

CITY OF ST. CLAIR
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 06, 2015

OATH OF OFFICE

City Clerk-Treasurer Catherine Seys administered the Oath of Office to the newly elected officials; Mayor Marvin More and City Council Members Jason Weinandt and Cindy Glamm.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Marvin More at 7:05 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, Jerry Phillips, Tom Karels, Sr., Jason Weinandt and Cindy Glamm. Council Members absent: No Council Members were absent. City Staff present: Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer; Mark Krenik, Public Works Supervisor; and Bill Fitzloff, Fire Chief. Others present: Alicia More and Connie Froehlich.

After calling the meeting to order, Mayor More welcomed all visitors and guests, the Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND BILLS – The minutes of December 1, 2014 Regular Council Meeting and the minutes of the November 19th, December 11th and December 17th Special City Council Meetings were approved with a motion by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Weinandt, and carried with all in favor. The invoices, bills, and vendor's claims for the month of December 2014 were approved with a motion by Council Member Weinandt, seconded by Council Member Karels and carried with all in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – The following unfinished Business item was discussed:

RESIDENTIAL RENTAL ORDINANCE – the City Council held a Public Hearing on the proposed Residential Rental Ordinance on Wednesday, December 17, 2014. Owners of Residential Rental Property and Dan Murphy (City Building Inspection Services) will be invited to attend the Regular February Council meeting on Tuesday, February 3, 2015 to further discuss the proposed Residential Rental Ordinance.

ATHLETIC BACKERS – Karen Hauser (representing the Athletic Backers) was present at the regular December City Council meeting. Ms. Hauser explained that the Athletic Backers are exploring options for a possible digital sign to replace the current School sign at the corner of Main Street West and County Road 28 South. Clerk-Treasurer Seys contacted the League of MN Cities (LMC) and obtained information relating to digital sign regulations. The Council suggested that the Clerk-Treasurer Seys begin developing a Digital Sign Ordinance. Clerk-Treasurer Seys will forward the information obtained from the LMC to the Athletic Backers.

SNOW PLOWING AND SNOW REMOVAL – It was discussed that due to the number of vehicles parked on City and County streets after snowfall events, the City will strictly enforce the Snow Plowing and Removal Ordinance by towing and impounding vehicles. The City is also enforcing the sidewalk snow removal requirements, (as per City Ordinance) if sidewalks aren't shoveled within 36 hours after an ice/snow event the City is cleaning the sidewalk and charging the property owner \$50.00 per occurrence. Hauling snow from the downtown area business area was discussed. Certain business owners have been plowing snow and piling it in the City road right-of-way (around STOP signs). The

Council directed Clerk-Treasurer Seys to send letters to the business owners asking them to move the snow piles from the road right-of-way and discontinue the practice of piling snow in the right-of-way.

NEW BUSINESS – The following New Business items were discussed:

2015 OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS AND DESIGNATIONS RESOLUTION – Clerk-Treasurer Seys presented the 2015 Official Appointments and Designations Resolution. After review and discussion a motion was made by Council Member Weinandt, seconded by Council Member Phillips to approve the 2015 Official Appointments and Designations Resolution. Motion carried with all in favor.

2015 FEE SCHEDULE – Clerk-Treasurer Seys presented the Resolution Setting Compensations, Fees and Rates for 2015. After review and discussion a motion was made by Council Member Weinandt, seconded by Council Member Glamm to approve the Resolution Setting Compensations, Fees and Rates for 2015, with the exception of the fees for residential rental license and residential inspection. Motion carried with all in favor.

DOWNTOWN STREET LIGHT OPTIONS – A representative from Xcel Energy will be contacted and invited to attend a City Council meeting to present options for the 16 downtown street lights.

DOWNTOWN CHRISTMAS LIGHTS – In the 2015 Budget, the City budgeted for new Christmas lights. Public Works Supervisor Mark Krenik will obtain estimates for new Christmas lights.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Bill Fitzloff reported on the following:

1. The Fire Dept. has responded to 124 calls in 2014.
2. The new fire truck is at the Fire Hall and in service.
3. Fire Dept. Member Ty Mittlestaedt has finished his Medical Training and is now taking the 1001 Firefighter Training.
4. There are currently two (2) openings on the Fire Dept.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. REPORT

Public Works Supervisor Mark Krenik reported on the following:

1. An OSHA Safety Grant will be submitted for a 4-gas monitor and line locator. Sharing the gas monitor with the Fire Dept. was discussed.

CITY CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

City Clerk-Treasurer Catherine Seys reminded the Council of the following meetings:

1. Clerk-Treasurer Seys requested permission to attend the Municipal Clerks and Finance Officers Association (MCFOA) Annual Clerks Conference being held March 17th – 20th. Motion by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Glamm to approve the request. Motion carried with all in favor.
2. Public Alert Messaging System was briefly discussed.

CITY COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

1. Council Member Weinandt attended the December 22nd School Board Meeting. Council Member Phillips will attend the January 26th School Board Meeting.
2. The Blue Earth County Mayors and Clerks didn't meet in December. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 8th in Mankato.

3. Council Member Karels brought a League of MN Cities conference to the Council's attention. The 'Authentic Public Engagement' conference will be held January 30th and 31st in Brooklyn Center.

LONG RANGE PLANNING – Connie Froehlich was present to discuss the need for lots and housing development in the City. Ms. Froehlich stated that the Economic Development group should be actively pursuing housing options and courting developers, noting that other area towns are building and growing and St. Clair should be too. Clerk-Treasurer Seys will contact Vernon Center, Mapleton and other area cities regarding their housing development strategies. Clean-Up Grants were also briefly discussed.

PUBLIC COMMENT – There were no comments from the public during this portion of the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m. Motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Glamm and carried with all in favor.

Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer