

CITY OF ST. CLAIR
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 07, 2017

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, Jason Weinandt, Cindy Glamm, Duke Arndt and Randy Thompson. Council Members absent: No Council Members were absent. City Staff present: Thad Baker, Public Works Supervisor, Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer and Bill Fitzloff, Fire Chief. Others present: Nancy Thompson (St. Clair School Board Liaison), Dave and Lara Birk, Kathryn and Mark Sargent, Maryann Muedeking, Bill and Rose Goettl, Kevin and Michelle Dardis and Tom Karels.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA, MINUTES AND BILLS

The agenda was reviewed and approved with a motion by Council Member Glamm, seconded by Council Member Weinandt and carried with all in favor.

The minutes of January 03, 2017 Regular Council Meeting and the January 18, 2017 Special City Council Meeting were approved with a motion by Council Member Thompson, seconded by Council Member Glamm and carried with all in favor.

The invoices and bills for the month of January 2017 were approved with a motion by Council Member Glamm, seconded by Council Member Weinandt and carried with all in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – The following Unfinished Business items were discussed:

2016 FLOOD UPDATE – Public Works Supervisor Thad Baker discussed the following flood related repairs at the Wastewater Treatment Plant:

1. New seals have been installed in Clarifier 2.
2. The sludge pump in the basement of the Control Building has been installed and wiring has been completed. A company representative will be contacted to assist with start-up. Due to weather (freezing) conditions start-up will be in the spring.
3. The FEMA Project Specialist and other FEMA representatives have met with City Staff and obtained copies invoices, estimates and other documents relating to the flood related repairs at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
4. Mitigation of the Wastewater Treatment Plant berm has been discussed at length with the FEMA representatives.
5. Due to FEMA procurement requirements it's necessary for the City to request qualifications for professional engineering services relating to the berm repair and berm mitigation project. Motion by Council Member Glamm, seconded by Council Member Weinandt to advertise the request for qualifications, with the qualifications being opened and considered on Monday, February 27, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the St. Clair City Hall. Motion carried with all in favor.
6. The Council previously discussed moving the WWTP generator to a higher location. Since meeting and discussing mitigation alternatives with the FEMA representatives an option for protecting the generator using a 'fast log locking system' has been discussed and appears to be more feasible and cost effective than moving of the generator. Public Works Supervisor Baker

noted that FEMA representatives have stated that FEMA programs don't allow redundancies, in other words, if FEMA funding is used to mitigate the berm, FEMA funding could not also be used to mitigate the generator. Protecting the generator would be a City expense.

The fast log system was discussed with FEMA representatives as a viable option to protect the Park Street North Lift Station. Mitigation priorities include: extending and raising the berm, purchase of an 8" pump and fast log or similar system. Estimates and options for the 8" pump are being researched with Joe Sohre and other contractors.

NEW BUSINESS – The following New Business items were discussed:

MEETING –FEMA, HSEM, DNR MN HOUSING FINANCE, BLUE EARTH COUTNY and CITY OF ST. CLAIR – Mayor More and Clerk-Treasurer Seys attended a meeting at the Blue Earth County Justice Center on Tuesday, January 31, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss FEMA mitigation programs and options for homeowners severely impacted by the flood. Also in attendance were Mike Maurer, Brenda Olmscheid and Paul Barta (Blue Earth County Emergency Management), Kip Bruender (Blue Earth County Commissioner, District 5), Ryan Thilges (Blue Earth County Engineer), Jim McClosky (Dept. of Public Safety [DPS], Homeland Security Emergency Management [HSEM]), Pat Lynch (MN Dept. of Natural Resources [DNR]), Cal Greening (MN Housing Finance, Quick Start Disaster Loan Program) and Chuck Ackerman (representative from Senator Amy Klobuchar's Office).

Mayor More discussed information presented at the January 31st meeting. The FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), also referred to the '404' Program. Some residents from the flood affected neighborhood (specifically Fitzloff Avenue and Park Street North) have expressed interest in a 'buy out' program. Mayor More noted that the FEMA HMGP (404) Program has been used for buy outs. Mayor More read the requirements for using the HMGP (404) Program for buy outs: 1) the home must be in the 100 year floodplain, 2) floodwaters must have been in the main floor/living area of the home (not just the basement), 3) the home must have been structurally compromised by the flood to catastrophic proportions, 4) the home must be uninhabitable with occupants permanently displaced and unable to return to the home. Mayor More also noted that the HMGP (404) Program is a competitive grant program with limited funds available (2 million dollars). The program funds (2 million) are available statewide not just in areas declared in the 2016 flood disaster. At the January 31st meeting FEMA representatives stated that the HMGP application process is extremely lengthy and the process is very long and cumbersome. Mayor More noted that the #1 recommendation from Jim McClosky (DPS, HSEM) was that property owners purchase flood insurance. The first step in the HMGP (404) process is to submit a Notice of Interest (NOI). Residents from the flood affected neighborhood expressed their frustrations. They have experienced 3 floods in 6 years (2010, 2014 and 2016). The cycle of flood – repair home – flood – repair home – flood – repair home is extremely exhausting and frustrating. Home values in the neighborhood were discussed as well as the inability to sell the homes due to the flood history. Mayor More shared a website www.floodsmart.gov with the residents in attendance from FEMA. A workshop will be scheduled with the Council, flood affected residents and Jim McClosky (DPS, HSEM) and Pat Lynch (MN DNR). Clerk-Treasurer Seys will mail notice of the workshop to the affected residents when the date has been scheduled. Motion by Council Member Glamm, seconded by Council Member Weinandt to submit a 'Notice of Interest' with regard to the HMGP (404) Program. Motion carried with all in favor.

