

CITY OF ST. CLAIR  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
THURSDAY, JULY 05, 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 Duke Arndt. Council Members absent: Council Member Randy Thompson was absent. City Staff present: Thad Baker, Public Works Supervisor, Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer, and Troy Goettl, Assistant Fire Chief. Others present: Jim Bjork (Geronimo Energy), Jack May (St. Clair School Board Liaison), Bill Fitzloff, Shawn Rueter and Jeff Domras (Bolton and Menk).

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

The minutes of June 01, 2017 Regular Council Meeting was approved with a motion by Council Member Glamm, seconded by Council Member Weinandt and carried with all in favor.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – The following Unfinished Business items were discussed:

SHAWN RUETER, BOY SCOUT TROOP #130 – Shawn Rueter was present and has completed his Eagle Scout project to enhance the City lot at 222 Main Street West. The project included the installation of a picnic table, the excavation and construction of a concrete pad for the picnic table to sit on, the planting of trees and the installation of a sign ‘St. Clair Park for all to come and enjoy’. Mayor More and the City Council thanked Mr. Rueter for doing the project and beautifying the lot and the City. Mayor More also congratulated Mr. Rueter on obtaining the Eagle Scout designation. The total project cost was \$577.90. Mr. Rueter obtained donations in the amount of \$300.00 for the project. Motion by Council Member Glamm, seconded by Council Member Weinandt to approve paying the balance of the expenses in the amount of \$277.90 to Mr. Rueter. Motion carried with all in favor.

BERM REPAIR and FLOOD MITIGATION PROJECT – Jeff Domras (Bolton and Menk) discussed the following Flood Mitigation items: Braun has completed the soil borings and the initial report have been received. The final report is expected in the next 2 weeks. After receipt and review of the final report the projects design plans will be finalized and submitted to FEMA for their approval. Following FEMA approval the project bid process will begin.

The ‘Muscle Wall’ was discussed as a possible option for the Park Street North Lift Station. The possibility of using the ‘Muscle Wall’ to protect the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) generator was also briefly discussed.

NEW BUSINESS – The following New Business items were discussed:

GERONIMO ENERGY Jim Bjork was present representing Geronimo Energy. Mr. Bjork noted that Geronimo Energy is a Minnesota based company, started in 2005 by a farmer from the Marshall MN area. Mr. Bjork explained the Community Solar Garden program, noting that community solar gardens are supported by subscribers. Mr. Bjork explained that there is no upfront investment and no overhead or maintenance cost to the City. He also discussed the 'bill credit' process. The 25 year Max Savings Plan and the 25 year Flex Plan were discussed. Projected savings for the City were also discussed based on the Consumer Energy Usage Data provided. Potential risk to the City was discussed, with the risk being if Xcel Energy rates go down. Mr. Bjork will e-mail the City a sample agreement for the Council to review. The Council will review the information provided by Mr. Bjork and further discuss solar energy options at the August City Council meeting.

#### ST. JOHN'S CEMETERY (NYQUIST ADDITON)

The St. John's Cemetery (Nyquist Addition – corner of Willow Lane and Hwy. 83) was previously maintained by the Methodist Church in St. Clair. Since the Methodist Church disbanded the maintenance of the cemetery has fallen on former church members. One of the former church members contacted Mayor More regarding the cemetery. There are no longer funds available to mow and maintain the cemetery. One of the former church members has been paying for mowing and maintenance expenses out their own pocket. Mayor More has contacted Blue Earth County Attorney (Pat McDermott) regarding this situation. Clerk-Treasurer Seys will follow-up with Mr. McDermott and obtain additional information regarding the cemetery upkeep and maintenance options.

#### REPORTS

##### FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Assistant Fire Chief Troy Goettl reported on the following:

1. The Fire Dept. has responded to 62 calls to date in 2017.
2. The Fire Dept. Steak Fry during St. Clair Days was a success with approx. 380 steaks meals sold.
3. Fire Chief Bill Fitzloff requested a two (2) month extension to his Leave of Absence from the Fire Dept. Motion by Council Member Glamm, seconded by Council Member Weinandt to approve the extension of the Leave of Absence for Fire Chief Fitzloff. Motion carried with all in favor.
4. Truck repairs have been completed and all trucks are back in service.

##### PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. REPORT

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

1. The City truck is 12 years old and we're starting to experience some significant maintenance/repair costs on the vehicle. Options for a new City truck were discussed, including 3/4 ton or 1 ton, gas or diesel, flatbed/dump box, plow package, light package, etc. Utilizing the State bid process was also discussed. Mr. Baker will further explore truck options and report back to the City Council.
2. Security cameras at Memorial Park are doing working well and less mischief is happening at the pavilion. A window was broken on the Sunday of St. Clair Days weekend. The breaking of the window was captured on the security camera, the Blue Earth County Sheriff's Dept. was called, and they downloaded the video of the incident and contacted the parents of the individual involved.
3. Loken will be doing curb painting throughout town.
4. Repair of three electrical boxes on Main Street East and replacing electrical conduit north behind the bank area was discussed with Bill Fitzloff (Fitzloff Electric).

##### CITY CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

City Clerk-Treasurer Catherine Seys reported on the following:

1. Mosquito spraying was briefly discussed. Owatonna Groundmasters does mosquito spraying for some of the neighboring communities. Clerk-Treasurer Seys will obtain pricing and other information and report back to the City Council.
2. City Wide Clean-Up Day is scheduled for Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup>. Clean-Up Day information was included in the last City Newsletter.
3. Clerk-Treasurer Seys has been in contact with Monte Eastvold (Northland Security). Mr. Eastvold has done some projections and has indicated that interest rates are at a point where it may be advantageous for the City to refinance the USDA Rural Development loan on the Water Tower. Clerk-Treasurer Seys will pursue the refinance with Mr. Eastvold.

#### CITY COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

1. Council Member Thompson attended the June 26<sup>th</sup> School Board meeting and submitted a brief report of the meeting. Council Member Weinandt will attend the July 24<sup>th</sup> School Board Meeting.
2. Mayor More attended the Blue Earth County Mayors and Clerks meeting on June 8<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was hosted by the City of Lake Crystal and the speaker for the evening was Mike McLaughlin (Blue Earth County Veterans Services Officer). The group doesn't meet during the months of July and August; the next meeting will be on September 14<sup>th</sup> with the City of Mankato hosting.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Bill Fitzloff discussed the stormwater runoff issue between his property and the property at 24 Fitzloff Avenue. Jeff Domras (Bolton and Menk) will set up a meeting (Mr. Domras, Mayor More, Bill Fitzloff and Brad O'Donnell) to discuss the situation and how it can be remedied.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 9:01 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