

CITY OF ST. CLAIR
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 07, 2015

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, 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: Jeff Domras (Bolton and Menk), Randy and Pam Schindle, Elizabeth Weinandt, Marcella Glamm, Linda Lynch, Kevin Deling (representing St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church), Jillian Cousins (St. Clair School Board Liaison), Ralph Buesing and two (2) Deputy's from the Blue Earth County Sheriff's Dept.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND BILLS – The minutes of June 2, 2015 Regular Council Meeting were approved with a motion by Council Member Karels, seconded by Council Member Phillips, and carried with all in favor. The invoices and bills for the month of June 2015 were approved with a motion by Council Member Weinandt, seconded by Council Member Glamm and carried with all in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – The following unfinished Business item was discussed:

1. PROPOSED GENERATOR FOR THE CITY WATER TREATMENT FACILITY (WTF) – Bids were received from Interstate Power (MTU OnSite Energy) and Generator System Services (Blue Star Power Systems). Bids did not include the concrete base, extension of natural gas service, electrical connections or unloading the generator and setting on the concrete pad. The Council had considerable discussed regarding automatic transfer switch vs. manual switch. After discussion it was the consensus of the Council to consider an automatic transfer switch for the proposed Water Treatment Facility generator and the existing generator at the Park Street North Lift Station. Motion by Council Member Weinandt, seconded by Council member Glamm to develop a scope of work to include the items not included on the generator bid, the concrete base, extension of natural gas service, electrical connections and unloading/setting the generator, plus cost of automatic transfer switch for the proposed Water Treatment Facility generator and the existing Park Street North Lift Station generator. Motion carried with all in favor.
2. ST. JOHN'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH PARKING LOT – Kevin Deling was present representing St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church. Mr. Deling and Chris Freitag attended the June 2, 2015 City Council meeting to expressed their intentions to blacktop the Church parking lot at 112 Front Street East. City Clerk-Treasurer Seys contacted City Engineer Jeff Domras (Bolton and Menk) regarding storm water drainage in the area and options for the proposed parking lot. Two (2) options were discussed.
 - Option #1 – Slope the east and west side of the parking lot towards the center; slope the center to the north and then northeast to a catch basin (to be installed). Connect the newly installed catch basin to the existing catch basin (located on the southeast corner of the Main Street Auto property) with a 10" storm sewer line.
 - Option #2 – Option #2 is same as Option #1 excepting that in Option #2 a 10' to 15' grassy swale (1 – 2' deep) would be created along the entire north end of the parking lot to slow

down the run-off entering the catch basin and to improve the quality and quality of water reaching the river. (It was noted that Mr. Domras preferred Option #2.)

The Council discussed both options. Mayor More stated that he preferred Option #1, noting that Option #2 would be more difficult to maintain. Mr. Deling stated that he also preferred Option #1. Mr. Domras stated that the storm water on an impervious (blacktop) surface will run off much more quickly than on a crushed rock surface and that Option #2 with the grassy swale would retain the storm water so that it enters the catch basin and storm sewer system at a slower rate.

Motion by Council Member Karels, seconded by Council Member Weinandt to approve Option #1 for the St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church Parking Lot drainage. Motion carried with all in favor.

3. STREET LIGHT REPAIR – No bids were received for the Street Light Repair Project. Other electrical contractors will be contacted regarding the project. The item will be tabled until the August City Council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS – The following New Business items were discussed:

1. MEMORIAL PARK RESTROOM ACCESSIBILITY – Elizabeth Weinandt was present to discuss why the restrooms at the Memorial Park pavilion aren't open (especially) during Community Ed activities. It was discussed that the Public Works employees have found the restrooms in disgusting condition after Community Ed activities. These problems occur at least weekly during the Community Ed summer season and have been occurring since the park opened (1994). As these incidents occur they are reported to the Community Ed Director. This summer, after a number of especially disgusting incidents, it was the decision of the Community Ed Director to have a port-a-potty delivered and to keep the restrooms closed/locked. Other incidents of defacing and damage in the restrooms and on the park property in general were discussed. It was noted that we all need to take ownership of our park and speak up when we see someone causing damage.
2. ST. CLAIR RECYCLED AUTO PARTS (formerly Northtown Auto) – Randy and Pam Schindle were present to discuss the St. Clair Recycled Auto Parts property. The City Attorney has sent a letter to the property owner regarding clean-up. A number of concerns with regard to the property were brought up and discussed. Mr. Schindle briefly discussed the possibility of grant money to help with clean-up. The possibility of re-zoning the property was briefly discussed. Clerk-Treasurer Seys will review the Zoning Ordinance to see if re-zoning is an option. Clerk-Treasurer Seys will also contact the PCA and EPA for possible assistance.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Bill Fitzloff reported on the following:

1. It has become apparent that the new County-wide Radio System doesn't work in the St. Clair School or the Mapleton School. Paul Barta (Blue Earth County Emergency Management) is working on a project to alleviate these problems. The total project cost is \$53,234. Matching grant funding is available for the project. Blue Earth County is committing \$20,000 to the project (plus the matching grant funds of \$20,000), resulting in funding of \$40,000 of the project. This leaves \$13,234 remaining (half of which would be covered by the matching grant), leaving an unfunded amount of \$6,617. If each of the jurisdictions (St. Clair and Mapleton) would commit an equal amount to the project the amount would be \$3,308.50 each. The Council will discuss this matter with the School Board at the Joint School Board/City Council meeting on Monday, July 13th.

2. Fire Chief Fitzloff requested the annual municipal support for the St. Clair Fire Dept. Relief Association in the amount of \$5,000.00 for taxes payable year 2016. Motion by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Glamm to approve the request. Motion carried with Council Members Phillips, Glamm and Karels in favor, and Mayor More and Council Member Weinandt abstaining.
3. Blue Earth County Emergency Management will be conducting Active Shooter training on Wednesday, August 12th from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
4. The Grass Rig Committee has met and is considering a 450 chassis (4 X 4) with a 400 gallon tank and 250 gallon pump and 2 jump seats. The Committee is not yet ready to solicit bids for the grass rig.
5. The Fire Dept. served approx. 370 steaks at the annual Fire Dept. Steak Fry held during St. Clair Days.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. REPORT

Public Works Supervisor Mark Krenik reported on the following:

1. Public Works Dept. hours were discussed. Currently the hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with an hour off for lunch. Mr. Krenik suggested a change in the hours to 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with a half hour off for lunch. Motion by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Weinandt to approve the change in hours to 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with a half hour lunch. Motion carried with all in favor.
2. Mike Hansen Roofing completed the roof on control building at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

CITY CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

City Clerk-Treasurer Catherine Seys reported on the following:

1. The annual Night to Unite was discussed. The statewide event will be held on Tuesday, August 4th. The City Council will host the event at Memorial Park as they did in 2014.
2. The City Attorney has sent letters to owners of nuisance properties. Nick Roman the owner of record of the property at 512 Main Street West requested a hearing before the Council. The hearing was scheduled for Monday, July 20, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.
3. Due to the Night to Unite event being held on Tuesday, August 4th, the Regular August City Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, August 6, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the St. Clair City Hall.
4. The City has been contacted by Cedar Creek Energy a Community Solar provider. This item will be further discussed at the Joint School Board/City Council meeting being held on Monday, July 13th. The City Council and School Board previously discussed community solar opportunities with Sun Share and Apex.

CITY COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

1. Council Member Karels attended the June 22nd School Board Meeting. Due to a Public Hearing on Monday, July 20th, a Council representative won't be attending the July School Board meeting.
2. The Blue Earth County Mayors and Clerks met on June 11th in Amboy; neither the Mayor nor the Clerk-Treasurer were able to attend. The group doesn't meet during the summer months of July and August. The next meeting will be September 10th in Eagle Lake.
3. Council Member Weinandt gave an update on the 2015 St. Clair Days celebration.
4. The City Council will tour our City Facilities (Water Treatment Facility, Wastewater Treatment Plant, Public Works Dept. Shop, etc.) on Tuesday, July 28th at 6:00 p.m. Members of the public are welcome to join tour and are asked to meet at City Hall at 6:00 p.m. on July 28th.

PUBLIC COMMENT –

Linda Lynch commented on nuisance properties and nuisance concerns.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. Motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Weinandt, seconded by Council Member Karels and carried with all in favor.

Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer