

CITY OF ST. CLAIR
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 02, 2016

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, Thomas Karels, Sr., Jason Weinandt and Cindy Glamm. Council Members absent: No Members were absent. City Staff present: Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer, Deb McCollum, Public Works Dept. and Bill Fitzloff, Fire Chief. Others present: Larry Biederman (MN Waste Processing), Ed Fahrforth (LJP Waste & Recycle), Nancy Thompson (School Board Liaison), Mary Miller and Sue Chesley.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA, MINUTES AND BILLS

The agenda was approved with a motion by Council Member Karels, seconded by Council Member Weinandt and carried with all in favor. The minutes of February 3, 2016 Regular Council Meeting were approved with the following change, the size of the home proposed for the Mary Miller lot (226 Main Street West) was 25' X 36' (not 24' X 36'). A motion to approve the minutes with the noted change was made by Council Member Weinandt, seconded by Council Member Phillips and carried with all in favor. The invoices and bills for the month of February 2016 were approved with a motion by Council Member Glamm, seconded by Council Member Phillips and carried with all in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – The following Unfinished Business items were discussed:

1. MN WASTE PROCESSING – Larry Biederman (MN Waste Processing) was present to discuss the renewal of the MN Waste Processing agreement and a rate increase. Mr. Biederman explained that the original contract (signed in 1995) included four (4) counties (Blue Earth, LeSueur, Nicollet and Sibley) and twenty-three (23) cities and townships within those four (4) counties. The goal being to process waste into fuel rather than landfilling the waste. It was noted that in 1995 there were 104 landfills, now there are approx. 25. Mr. Biederman further explained and offered statistics with regard to the waste processing history and process. Mr. Biederman noted that on December 23, 2015, MN Waste Processing was notified that the tipping fee for haulers would be increasing effective January 1, 2016. MN Waste Processing has to in turn pass that increase on to the cities and townships. The Council discussed that the City recently received a rate increase from LJP Waste and Recycle. To clarify, Mr. Biederman noted that there are actually two (2) separate contracts involved. The City has a contract with LJP Waste and Recycle to pick-up and haul the waste and a contract with MN Waste Processing to process the waste. Following discussion, a motion was made by Council Member Karels, seconded by Council Member Phillips to renew the agreement with MN Waste Processing and to approve the \$.35 per resident per month rate increase. Motion carried with all in favor.
2. 226 MAIN STREET WEST – Mary Miller (property owner of the vacant lot at 226 Main Street West) and realtor Sue Chesley were present. Ms. Chesley explained that the lot has been surveyed. The survey confirmed that the proposed 25' X 36' home will not meet the front yard setback requirement of 25' from the property line. A Variance Public Hearing was scheduled for Monday, March 28, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the St. Clair City Hall Meeting Room to discuss and solicit public input with regard to the Variance request.

3. INTERNET ISSUES – After the February City Council meeting, Clerk-Treasurer Seys contacted a Consolidated Communications representative regarding internet issues reported by residents and experienced at the City Office. The representative stated that Consolidated Communications would review the engineering, network design and trouble tickets for the last 6 months for St. Clair. Clerk-Treasurer Seys talked to the representative again on March 1st, the representative stated that review and testing of the St. Clair internet had been completed and no significant issues were found. It was discussed that residents continue to experience internet problems and there continue to be problems with the internet at the City Office. A Consolidated Communications representative will be invited to the April 5th Council meeting to further discuss the internet issues.

NEW BUSINESS – The following New Business items were discussed:

1. CITYFORCE PLANNING and ZONING SOFTWARE – The City Building Official (Dan Murphy, City Building Inspection Services) has been invited to attend the Regular April City Council meeting to discuss the CityForce program and answer Council questions.
2. TOWARDS ZERO DEATHS (TZD) – At the Blue Earth County Mayors and Clerks meeting in Mapleton on January 14th the group heard briefly about the ‘JOYRIDE’ program being promoted by the Safe Roads Coalition of the South Central Towards Zero Deaths organization. Annett Larson the TZD Regional Coordinator is interested in attending an upcoming Council meeting to further discuss the ‘JOYRIDE’ program. Ms. Larson will be invited to attend the April 5th or May 3rd Council meeting.

FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT

Fire Chief Bill Fitzloff reported on the following:

1. The St. Clair, Eagle Lake and Madison Lake Firefighters Dance will be held on Saturday, April 2nd from 8:30 p.m. to 12 midnight at the Eagle Lake American Legion. Music by Blue Ringers.
2. First Responder Refresher will be held at the St. Clair Fire Hall on March 14, 16, 21 and 23 from 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
3. The annual Fire School sponsored by South Central College will be held Saturday, March 5th. St. Clair Fire Dept. will be taking a pumper and a tanker to the training.
4. Bids for the grass rig apparatus are being re-written and should be ready for advertising in the near future.
5. The Anderegg family is having a benefit for area Fire Departments on March 12th at the Eagle Lake American Legion. The benefit is in appreciation and support of local fire and safety departments who responded to the Anderegg fire in January.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. REPORT

Public Works Dept. Deb McCollum reported on the following:

1. The banners in the downtown area were discussed. The (16) banners were originally purchased in 2008 and are showing considerable wear. Lowering the banners on the poles was discussed. Ms. McCollum noted that she’s not sure if lowering the banners will be possible, due to the other brackets on the poles for Christmas decorations and flags. Prices were presented for the purchase of new banners. It was discussed that there is a price break for purchasing 22 or more banners. A motion was made by Council Member Weinandt to purchase 22 banners at \$116.00 per banner. Motion carried with Council Members Weinandt, Glamm, Phillips and Mayor More in favor and Council Member Karels opposed. Council Member Karels noted that he would rather see the City purchase additional Christmas decorations.
2. The City is a recipient of the ‘MN PCA 2015 Wastewater Treatment Facility Operational Award’ for outstanding operation, maintenance and management of the wastewater treatment system. The award can be mailed to the City or presented at the Annual Wastewater Operations Conference in

Brooklyn Park on March 23rd at 2:00 p.m. Council Member Karels offered to send Ms. McCollum to the awards ceremony to accept the award.

CITY CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

City Clerk-Treasurer Catherine Seys reported on the following:

1. Clerk-Treasurer Seys presented the Master Subscriber Agreement and Resolution for Minnesota Court Data Services for Government Agencies, received from the Blue Earth County Attorney's Office. The new Minnesota Government Access program allows governmental agencies to view appropriate electronic court records and documents stored in the Minnesota Court Information System for cases in Minnesota District Courts. Motion by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Weinandt to approve the Master Subscriber Agreement and Resolution. Motion carried with all in favor.
2. APEX Solar was briefly discussed. The City Council and School Board met jointly with an APEX representative in 2015. APEX Solar has been in town to assess the School roof-top and the Wastewater Treatment Plant area for possible solar units.
3. The 7.8 acre property north of the LeSueur River and west of County Road 28 North R17-15-08-401-005 and R17-15-08-401-003 (formerly known as the Jerry Pietz property) recently sold. The new property owners have requested to be included in the detachment petition. The detachment petition currently includes R17-15-08-402-003 (Kroenke) and R17-15-08-476-001 (Froehlich).
4. A brief Election Update was presented. MN Precinct Caucuses were held the evening of Tuesday, March 1st. Caucuses for St. Clair and the surrounding area were held in Mankato [Republican Party at Mankato West High School and DFL Party at Mankato East High School]. Both Caucuses were extremely well attended. The Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, August 9th and the General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 8th.
5. Clerk-Treasurer Seys has been asked to serve on the Blue Earth County Water Plan Task Force. The first meeting of the Task Force was held on Monday, February 29th.

CITY COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

1. Council Member Phillips attended the February 22nd School Board Meeting. Council Member Karels will attend the March 21st School Board Meeting.
2. Neither Mayor More nor Clerk-Treasurer Seys were able to attend the Blue Earth County Mayors and Clerks meeting in Lake Crystal on February 11th. The next meeting will be hosted by the City of Eagle Lake on March 10th.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no comment from the public during this portion of the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 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