully and stay warm.

Stephen Bagley wished everyone a Happy Inauguration Day.

Anthony Gregory wished everyone a healthy and great New Year and he's looking forward to being on Council for another year.

Shane Schneider reminded everyone to stay warm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Garner made the following announcements:

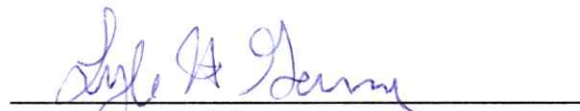
- Council next regular meeting will be held on Monday, February 17, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Room at City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

Stephen Bagley made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Joe Sarginger, and all are in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.



Recording Secretary



Mayor