

CITY OF ST. CLAIR
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Marvin More at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the Meeting Room of the St. Clair City Hall, 304 Main Street West, St. Clair, Minnesota. Council Members present: Mayor More, Duke Arndt, Randy Thompson and Dick Fitzloff. Council Members absent: Cindy Glamm. City Staff present: Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer and Thad Baker, Public Works Supervisor and Bill Fitzloff, Fire Chief. Others present: Jeff Domras (Bolton and Menk).

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Mayor More welcomed all visitors and guests.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA, MINUTES AND BILLS

A motion was made by Council Member Thompson, seconded by Council Member Arndt to approve the agenda. Motion carried with all in favor.

The minutes of January 8, 2019 Regular Council Meeting were approved with a motion by Council Member Thompson, seconded by Council Member Arndt and carried with all in favor.

The invoices and bills for the month of January 2019 were approved with a motion by Council Member Thompson, seconded by Council Member Arndt and carried with all in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – The following Unfinished Business items were discussed:

PARK STREET NORTH LIFT STATION MITIGATION PROJECT UPDATE – Jeff Domras (Bolton and Menk) was present to discuss the Park Street North Lift Station Mitigation Project and the January 23rd bid opening. Mr. Domras noted that, as previously discussed with the Council, the project Scope of Work has been slightly changed and modified to mirror the FEMA Scope of Work to ensure that the project conforms to FEMA requirements and is eligible for FEMA funding. Certain items not listed specifically in the original FEMA Scope of Work will be bid and paid separately by the City after the FEMA eligible portion of the mitigation project is completed. Mr. Domras reported that seven (7) bids were received with Dirt Merchants as the low bidder with a bid of \$97,659.00. Mr. Domras noted that, if awarded the bid, Dirt Merchants plan to start the project as soon as weather permits in the spring, with the project taking approx. three (3) weeks to complete. Mr. Domras further noted that Dirt Merchants plan to use Met-Con Construction for the concrete work on the project and WW Blacktopping for the blacktopping/paving work. It was noted that the grading and concrete work inside the Lift Station wall area will be quoted, invoiced and paid separate from the FEMA eligible portion of the project. It was noted that, during construction of the project, Park Street North will not be closed at any time, but temporary traffic control measures will be taken.

The perpetual public utility easement in the mitigation project area was discussed. It was recently discovered that the April 7, 1971 perpetual public utility easement which allows for the construction and maintenance of the Lift Station and other public utilities along Fitzloff Avenue and Park Street North, is expressly for *underground* public utilities. The City is inadvertently in violation of the easement by having the generator, an above ground utility structure, in the easement area. The perpetual utility easement herein referenced is on property owned by Fitzloff Properties. The need to re-do the easement to include both underground and above ground public utilities/structures was discussed.

Also, the easement area will need to be increased to accommodate a portion of the mitigation project structure. Bill Fitzloff, representing the owners of Fitzloff Properties, noted that since the area included in the easement will increase/change, the lease Fitzloff Properties has with the U.S. Postal Service will need to be re-negotiated to reflect such increase/change. The lease between Fitzloff Properties and the U.S. Postal Service includes the parking lot, which will be affected by the new easement and the mitigation project.

Awarding of the Park Street North Lift Station Mitigation Project bid was tabled and will be addressed when the easement issues are resolved.

NEW BUSINESS – The following New Business items were discussed:

NEW SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICER – Former School Liaison Officer, Deputy Joe Flavin has received a promotion to Lieutenant within the Blue Earth County Sheriff's Dept. Deputy Jeff Wiborg is the new School Liaison Officer. Deputy Wiborg will assume the School Liaison Officer position in mid-February.

REPORTS

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Bill Fitzloff reported on the following:

1. The St. Clair Fire Dept. Relief Association has changed their meeting night from the 2nd Monday of the month to the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. This change moves the Relief Assoc. meeting to the same evening as the Fire Dept. meeting/training, which is held the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. This change allows for only one (1) meeting night per month rather than two (2) and better accommodates those Relief Assoc. Officers who work evening/night shifts.
2. The St. Clair Fire Dept. has responded to 16 calls to date in 2019.
3. Fire Chief Fitzloff requested permission for the Fire Dept. to use the City tractor if needed to respond to fire or rescue calls in blizzard or other adverse weather conditions. Fire Chief Fitzloff noted that only Marvin More, Jamie Will or Harold Fitzloff, who are experienced in driving heavy equipment, would operate the tractor. The Council granted permission for the Fire Dept. to use the City tractor if needed to respond to calls in adverse weather conditions as requested and stipulated.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. REPORT

Public Works Dept. Supervisor Thad Baker reported on the following:

1. Two estimates have been received for gutters on the east side of the City Hall/Fire Dept. building. Additional options will be considered before a decision is made.
2. Public Works has been busy with snow plowing and snow removal this past month.
3. Public Works Supervisor Thad Baker and Public Works employee Deb McCollum gave a presentation at the MN Wastewater Operators Association meeting in Eagan on January 23rd. The presentation covered the 2016 flood and the impact on the Wastewater Treatment Plant, the aftermath, repairs and mitigation projects. The presentation was well received and they have been invited to speak at Wastewater Operators Conference in Grand Rapids MN in mid-July.

CITY CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

City Clerk-Treasurer Catherine Seys reported on the following:

1. Clerk-Treasurer Seys has attended several public meetings regarding the Huntley Wilmarth Transmission Line Project. Four (4) options are being considered for the transmission line with one option being located just outside St. Clair city limits to the south. The most recent Public Hearings

on the project scheduled for January 30 and 31 were postponed until February 6 and 7 due to weather. The February 6 and 7 hearings were also postponed due to weather conditions and have yet to be re-scheduled.

2. Clerk-Treasurer Seys has been in contact with George Leary (Blue Earth County Environmental Services) with regard to the City Floodplain Ordinance. With the new FEMA Floodplain maps all communities in Blue Earth County will be required to develop/update their Floodplain Ordinance.
3. The City of St. Clair will be hosting the Blue Earth County Mayors and Clerks on Thursday, April 11th.
4. Cemetery mowing (McPherson-Union and St. John's [Willow Lane & Hwy. 83]) for 2019 was discussed. Clerk-Treasurer Seys has been in contact with Gary Owens who did the mowing in 2018, he has indicated that the annual price for mowing the two (2) cemeteries would remain the same for 2019 at \$3,100.00. The Council is in agreement to continue with Mr. Owens for cemetery mowing for 2019, as his 2018 bid was significantly lower than any of the other bidders.
5. City Wide Clean-Up Day has been tentatively scheduled with LJP Waste and Recycle for Saturday, May 4th.
6. Planning is underway for St. Clair Days 2019 which will be June 20, 21, 22 and 23.

CITY COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

1. Due to weather the January/February School Board Meeting was postponed and is being held this evening.
2. The City of Mapleton hosted the January 10th meeting of the Blue Earth County Mayors and Clerks. The speaker for the evening was Jeff Annis, President of the Heather Curling Club. Mr. Annis also discussed the Mapleton Area Foundation. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 14th with the City of Eagle Lake hosting at Uncle Albert's Café. The speaker for the evening will be Kelly McBride, the new director at the Blue Earth County Library.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Thad Baker, on behalf of the Athletic Backers, requested approval of the Charitable Gambling application to conduct the annual Athletic Backers Raffle during St. Clair Days. The raffle drawing will be held on Sunday, June 23rd. Motion by Council Member Thompson, seconded by Council Member Arndt to approve the Charitable Gambling application requested by the Athletic Backers for the annual Athletic Backers Raffle during St. Clair Days. Motion carried with all in favor.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m. Motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Fitzloff seconded by Council Member Thompson and carried with all in favor.

Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer