

CITY OF ST. CLAIR
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 06, 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: Thad Baker, Public Works Supervisor, Deb McCollum, Public Works Dept. employee, Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer and Bill Fitzloff, Fire Chief. Others present: Aaron Busse (MN Renewable Energies, Inc.), Frank Ireland and Nancy Thompson (School Board Liaison).

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 reviewed and approved with a motion by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Glamm and carried with all in favor.

The minutes of August 02, 2016 Regular Council Meeting were approved with a motion by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Karels and carried with all in favor.

The invoices and bills for the month of August 2016 were approved with a motion by Council Member Karels, seconded by Council Member Weinandt and carried with all in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – The following Unfinished Business items were discussed:

CHURCH STREET SIDEWALK (ADJACENT TO THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH – Frank Ireland (representing the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church) was present to discuss the Church Street sidewalk. The 280' X 4' sidewalk area on the north side of the Catholic Church Cemetery is deteriorating and in need of replacement. A 10' X 4' portion of the sidewalk on the east end of Church Street near the Church Street and Co.Rd. 28 South intersection is also in need of replacement. A motion was made by Council Member Karels, seconded by Council Member Phillips to solicit estimates to have approximately 290' X 4' of the existing Church Street sidewalk removed and new sidewalk constructed. Motion carried with all in favor.

GENERATOR PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT – The City obtained quotes from MTU On-Site Energy and Generator System Services for preventative maintenance of the generator at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Park Street North Lift Station generator. The quote (for both generators) from MTU On-Site Energy was \$1,718.31, the quote (for both generators) from Generator System Services was \$1,410.00. Motion by Council Member Karels, seconded by Council Member Weinandt to accept the quote provided by Generator System Services for \$1,410.00. Motion carried with all in favor.

SOLAR ENERGY UPDATE – Aaron Busse, MN Renewable Energies, Inc., was present to discuss solar energy. Mr. Busse presented the Council with considerable material and information regarding solar energy options. Mr. Busse discussed solar panels with ground mount racking and noted that the

optimum location for solar panels would be the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Mr. Busse also discussed how the interconnections of the solar energy system work. Starting small and adding to the system was discussed as an option. Up front cost, return on investment, depreciation, tax credit (not available to the City) and environmental benefits were also discussed. No action was taken by the Council.

NEW BUSINESS – No new business items were discussed.

REPORTS

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Bill Fitzloff reported on the following:

1. Manufacturing has started on the grass rig apparatus.
2. Fire Chief Fitzloff, on behalf of the St. Clair Fire Dept. Relief Assoc. (FDRA), requested the annual municipal support in the amount of \$5,000.00 for taxes payable year 2017. Motion by Karels, seconded by Phillips to approve the request. Motion carried with Council Members Karels, Phillips and Glamm in favor, and Mayor More and Council Member Weinandt (FDRA members) abstaining.
3. Two (2) persons have applied for the openings on the St. Clair Fire Dept. Motion by Council Member Weinandt, seconded by Council Member Glamm to approve hiring Bill Drummer to fill one of the openings. The other position will be filled in December after the Fire Dept. Annual Meeting, at which time a change will be made to the Fire Dept. By-Laws increasing the response time from 5 minutes to 10 minutes. (NOTE: the second applicant doesn't meet the 5 minute response time requirement.)

PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. REPORT

Public Works Dept. employee Deb McCollum reported on the following:

1. Ty Mittlestaedt, St. Clair Fire Dept. Training Officer, has requested use of the City payloader for Fire Dept. Training on Tuesday, September 20th. The Council discussed that the payloader doesn't have appropriate attachments for lifting, nor does the City have lifting chains for the payloader. Mayor More will talk to Mr. Middlestaedt and obtain more information as to what the training involves and how the payloader will be used.
2. It was discussed that curbs and crosswalks are in need of painting. Clerk-Treasurer Seys will check with other area cities and see who they hire to do there curb painting. Mayor More will check with the County with regard to crosswalk painting on County streets.
3. Bleachers have been assembled and delivered to Memorial Park. Thank you to the School for ordering the bleachers and a big THANK YOU to the Athletic Backers for assembly!
4. Installation of the security camera system for Memorial Park was briefly discussed. Due to vandalism issues at the park, the need for security boxes for the cameras was also discussed.
5. Blue Earth County Sheriff's Dept. Deputy Tom Coulter talked to Clerk-Treasurer Seys about a problem with drivers making U-turns on Main Street West in front of the School. With the start of a new school year, Deputy Coulter suggested placing traffic cones down the center of Main Street West, in front of the School, to remind drivers not to make U-turns. Cones will be put in place on Wednesday morning through the end of the School day on Friday.

CITY CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

City Clerk-Treasurer Catherine Seys reported on the following:

1. ELECTION UPDATE:
 - The Primary Election was held on Tuesday, August 9th. 32 persons voted at the St. Clair City Hall.
 - The General Election is Tuesday, November 8th. Polls are open from 7:00 am – 8:00 pm.

2. A Variance Public Hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, October 4, 2016 at 6:30 pm, with regard to a Variance application submitted by Kent Hemshrot, 313 Main Street West.
3. Clerk-Treasurer Seys met with Eagle Lake City Administrator, Brad Potter and Madison Lake City Administrator, Michael Hanson on Thursday, August 18th to discuss the possibility of sharing services, equipment, etc. The Council expressed interest in further exploring the idea.
4. Clerk-Treasurer Seys has served on the Blue Earth County Water Plan Task Force for the past several months. The final meeting of the Task Force was held on Wednesday, August 31st. A draft of the Water Plan is available on the Blue Earth County website. A Public Hearing on the plan will be held before the Blue Earth County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday, September 13th.

CITY COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

1. Council Member Phillips attended the August 22nd School Board Meeting. Council Member Karels will attend the September 19th School Board Meeting.
2. The Blue Earth County Mayors and Clerks will meet in the City of Madison Lake on September 8th. The speaker for the evening will be Dr. Avra Johnson, Dept. of Government Chair, MSU-Mankato.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Bill Fitzloff discussed that during rain events, large amounts of surface water from the O'Donnell property (24 Fitzloff Ave.) is draining to the east onto his property rather than draining to the north (towards the river) as it did previously (before fill was added to the property). The surface water is then ponding on Mr. Fitzloff's property. Mr. Fitzloff has contacted City Engineer Jeff Domras regarding this issue. Mr. Domras stated that the O'Donnell property needs to be shaped to allow the surface water to drain to the north as it did prior to adding the fill to the property.
2. Mosquito spraying was discussed and will be considered for the summer of 2017. Clerk-Treasurer Seys will contact the City of Pemberton to see who they use for mosquito spraying.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m. Motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Weinandt and carried with all in favor.

Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer