

**CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING**

273

MAY 19, 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, May 19, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. Notice of this meeting was sent to Council on May 15, 2025, 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, Anthony Gregory, Stephen Bagley, Joe Sarginger, Jerome Sorg, Manager Joseph Fleming, Solicitor Lauren Brennen, and Recording Secretary Rachael Hughes.

City Staff: Danielle Kugler, Director of Parks and Recreation and Matt Young, Chief Code Enforcement Officer.

VISITORS

George Deines, Kathy Sarginger, Bill Laird, Vilma Laird, Bob Mecca, Tyler Mawn, Andrew Mawn, Richard Sadley, Bob Bauer, Clythera Hornung, and Amy Cherry.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES
April 21, 2025 – Regular
Meeting
Motion Passed**

Nedward Jacob made a motion to approve the April 21, 2025 minutes, seconded by Anthony Gregory, and all were in favor.

**PROCLAMATION: Arbor
Day**

Mayor Garner read and presented a Proclamation declaring May 19, 2025 as Arbor Day to Shade Tree Commission members Clythera Hornung and Bob Bauer.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION:
Counsilman-Hunsaker
Community Pool Feasibility
Study**

George Deines, of Counsilman-Hunsaker, presented the following information in the Community Pool Feasibility Study:

The pool opens for its 61st season on June 1. The current pool measures 11,000 sq. ft. and holds 325,000 gallons. It features a one-meter diving board, water slide tower, and an 800 sq. ft. children's pool. The average lifespan of similar sized pools is 30-40 years, and while it has been well taken care of by the city, it has well exceeded its lifespan.

In 2006, the pool underwent a renovation including its recirculation system to address heater and system components. Mechanical systems have a 25-year lifespan. The heater has difficulty keeping pool temperatures higher than 78 degrees. The high-rate sand filters are exposed to the elements year-round since they are not in a completely enclosed building.

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The pool experiences water loss of upwards of two inches per day. The pool's copper metal walls have rust, corrosion, and holes in them which staff patch each year; however, the problem persists. Due to the pool structure, reuse of the pool is not recommended.

The perimeter overflow gutters do not function properly for the purposes of surface skimming. Additionally, the edge of the pool is rusting in numerous areas, and the pool has shifted over time creating uneven water levels from one side to the other inhibiting water circulation.

Support buildings need renovations including the mechanical systems building which needs a new roof. The entry building and locker rooms require a remodel, and the lifeguard area does not have sufficient space for all staff.

In January, the City received 556 responses as part of a community survey regarding the pool. Swimming lessons were among the most preferred program that is offered.

Three concepts for the future of the pool were presented, ranging in size from small, medium, and large. The first concept entails a new 4,639 ft. leisure pool with zero-depth entry, a family waterslide, floatable crossing activity and dual water slide tower, a separate splash pad, new shade structures, shade pavilion, and support structure. This option would have a capacity of 188 people and require 8-9 lifeguards. Another version of this concept would be to add an 1,881 sq. ft. wet deck with a children's play structure which would have a capacity of 263 people and require 10-11 lifeguards.

The second concept entails a new 6,500 sq. ft. leisure pool with zero-depth entry, children's play feature, six 25-yard lanes, floatable crossing activity and dual waterslide tower, a separate dual waterslide tower into a plunge pool, separate splash pad, new shade structures, shade pavilion, and support building. This option would have a capacity of 260 people and require 9-10 lifeguards.

The third concept entails a 6,700 sq. ft. leisure pool with zero-depth entry, children's play structure, waterslide tower, lazy river and a separate six lane 25-yard lap pool and splash pad, new shade structure, shade pavilion, and support building. This option would have a capacity of 400 people and require 12-13 lifeguards.

The overall project costs range from \$10 million for the first concept, \$13 million for the second, and \$17 million for the third.

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**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 April 2025:

- I want to thank Councilman-Hunsaker for coming in and presenting to Council on the pool feasibility study.
- We had great attendance at the grand opening for the Memorial Park Playground on Saturday.
- The Community Pool will be opened on June 1st.
- Kick-off of Summer Bash will take place on May 30th at Benzinger Park, which will be the last day of school for the kids.
- The topcoat paving project will resume in the first part of June.
- The Washington Street/Erie Avenue Sewer projects continue as they are making progress toward completion.
- The City is currently doing a lot of berm work along with digging. We continue to street sweep throughout the City especially with the recent washouts from the rain. We will be painting crosswalks in the near future. The street department was able to get the veterans banners up on the poles in our downtown area.
- For the month of June, the Tree City USA banner will fly above City Hall, in honor of our recognition.
- Tomorrow, the primary election will be held for this election cycle, and I urge residents to get out and vote.
- The Memorial Day Parade will be held on Memorial Day, Monday May 26th.
- City offices will be closed on Memorial Day to honor those service members who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country.
- I wish to congratulate the graduating class of 2025. Best of luck with your future endeavors.
- Finally, I wish everyone a happy and safe Memorial Day weekend!

TREASURER'S REPORT

Manager Fleming provided the following Treasurer's Report for April 2025:

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Total revenue for the General Fund as of the end of April 2025 is \$1.6 M or 18% of Budget. For 2024 it is \$1.6M or 18% of budget, 2023 it was \$1.6M or 19% of budget, and 2022 it was \$1.3M or 16% of budget. Total expenditures as of the end of April 2025 were \$2.69M or 31% of budget. For 2024, it was 2.57M or 29% of budget, for 2023 it was \$2.47M or 29% of budget, and for 2022 it was \$2.2M or 27% of budget. Total Real Estate Taxes collected as of April 30, 2025, are 22.7% of budget. In 2024 it was 23.5%, 2023 it was 25% and for 2022 it was 24%. Earned Income tax as of April 30, 2025, is at 32% of budget. In 2024 it was at 32%, 2023 was at 24% and in 2022 earned income tax collections were at 22% of budget. Pension funds once again experienced a slight decrease in April.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION:

Consider for adoption:

Resolution No. 25-06 –
Application for County Aid –
Liquid Fuel tax funds

Resolution number 25-06 – Application for County Aid – Liquid Fuel tax funds was presented for adoption.

Manager Fleming explained that this is an annual request for reimbursement for the purchase of stone used for oil and chipping.

Motion Passed

Jerome Sorg made a motion to adopt Resolution No 25-06, seconded by Shane Schneider, and all were in favor.

Consider for publication:

An Ordinance amending
International Property
Maintenance Code

An Ordinance amending the International Property Maintenance Code was presented for publication.

Manager Fleming explained that this amendment would revise the language in the City Code Book that has not been updated since 1999. This will update Part 4 of the Property Maintenance Code to comply with modern editions of Code Enforcement Standards. The Code Enforcement Officers have determined that Parts 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6 of Chapter 5 are now all covered under Part 7 “Uniform Construction Code” and are no longer necessary as separate sections.

Shane Schneider asked if there will be any modifications to the enforcement aspect of the ordinance.

Manager Fleming responded that the revision is only to bring the ordinance up to standard, and he introduced Chief Code Enforcement Officer Matt Young to answer further questions.

Matt Young reiterated that there would not be any changes to that aspect.

Motion Passed

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

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TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:
Shawmut Park Fitness Court

Stephen Bagley inquired about an update on plans to remove the Fitness Court at Shawmut Park in preparation for the construction of the amphitheater.

Mayor Garner and Manager Fleming explained that the City is waiting for permits to continue.

Open roadways to ATVs

Jerome Sorg shared information with Council regarding PennDOT's new policy to allow specific sections of state highways to be designated as connector roads for All Terrain vehicles (ATVs and UTVs). This new policy would expand riding access and boost regional economies.

Jerome Sorg stated that recent rides in the surrounding areas brought nearly one-thousand people to local businesses and restaurants.

Anthony Greory suggested that a map of existing trails be provided to Council to help visualize where trails can connect, and the discussion could continue after that.

Closing of Rite Aid

Nedward Jacob mentioned the closing of Rite Aid and his hope of bringing another drug store into the area.

Parking

Jerome Sorg brought up the topic of future parking within the City. He suggested looking at improving parking systems and the way revenue is collected.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS ON
NON-AGENDA TOPICS**

Bob Mecca, Executive Director at Life and Independence for Today (LIFT), expressed his appreciation to the City for incorporating ADA accessible playground equipment into the new Memorial Park Playland.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Joe Sarginger urged residents to vote on Election Day.

Anthony Gregory wished everyone a safe holiday weekend.

Shane Schneider wished everyone a Happy Memorial Day and best of luck to the 2025 graduating classes.

Jerome Sorg thanked everyone involved with the new elevator project at the Boys and Girls Club. He also congratulated the Shade Tree Commission on their Arbor Day celebration.

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Nedward Jacob urged residents to vote on Election Day. He also wished high school track and field teams luck with their upcoming trip to the state championship.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Garner made the following announcements:

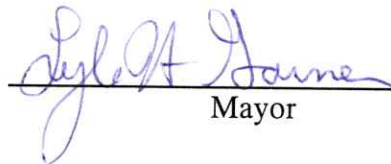
- The next regular Council meeting will be held on Monday, June 16, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Stephen Bagley made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Anthony Gregory, and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.



Recording Secretary



Mayor