

**CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING**

**AUGUST 18, 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, August 18, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. Notice of this meeting was sent to Council on August 14, 2025, 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.

City Staff: Chief Code Enforcement Officer Matt Young, Director of Parks and Recreation Dani Kugler, Director of Community and Economic Development Matt Pfeufer, Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer Ted Polinski.

**VISITORS**

Barbara Samick, George Deines, Amy Cherry, Nicole Young, Al Williamson, Molly Reddinger, Andrea Stewart, Joe Jacob, Nanette Cordero, Char Geci, Bill Carr, Nadine Carr, Christine Geci, Allison Geci, Sarah D'Amore, Tracey Duncan.

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

Nedward Jacob made a motion to approve the July 21, 2025 minutes, seconded by Joe Sarginger, and all were in favor.

**REPORT ON EXECUTIVE  
SESSION**

An Executive Session was held Tuesday, August 12, 2025 regarding legal matters. No decisions were made.

**PRESENTATION OF  
PLAQUE**

Mayor Garner presented Matt Young, City of St. Marys Chief Code Enforcement Officer, a plaque recognizing his 28 years of service to the City and thanked him for his dedication.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION:  
Counsilman-Hunsaker**

George Deines of Counsilman-Hunsaker presented three new design options for the St. Marys Community Pool to Council.

Original concepts for the new St. Marys Community Pool were presented by George Deines at the May 19, 2025 Council Meeting along with a feasibility study. Those previous options were beyond the City budget – between \$10 million and \$17 million. Design modifications to reflect lower cost were requested by Council.

Each new option included a \$500,000 allowance for renovations to the existing bathhouse, rather than new construction. Option

AUGUST 18, 2025

one consists of a community pool and splashpad at the cost of \$4.8 million. The L-shaped design includes a 3,500 sq. ft. pool featuring a zero-depth beach entry area leading into a floatable crossing activity. The pool would also include three 25-yard lap lanes and a waterslide tower. The splashpad would be 800 sq. ft and fenced off from the pool for an extended season from May to October. Staffing would require 5-7 lifeguards.

The second option proposed was a splash park at the cost of \$3.3 million. This does not include a pool, but rather a 3,500 sq. ft area featuring a spray/play and interactive play features. Staffing would require 1-2 lifeguards.

The final option consists of a 5,000 sq. ft swimming pool featuring a zero-depth beach entry, a waterslide, and six 25-yard lap lanes. The pool's four zones include a deep area for diving or climbing wall, a shallow/recreation area, a zero-entry area, and a waterslide area. The cost for option three is \$5.3 million and staffing would require 7-8 lifeguards. This option is half the size of the current pool; however, it allows for the greatest capacity and greatest amount of open water spaces than any other new option.

Once a decision is made regarding the pool design, the next step will start with the design team selection in which the City issues a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) followed by submissions of qualifications, short listing, interviews/selection of a design firm and contract negotiation.

## Discussion

Stephen Bagley voiced his concern about the low pool attendance numbers over the past few years and his skepticism about potentially spending \$5 million of taxpayer money on the pool. He inquired about what it would take to refurbish the existing pool.

Mr. Deines replied that it would take approximately \$3-\$4 million to reinforce just the pool shell, however, there is much more needing repair, which would increase the cost.

Jerome Sorg inquired if lap lanes are needed in the new design options. He stated that many other community pools in the area don't have lap lanes, and cutting those out could reduce costs tremendously.

Shane Schneider commented how having a waterslide tower sets apart the St. Marys Community Pool from typical residential pools, thus drawing in more visitors. He added that another option would be for the city to add a splash pad at a later date, in which



**CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING**

**AUGUST 18, 2025**

Mr. Deines replied that the cost for the splash pad alone would be roughly \$600,000.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS ON  
AGENDA TOPICS**

Sarah D'Amore, a mother of three, said she feels passionate about saving the pool and can't imagine a summer without using the facility. She noted her frustration with the recently changed hours of operation from 12-5 p.m., which makes it difficult for working parents to make it to the pool. She added the broken pool heater often makes for chilly water temperatures that also deter residents from swimming.

Molly Reddinger stated she and her family attend the pool on every nice day, and it is often crowded. She stressed the importance of a pool for the community.

Char Geci and Nanette Cordero both agreed with Stephen Bagley on refurbishing the existing pool.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

Manager Fleming presented the following Manager's Report for July 2025.

- "I can't believe we are already wrapping up the summer season here in the city.
- I wish to express my gratitude and appreciation to Matt for all he has done for our community and wish him the best of luck. It was a pleasure working with him and he will be missed.
- Thank you to Counsilman-Hunsaker for providing some updated designs and presenting to Council.
- The City has been awarded a couple of grants in the amounts of \$600,000 for the reconstruction of the Crystal Fire Department Station 2 and \$614,000 for the utility enhancements at the Airport Industrial Park.
- Thank you to the railroad and PennDOT for repairing the railroad crossing in front of city hall with a more permanent fix for a smoother crossover.
- I am hopeful to have the Washington Street/Erie Avenue project completed by the end of the month. They are currently finishing up the concrete work and filling in the trenches in preparation for the paving phase or final phase of the project. The challenge will then be when the contractor can get the paving company in to perform the work. Sewers were also replaced and completed on Theresia Street.
- Uniform Contract negotiations are going well, and I believe I will have a new contract in front of Council either at our next monthly meeting or in October.

AUGUST 18, 2025

- Budget sheets have been delivered to department heads as we start developing the budget for next year.
- I wish to advise motorists to be cautious and slow down as students go back to school this Thursday, August 21st. Police will be monitoring the school zones as they have in the past.
- Finally, City offices will be closed Monday, September 1st in observance of Labor Day.”

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

Manager Fleming, provided the following Treasurer’s Report for July 2025:

Total revenue collected for the General Fund as of July 31, 2025 is \$5.3 million or 60% of budget. For 2024, it was \$5.4 million or 61% , 2023 was \$5.4 million (64%) and in 2022 it was \$4.7million (56%) of budget. Total Expenditures for the General Fund as of July 31, 2025 are at \$4.8 million or 54% of budget. 2024 was at \$5.2 million (58%) , in 2023 it was \$4.2 million (50%) and in 2022 it was \$3.9 million (47%) of budget. Real Estate Tax revenue is at 95.53% of Budget. 2024 was at 95.59%, 2023 it was 96.14% and in 2022 it was 93.6% of budget. Earned Income tax collected is at 62% of budget. 2024 was at 60%, 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 adoption:**

Resolution No. 25-09 –  
PennDOT Snowmobile Trail  
Crossing Request

Resolution No. 25-09 – PennDOT Snowmobile Trail Crossing Request was presented for adoption.

Matt Pfeufer, Director of Community and Economic Development explained the trail crossing request to Council on behalf of the St. Marys Area Snowmobile Association. With the cooperation of some private landowners, the Snowmobile Association is looking at extending its trail. This includes the West Creek Rail Trail in St. Marys accessing Jones Township and southern McKean County. Permission from PennDOT needs to be obtained to cross the right of way on West Creek Road. PennDOT informed the Snowmobile Association that this request must come from a municipality.

Motion Passed

Stephen Bagley made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 25-09, seconded by Shane Schneider, and all were in favor.

Approval of Chief Code  
Enforcement Official

Manager Fleming presented his recommendation for the appointment of Chief Code Enforcement Officer to Council.



**CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING**

**AUGUST 18, 2025**

Manager Fleming recommended Ted Polinski for the position, noting that Polinski has 18 years of service enforcing city codes, ordinances and municipal procedures along with 20 years of experience with the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code.

Motion Passed

Anthony Gregory made a motion to approve Ted Polinski as Chief Code Enforcement Officer, seconded by Nedward Jacob, and all were in favor.

**TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:**  
Forming a Personnel Committee to review candidates for City of St. Marys Chief of Police

Stephen Bagley made a motion to form a three-member Council Committee to review candidates for City Chief of Police, seconded by Anthony Gregory, and all were in favor except Mayor Garner, who opposed.

Motion Passed

Jerome Sorg made a motion to appoint Stephen Bagley, Anthony Gregory, and Joe Sarginger to the Personnel Committee, seconded by Shane Schneider, and all were in favor.

2025 CDBG Tentative Projects

Matt Pfeufer, Director of Community and Economic Development, informed Council that the City's 2025 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) allocation for next year is \$311,686; an increase of \$508 from 2024.

After soliciting the public for projects, he presented the following:

- South Michael Street Sidewalk Rehabilitation Project – which is a continuation of the City's sidewalk program. This is considered a housing rehabilitation project for low-income residents.
- Parks and Recreation Bathroom Accessibility Project – to rehabilitate the bathrooms near the Playland so that they are ADA accessible.
- Spot Slum & Blight – 163 Neubert Street Demolition – Multiple complaints have been received for this abandoned property.
- Administration funds – the City is permitted to take up to 18% total grant award for administration funds, which pays for City staff salaries. The proposal presented is for 17%.
- St. Marys Little League Turf Project – A request was received from St. Marys Little League to install turf at the Challenger Field at Memorial Park. After sending the project summary to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), they were not confident that it would qualify for grant funding. Pfeufer does not recommend funding this project.

**CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING**

295

**AUGUST 18, 2025**

**CITIZEN COMMENTS ON  
NON-AGENDA TOPICS**

There were no citizen comments on non-agenda topics.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Council had the following comments:

Joe Sarginger wished everyone a Happy Labor Day.

Anthony Gregory wished all the students a safe and joyful school year.

Nedward Jacob thanked Matt Young for his service to the City.

Jerome Sorg mentioned the new sign at St. Marys Municipal Airport and said it looks much better than the previous sign.

Shane Schneider wished everyone Happy Labor Day, wished students a safe and happy school year, and thanked Matt Young for his service to the City.

Mayor Garner noted the St. Marys Municipal Airport will host its annual Aviation Festival on Saturday. Pancake breakfast begins at 7:30 a.m. St. Marys native Kathryn Nicklas will be piloting a military helicopter which will be on display as part of the event. He also mentioned the Boy Scouts will be hosting a turkey dinner on Sunday in the former Elks Club parking lot.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Garner made the following announcements:

- The next regular Council meeting will be held on Monday, September 15, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.
- "Trick or Treat" will be held on Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup> from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. by porchlight invitation only.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Anthony Gregory made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Shane Schneider, and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

  
Recording Secretary

  
Mayor

