

**CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING**

NOVEMBER 17, 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, November 17, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. Notice of this meeting was sent to Council on November 13, 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.

VISITORS

Charles “Bud” Bloam, Michael Groll, Molly Reddinger, Nadine Carr, Richard Sadley, Mike Haines, Amy Cherry.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

October 20, 2025 – Regular Meeting

Motion Passed

Jerome Sorg made a motion to approve the October 20, 2025 minutes, seconded by Nedward Jacob, and all were in favor.

November 03, 2025 – Budget Workshop

Motion Passed

Shane Schneider made a motion to approve the November 03, 2025 minutes, seconded by Jerome Sorg, and all were in favor.

REPORT ON EXECUTIVE SESSION

An Executive Session was held during the November 03, 2025 Council Budget Workshop regarding personnel matters. No decisions were made.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Tax Collector – Charles “Bud” Bloam

Tax Collector Charles “Bud” Bloam addressed council regarding comments made at the October meeting concerning the Local Service Tax (LST) and the approval of three resolutions involving Berkheimer Tax Service. Bloam, completing his 20th year as tax collector, expressed concerns that some remarks made his office appear incompetent and suggested that council members were unclear about what they were voting on.

Bloam reviewed the LST, explaining it is a \$52 annual tax on individuals who work within the City of St. Marys, with \$47 going to the city and \$5 to the school district. He noted that individuals earning under \$12,000 are exempt from the city share but still owe the \$5 school district portion if they earn at least \$1,000. He stated his office collects approximately \$360,000 annually in LST.

He addressed Council comments about the city lacking the knowledge to collect earned income tax, stating his office

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collected \$89,913 in second-quarter earnings tax and maintains records for 818 city businesses.

Bloam expressed his feelings of disrespect by the prior discussion and emphasized that council should seek information from knowledgeable individuals before making decisions.

Councilman Stephen Bagley noted that Bloam should have been included in the discussion before council voted on the resolutions.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS ON
AGENDA TOPICS**

There were no citizen comments on agenda topics.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Fleming presented the following report:

- “Looking forward to wrapping up all the projects for this fiscal year by the end of the month with N. Michael St. being opened after the curbing and sidewalks are completed.
- Winter weather is upon us, and the road crew is prepared to handle inclement weather when necessary.
- Some quick key points on next year’s budget:
 - Budget is balanced with no city tax increases. This is my 4th budget in a row, recommending no tax increases on operations.
 - Since 2021, city revenues have risen 25% and the city debt has decreased by 27%.
 - I would like to credit our prudent financial management, strong local workforce, and the support of City Council for this success.
 - I wish to extend a heartfelt appreciation to our city staff, boards, committees, and City Council for your dedication and contributions to the process.
- I wish to inform the community that the community pool will be closed next summer to initiate the reconstruction project, following the results of the comprehensive feasibility study performed earlier this year. The study highlighted significant deficiencies in the existing pool structure and recommended against reusing it. To facilitate this project, a capital fundraising campaign will commence in December. We will seek contributions from individual donors, local businesses, and grant providers. I believe this approach works best as it minimizes any burden on the taxpayer while it lessens the chance of the city increasing its debt. To enhance community

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involvement, the city will form a committee dedicated to the capital campaign. We invite any interested volunteers to reach out to the Parks and Recreation Department for more information on how they can contribute. The reconstruction project will be undertaken in multiple phases, with each phase dependent on the availability of secured funding. The outlined phases include the demolition of the existing pool, construction of the new facility, enhancement of the surrounding grounds, and renovation of related amenities. The total budget for the project is set at \$2.8 million. The new facility will feature an exciting new slide and a zero-entry design, ensuring accessibility and enjoyment for all ages. Once the planning models and graphics are finalized, the city will share them with the public to keep everyone informed about this important community project.

- Also, I just got word today that I have been re-appointed to the PA Governor's Advisory Council on Rural Affairs which provides a voice for our area.
- The city offices will be closed Thursday November 27th and Friday November 28th as we celebrate Thanksgiving.
- I wish everyone to have a Happy and Safe Thanksgiving next week.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

Total revenue for the General Fund as of October 31, 2025, is \$7.07 million or 79% of budget. Last year it was \$7.25 million (82%) and 2023 was \$7.32 million (86%) of budget. Expenditures for the General Fund as of October 31st, 2025, are \$8.07 Million or 90% of budget. In 2024 we were at \$7.67 million (87%) of budget, and 2023 was \$7.68 million (91%) of budget. Total Real Estate Tax collections as of the end of October are at 98% of budget. In 2024 it was 98% and 2023 was 98%. Earned Income Tax collection as of October 31, 2025, is 88% of budget. In 2024 it was 86% of budget and 2023 was 92% of budget. Pension plans saw an increase in value for October 2025

LEGISLATIVE ACTION:

Consider for publication:

An Ordinance providing for the levy and assessment of taxes for the fiscal year 2026

An Ordinance providing for the levy and assessment of taxes for the City of Saint Marys for the fiscal year 2026 was presented for publication.

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

A Resolution for the 2026 City Preliminary Budget for various funds

A Resolution for the 2026 City Preliminary Budget for various funds was presented for publication.

Motion Passed

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

Consider for adoption:

Resolution No. 25-20 – Local Share Account Grant Application – St. Marys Community Pool

Resolution No. 25-20 – Local Share Account Grant Application – St. Marys Community Pool was presented for adoption.

Matt Pfeufer, Director of Community and Economic Development, explained that this Local Share Account grant application is for \$1 million to go toward phase 1 of the reconstruction project. Phase 1 is to demolish the existing pool.

Nedward Jacob questioned the total cost of the project and what \$1 million will cover.

Manager Fleming clarified that the total budget for the pool is \$2.8 million, and the \$1 million may cover demolition and half of construction.

Motion Passed

Anthony Gregory made a motion to approve Resolution No. 25-20, seconded by Shane Schneider, and all were in favor.

Resolution No. 25-21 – Local Share Account Grant Application – St. Marys Senior Center

Resolution No. 25-21 – Local Share Account Grant Application – St. Marys Senior Center was presented for adoption.

Matt Pfeufer, Director of Community and Economic Development, explained that the St. Marys Senior Center contacted him concerning a Local Share Account grant application to acquire a property with a building to relocate the senior center. The center is requesting a grant application due to increasing rents at its current location and lease limitations. The new building would allow the senior center to expand its activities to a wider range of the public and reduce its costs. In connection with the building acquisition, the senior center has identified some improvements to the building that are needed to make the building and grounds more ADA accessible and better aligned with local codes.

Motion Passed

Anthony Gregory made a motion to approve Resolution No. 25-21, seconded by Shane Schneider, and all were in favor.

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Resolution No. 25-22 – Local Share Account Grant Application – St. Marys Little League Softball

Resolution No. 25-22 – Local Share Account Grant Application - St. Marys Little League Softball was presented for adoption.

Matt Pfeufer, Director of Community and Economic Development, explained that the St. Marys Little League Softball Association contacted him concerning a Local Share Account grant application to construct a press box/storage shed at Field 4 at Benzinger Park. This is one phase of a multi-phase project to upgrade the amenities at the field. The Association has already constructed new dugouts and installed new fencing and a backstop at the field.

Motion

Jerome Sorg made a motion to approve Resolution No. 25-22.

Discussion

Anthony Gregory questioned if \$25,000 is going to be enough money to do what they are asking.

Matt Pfeufer responded that it will not cover the entire cost and the Association will contribute.

Motion Passed

The motion was seconded by Anthony Gregory, and all were in favor.

Resolution No. 25-23 – Termination of EDC Agreement

Resolution No. 25-23 – Termination of EDC Agreement was presented for adoption.

Manager Fleming explained that due to redundancy in operations between the city and EDC, he recommends termination of the agreement.

Motion Passed

Stephen Bagley made a motion to approve Resolution No. 25-23, seconded by Shane Schneider, and all were in favor.

Resolution No. 25-24 – Amending the Procedures for Promotions within the St. Marys Police Department

Resolution No. 25-24 – Amending the Procedures for Promotions within the St. Marys Police Department was presented for adoption.

Manager Fleming explained that the St. Marys Civil Service Code was recently reviewed by the Police Civil Service Commission, which recommended that procedures be somewhat changed regarding promotions/hiring internally within the City of St. Marys Police Department. This is due to Sgt. K. Mike Shaffer becoming chief of the department at the first of the year. They recommended reducing the oral panel from five to three, and the procedure of every applicant taking a written and oral examination.

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Motion Passed

Anthony Gregory made a motion to approve Resolution No. 25-24, seconded by Stephen Bagley, and all were in favor.

Award of Bid – 2024 CDBG
Historic Preservation Project

The Award of Bid for the 2024 CDBG Historic Preservation Project was presented to Council by Matt Pfeufer, Director of Community and Economic Development.

Matt Pfeufer explained that the City of St. Marys Community and Economic Development Department solicited for bids for the 2024 CDBG project on October 24, 2025, with bids due on November 14, 2025. For this project, three (3) contractors submitted sealed bids. The bid results are as follows:

CONTRACTOR	LUMP SUM BID
Summit Overhead Doors, Inc.	\$39,363.00
Top of The Line Builders	\$68,000.00
Pella Window & Door	\$40,459.00

It was recommended that Council award this contract to Summit Overhead Doors, Inc. for \$39,363.00.

Motion Passed

Anthony Gregory made a motion to award the bid to Summit Overhead Doors, Inc. as recommended in the amount of \$39,363.00, seconded by Stephen Bagley, and all were in favor.

Data Center Ordinance –
Considering referral to Planning
Commission

An ordinance to amend the City Zoning to define and add specific requirements for Data Centers and Data Center Accessory Uses was presented to Council. The goal is to refer this ordinance to the Planning Commission.

Motion Passed

Shane Schneider made a motion to refer the ordinance to the Planning Commission, seconded by Jerome Sorg, and all were in favor.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

There were no topics for discussion.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS ON
NON-AGENDA TOPICS**

St. Marys resident Molly Reddinger stated that she is speaking on behalf of community members concerned about the future of the pool. She expressed “extreme disappointment” that a decision has been made to close the pool next summer, noting that her family visits the facility multiple times per week.

Reddinger said she had hoped the city would keep the pool open for one more season and voiced dissatisfaction with the current

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concept of a rectangular pool design, stating that “nobody wants just a rectangular pool.”

Reddinger acknowledged that she was not fully aware of all the issues affecting the pool. She asked whether there were any actions residents could take to help implement temporary measures to keep the pool operational for a longer period.

Anthony Gregory asked Reddinger whether she believed the daily loss of approximately 2,000 gallons of fresh water was ethically acceptable, and whether applying temporary “band-aid” repairs to the pool would be an adequate solution.

Reddinger asked Council if the city engineer had any input.

Anthony Gregory reported that during the on-site meeting at the pool, the maintenance staff indicated they had attempted multiple repairs to address the leaks.

Shane Schneider stated that professional welders had patched 18 holes by removing rusted sections and welding in new material; however, after the pool was refilled, it continued to lose upwards of two inches of water per day.

Jerome Sorg added that the professional welders expressed concern to the maintenance staff that there is no remaining structural material suitable for further welding.

Stephen Bagley commented that, based on Reddinger’s remark that the community does not want “just a rectangular pool”, he was left with the impression that nothing short of a water park would be satisfactory.

Reddinger responded that with zero-entry pools, a lot of swimming room is lost, and people are not going to want to go to a pool, even if it is brand new, if there is no room to enjoy it.

Mayor Garner concluded the discussion by stating that the current Council inherited the pool issue and that it should have been addressed 20 years ago. He noted that Council must now make a definitive decision, and their decision is to close the pool and begin fundraising for its replacement.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council had the following comments:

Shane Schneider, Jerome Sorg, and Joe Sarginger wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a safe first day of rifle season.

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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 congratulated the three winners of the recent election.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Garner made the following announcements:

- The next regular Council meeting will be held on Monday, December 15, 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 Jerome Sorg, and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.



Recording Secretary



Mayor