REPORTS

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Bill Fitzloff reported on the following:

1. The grass rig apparatus has been picked up from Heiman, Inc. and is now in the Fire Dept. Shop. Fire Chief Fitzloff noted that there are some items that need to be changed and some items missing. The vehicle/rig will go back to Heiman, Inc. in Sioux Falls to have those items completed.
2. Sixteen (16) SCBA bottles are in need of replacement. Chief Fitzloff noted that the bottles are only good for 15 years. Fire Chief Fitzloff obtained an estimate of \$13,712.00 from Clarey's for replacement of the sixteen (16) SCBA bottles. Replacement of the entire SCBA rather than just replacing the bottles would cost approx. \$107,000.00. Motion by Council Member Glamm, seconded by Council Member Weinandt to purchase sixteen (16) new SCBA bottles. Fire Chief Fitzloff noted that the Fire Department has six (6) more SCBA bottles that will expire in 6 years.
3. Clerk-Treasurer Seys discussed Open Meeting Law and the posting of meeting notices with Fire Chief Fitzloff. Fire Chief Fitzloff noted that while notice are posted for all regular meetings of the Fire Dept., the Department needs to do a better job in posting Committee meetings. Fire Chief Fitzloff also stated that he will remind Fire Dept. and Committee members of the Open Meeting Law requirements relating to discussions outside of meetings.
4. The Fire Dept. had ICR's for 130 calls in 2016. Fire Chief Fitzloff presented a break-down of Fire, Medical, Vehicle Accident, Alarms and other calls for 2016.
5. The Fire Dept. purchased new gear lockers based on the expected length of the Grass Rig truck and apparatus, however the completed unit is not as long as expected. The Council was in agreement that Fire Chief Fitzloff contact the supplier and discuss options for returning the lockers. It was noted if return of the lockers is allowed the money refunded could be used towards the SCBA bottles.
6. Fire Chief Fitzloff noted that a donation has been approved from the Fire Dept. Relief Association to the St. Clair Fire Dept. in the amount of \$10,000.00 which will go towards the new SCBA bottles.
7. Clerk-Treasurer Seys and Fire Chief Fitzloff will finish working on the Township Fire Contracts in the next week or so. Contract negotiations with the Townships will be done in March.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. REPORT

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

1. Snow plowing and sanding is being done as warranted.
2. New tools were purchased to replace some of the tools that were stolen from the City Hall Public Works Shop in November. Tools are being engraved and photos are being taken of the tools.

CITY CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

City Clerk-Treasurer Catherine Seys reported on the following:

1. Total flood related expenses (through January 31, 2017) have amounted to \$398,920.83.
2. Ed Fahrforth, LJP Waste and Recycle, will attend the Regular March City Council Meeting to discuss the garbage and recycling contract, which is up for renewal in September 2017.
3. Ed Fahrforth, LJP Waste and Recycle, is working with Clerk-Treasurer Seys to schedule the annual City Wide Clean-Up Day for mid-July.

CITY COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

1. Council Member Glamm attended the January 23rd School Board Meeting. The City Council has a Special Meeting on February 27th so no Council Member will be attending the February School Board meeting.
2. The Blue Earth County Mayors and Clerks met on January 12th in Mapleton. Sam Ziegler from GreenSeam was the speaker for the evening. The next meeting will be on February 9th with the City of St. Clair hosting. The speakers for the evening will be Mike Maurer, Brenda Olmscheid, Paul Barta and Erica Weller (Blue Earth County Emergency Management).

PUBLIC COMMENT – Tom Karels questioned why there was an increase to the water bill. Clerk-Treasurer Seys noted that the water/sewer portion of the bill hasn't been increased since 2008 and further noted debt service payments and upkeep and maintenance costs as reasons for the increase.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m. Motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Weinandt, seconded by Council Member Glamm and carried with all in favor.

Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer