

CITY OF ST. CLAIR
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 04, 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 and Richard (Duke) Arndt. Council Members absent: Council Member Randy Thompson was absent. City Staff present: Thad Baker, Public Works Supervisor, Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer, Bill Fitzloff, Fire Chief and Troy Goettl, Assistant Fire Chief. Others present: Jack May (St. Clair School Board Liaison), Jeff Domras and Bill Douglass (Bolton and Menk), Ed Fahrforth (LJP Waste and Recycle) and Ralph Buesing.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA, MINUTES AND BILLS

A motion was made by Council Member Glamm, seconded by Council Member Weinandt to approve the Agenda. Motion carried with all in favor.

The minutes of March 07, 2017 Regular Council Meeting was approved with a motion by Council Member Glamm, seconded by Council Member Arndt and carried with all in favor.

The invoices and bills for the month of March 2017 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 items were discussed:

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

1. In Control, O'Connor Electric and Fitzloff Electric completed the installation, set-up and start-up of the new Master Control Center (MCC) at the Wastewater Treatment Plant Control Building the week of March 13th. Mr. Baker noted that although the install was a big project and took the entire week and a significant amount of coordination to complete, it went off without a hitch.
2. The start-up of the sludge pump in the basement of the Control Building was also completed in March. Mr. Baker noted that with the completion of these installs, the flood related repairs to the Wastewater Treatment Plant are 100% complete.

BERM REPAIR and FLOOD MITIGATION PROJECT – Jeff Domras and Bill Douglass (Bolton and Menk) discussed the following Flood Mitigation items:

Mr. Domras presented a proposal and discussed engineering services relating to the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Berm Mitigation Project, including: Hydrologic and Hydraulic (H & H) Study, WWTP Berm Soil Testing and Stability Analysis, WWTP Berm FEMA Certification, WWTP Berm and Park Street North Lift Station Flood Mitigation and WWTP Berm Certification and FIRM Map Amendment. Mr. Domras further explained that the WWTP Berm Certification and FIRM Map Amendment would include the preparation of a request for Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) for submittal to the MNDNR and FEMA to obtain conditional approval of levee certification and removal of the WWTP from the FEMA floodplain.

FEMA Mitigation funding is available to the City for the Berm Mitigation Project. FEMA proposes using sheet pilings to increase the length and height of the berm. FEMA has estimated the cost of the project as well as the cost of the related engineering services. Mr. Domras noted that it is unlikely that the engineering work necessary to certify the WWTP berm out of the floodplain would be covered by FEMA (\$34,532). Mr. Domras stated that without certifying the berm out of the floodplain the City will need to maintain flood insurance on the WWTP. Clerk-Treasurer Seys noted that the estimated annual cost for flood insurance is \$10,000.00. Clerk-Treasurer Seys and Public Works Supervisor Baker noted that it's extremely important for Bolton and Menk and the City to stay in contact with the State Homeland Security Emergency Management (HSEM) Specialist (Wayne Lamoreaux) throughout all aspects of the Berm Mitigation Project.

Options to protect the Park Street North Lift Station from future flooding were discussed. Blue Earth County Engineer Ryan Thilges viewed the site and discussed possible flood protection options with Mayor More and Public Works Supervisor Baker. Site line and visibility is the main concern. Mr. Thilges will further review the matter and let the City know his findings.

FEMA is requiring the Hydrologic and Hydraulic (H&H) Study be completed ASAP. Motion by Council Member Arndt, seconded by Council Member Glamm to direct Mr. Domras to proceed with the H & H Study. Motion carried with all in favor.

Motion by Council Member Weinandt, seconded by Council Member Glamm to accept the Berm Mitigation proposal submitted by Bolton and Menk based on FEMA. Motion carried with all in favor.

FEMA MITIGATION HAZARD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM UPDATE – The FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and other FEMA mitigation programs were discussed with residents from the Fitzloff Avenue and Parks Street North neighborhood at the Regular February City Council Meeting. Clerk-Treasurer Seys has submitted the Notice of Interest (NOI) to FEMA along with the required documentation and spreadsheets. A meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 12th in Waseca between FEMA and entities (cities, townships and Counties) who have submitted NOIs.

NEW BUSINESS – The following New Business items were discussed:

LJP WASTE & RECYCLE – GARBAGE CONTRACT – Ed Fahrforth, LJP Waste and Recycle was present to discuss renewal of the garbage and recycling contract. The contract current contract runs through August 31, 2017. Mr. Fahrforth proposed the following five (5) year contract (beginning Sept. 1, 2017 through August 31, 2022): Year 1 = no increase, Year 2 = no increase, Year 3 = 2% increase, Year 4 = no increase, Year 5 = 2% increase. Motion was made by Council Member Weinandt, seconded by Council Member Glamm to approve the garbage and recycling contract as presented. Motion carried with all in favor.

FORMER NORTHTOWN AUTO PROPERTY – Clerk Treasurer Seys reported that she contacted Blue Earth County regarding the former Northtown Auto property. The property will be scheduled for Tax Forfeiture Auction sale in July or August. The County plans to sell the property 'as is'.

REPORTS

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Bill Fitzloff reported on the following:

1. The radio equipment has been installed on the Grass Rig. The Grass Rig is operational and in service.

2. The Firefighters Dance went well. The dance was held April 1st at the Eagle Lake American Legion.
3. Seven (7) additional SCBA tanks are needed at a cost of \$5,565.00. A motion was made by Council Member Glamm, seconded by Council Member Weinandt to approve the purchase of seven (7) additional SCBA tanks at a cost of \$5,565.00. Motion carried with all in favor.
4. Fire Contracts have been negotiated with Decoria Township, Medo Township and McPherson Township. Fire Chief Fitzloff and Asst. Chief Goettl will attend and discuss fire contracts with the LeRay Township Board on Tuesday, April 11th and the Mankato Township Board on Wednesday, April 19th.
5. Wade Lotton contacted Fire Chief Fitzloff to resign from the Fire Dept., stating that his resignation is due to issues with two (2) Fire Dept. members.
6. Fire Chief Fitzloff brought up issues on the Fire Dept., as well as issues with himself personally involving a small group of Fire Dept. members. Fire Chief Fitzloff noted that he has been Fire Chief for 28 years and has never seen this kind of conflict on the department. He brought several specific instances and issues to the attention of the City Council. He noted that these instances and issues have been ongoing for some time but have gotten progressively worse over the past three (3) months. Assistant Fire Chief Troy Goettl spoke in support of Fire Chief Fitzloff and expressed his own frustration relating to this ongoing conflict. Clerk-Treasurer Seys noted that she's been aware of these issues and conflicts for some time and it isn't healthy for the Fire Dept. or the City and reflects badly on both. Mayor More (also a firefighter) noted that there is a lot of tension at the Fire Dept. meetings. Mayor More gave Fire Chief Fitzloff his full support and thanked him for his many years of service and for all of his efforts on the Fire Dept. as well as all for the extra time he takes away from his own business for the good of the department. Council Member Glamm noted that these issues and conflicts need to be addressed by the Fire Dept. as a whole. It was noted that a Fire Dept. Officers meeting is being scheduled next week; it was discussed that the all members of the Fire Dept. should be notified of the meeting (paged out). Mayor More again extended his support and appreciation to Fire Chief Fitzloff.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. REPORT

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

1. A bench style swing for Memorial Park was discussed. The cost of the swing is \$863.00. Motion by Council Member Glamm, seconded by Council Member Arndt to purchase a bench-style swing for Memorial Park. Motion carried with all in favor.
2. Mr. Baker will obtain pricing for a traditional swing set (2 swings) for older kids.
3. Teri Roth, MN Pollution Control Agency conducted an inspection of the Wastewater Treatment Plant on 27th. Ms. Roth noted two (2) violations, but further noted that both violations were flood related and out of the control of the City. Ms. Roth further noted that she was very impressed with the plant and the efforts by the Public Works employees to get the plant back in order so quickly given the extent of the flood damage and the extensive amount of repairs that needed to be completed.
4. The snow plows and sander have been taken off and put away.
5. The 2017 Street Repair Project was discussed. The 100 block of Pilgrim Street, Hiawatha Drive, Fitzloff Avenue and the City Hall parking lot were discussed as areas in need of repair. Blacktopping the Water Treatment Facility parking lot was also discussed. Street repair options will be further discussed and determined at the Regular May Council meeting.
6. Street sweeping will be scheduled for later this spring.

CITY CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

City Clerk-Treasurer Catherine Seys reported on the following:

1. An estimate in the amount of \$5,933.00 has been obtained from Metro Sales for a new copy machine with copy, print, fax and scan features. A motion was made by Council Member Weinandt, seconded by Council Member Glamm to approve the purchase of the copy machine from Metro Sales for \$5,933.00. Motion carried with all in favor.
2. Planning is underway for the St. Clair Days 2017. A fundraiser was held Saturday, April 1st at the Uptown Tavern.

CITY COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

1. Council Member Thompson attended the March 27th School Board meeting.
2. The Blue Earth County Mayors and Clerks met on March 9th with the City of Eagle Lake hosting. The speaker for the evening was Brad Potter (Eagle Lake City Administrator). Mr. Potter discussed options and ideas for sharing services and bidding. The next meeting will be on April 20th with the City of Amboy hosting.

PUBLIC COMMENT –

1. Ralph Buesing (325 Front Street West) was present to discuss a problem with ponding water at the end of his driveway. Mr. Buesing would like the end of his driveway dug out to alleviate the problem.
2. Troy Goettl (321 Front Street West) discussed a partially plugged culvert/tile at the end of his driveway.

Public Works Supervisor Thad Baker will look into these matters and report back to the Council.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m. Motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Glamm, seconded by Council Member Weinandt and carried with all in favor.

Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer