

CITY OF ST. CLAIR
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 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, Duke Arndt and Randy Thompson. Council Members absent: No members were absent. City Staff present: Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer, Thad Baker, Public Works Supervisor and Bill Fitzloff, Fire Chief. Others present: Jeff Domras (Bolton and Menk), Nancy Thompson (St. Clair School Board Liaison), Shawn Kunz and Nancy Nulph.

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 with the addition of the information regarding the Special Election for MN House of Representatives District 23B. Motion carried with all in favor.

The minutes of November 08, 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 November 2017 were approved with a motion by Council Member Weinandt, seconded by Council Member Thompson and carried with all in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – The following Unfinished Business items were discussed:

BERM REPAIR and BERM/FLOOD MITIGATION PROJECT – Jeff Domras (Bolton and Menk) was present and discussed the Berm Repair Project. In November the Project was awarded to Rehnelt Excavating (Kasota) and the work was completed the week of November 27th. Due to the river being at a low point at the time the project was being completed it became obvious that more damage was done to the riverbank and the berm than was originally apparent. It was determined that it was in the City's best interest to add additional common borrow (clay material) and additional rip rap to reinforce and protect the berm while the river was at a low point and while the equipment was on site and available. It was also determined that after the Berm Mitigation Project is completed, which involves raising the berm, it will be difficult to access the area in question and add the rip rap. The Berm Repair Project total is \$29,750.00. Mr. Domras noted that \$23,331.00 of the project is FEMA eligible. Mr. Domras also noted that Rehnelt Excavating did a good job on the project, that the additional clay material and rip rap is added protection for the berm and Wastewater Treatment Plant and that he is happy with the result. Mr. Domras will have the Pay Estimate for Rehnelt Excavating prepared and ready for Council action at the January City Council meeting.

Mr. Domras reported on the Berm Mitigation Project, noting that the Braun report has been completed and that the report confirmed information needed for the preparation of the plans and specifications with regard to the sheet pilings. Mr. Domras expects that the City will be able to let bids on the Berm Mitigation Project early in 2018. With regard to the Mitigation Project, Public Works Supervisor Thad Baker discussed the 8" pump that FEMA has approved. The cost of the pump is \$61,653.00 with the

company requesting a down payment of 30%. After discussion the Council decided to revisit discussion of the pump purchase in January.

NEW BUSINESS – The following New Business items were discussed:

TRUTH IN TAXATION PUBLIC HEARING – Mayor More opened the meeting to public comment with regard to the 2018 Budget and Levy. There being no public comment, a motion was made by Council Member Glamm, seconded by Council Member Weinandt to approve the final Budget and Levy for taxes payable year 2018. The final 2018 Levy reflects an increase of 1.5%. Motion carried with all in favor.

SPECIAL ELECTION – Clerk-Treasurer Seys reported that a Special Election to fill a Vacancy in the Office of MN House of Representatives for District 23B caused by the resignation of State Representative Tony Cornish will be held on Monday, February 12, 2018. The polling place for St. Clair residents is the St. Clair City Hall. Polls will be open from 7 am to 8 pm for the Special Election. The period for Filing Affidavits of Candidacy for District 23B is from January 8, 2018 until 5 pm on January 11, 2018. The need for a Primary Election will be determined based on the number of candidates filing for the office. If it's determined that a Primary Election is necessary it will be held on Monday, January 29, 2018.

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING A POLLING PLACE – Clerk-Treasurer Seys presented the Council with a 'Resolution Designating a Polling Place'. The designation must be made by December 31st of each year. The polling place for the precinct of the City of St. Clair is the St. Clair City Hall Meeting Room, 304 Main Street West, St. Clair, Minnesota 56080. A motion was made by Council Member Glamm to approve the 'Resolution Designating a Polling Place', the motion was seconded by Council Member Arndt and carried with all in favor.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ST. CLAIR TO INITIATE VACATION OF A CITY STREET – Clerk-Treasurer Seys presented a 'Resolution Authorizing the City Council of the City of St. Clair to Initiate Vacation of a City Street'. The street in question is located between 100 Main Street West (St. Clair State Bank) and 108 Main Street West (former Hardware Store/Four Flags Over Aspen building). Clerk-Treasurer Seys explained that a Public Hearing is required prior to vacating the street. Clerk-Treasurer Seys further explained that because (according to the legal description) the street ends at the fordway of the LeSueur River the Commissioner of the MN Dept. of Natural Resources must have 60 days' notice of the Public Hearing and opportunity to review and comment on the proposed street vacation. The Public Hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, March 6, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at the St. Clair City Hall. Motion was made by Council Member Glamm, seconds by Council Member Weinandt to approve the 'Resolution Authorizing the City Council of the City of St. Clair to Initiate Vacation of a City Street'. Motion carried with Council Members Glamm, Weinandt, Arndt, Thompson and Mayor More in favor. No Council Members were opposed and no Council Members abstained.

REPORTS

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Bill Fitzloff reported on the following:

1. The Fire Dept. has responded to 116 calls so far in 2017.
2. The Hurst Tool was repaired by Alex Air.
3. The new gear lockers were again discussed at length. (*BACKGROUND: Prior to the Grass Rig apparatus being manufactured and installed, the Fire Dept. was told by the manufacturer that the Grass Rig when completed would be 28' long. Based on that information, the Fire Dept. determined*

that the current gear lockers would need to be moved to a different location in the Fire Hall to make room in for the grass rig. To that end new 'wall mount' gear lockers were ordered and delivered. As it turned out the completed Grass Rig was only 25' long and fit in the Fire Dept. Shop, without the need for the existing gear lockers to be moved or changed.) When it was determined that the existing gear lockers wouldn't need to be moved to accommodate the grass rig, the Fire Dept. membership voted to sell the new gear lockers. Fire Chief Fitzloff brought that information to the City Council and the City Council also voted to sell the gear lockers. Since that time limited attempts have been made to sell the gear lockers. There continues to be interest among Fire Dept. members, in keeping the gear lockers and making modifications that would allow the lockers mobile/free standing rather than wall mounted. There are also members who feel the current locker work fine and that the new lockers should be sold and the money should be used towards other Fire Dept. equipment needs. Pursuing sale of the gear lockers was discussed including utilizing MN BID and other websites. A conversion kit to convert the new gear lockers to mobile/free-standing rather than wall mount is thought to be around \$3,500. It was also discussed that someone could 'make' the frame, etc. needed to convert the lockers less expensively than the cost of purchasing the conversion kit. The Council tabled the issue until the January City Council meeting and directed the Fire Dept. to obtain firm prices for the conversion kit as well as the cost to have someone make the frame to make the gear lockers mobile/free-standing. The Council will review the costs associated with converting the lockers and then make a determination as to whether the lockers should be kept and converted or sold.

4. Replacement of turn-out gear (coats and pants) was discussed as well as a washing machine for washing turn-out gear. Fire Chief Fitzloff noted that having a washing machine may be required at some time in the future.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. REPORT

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

1. The annual sludge hauling was done by Steve Kruse in November.
2. Jetter Clean and Seppmann's cleaned a number of sanitary sewer mains. Public Works Supervisor Baker noted that the City will get on a spring and fall rotation with Jetter Clean for sewer main maintenance.
3. Saplings were cut out of the drainage ditch on the east end of town.
4. Public Works Supervisor Baker and Public Works Employee Deb McCollum went around to the other side of the river and took pictures of the completed Berm Repair Project.
5. Corn husks blown into the storm sewers on Miller Lane were discussed.
6. Burning the storm water ditch was briefly discussed and Fire Chief Fitzloff will include the ditch burning in the Fire Dept. schedule.
7. The new City truck (on order from Harry Brown in Faribault) is expected in the next couple weeks.

CITY CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

City Clerk-Treasurer Catherine Seys addressed the Resolutions under 'New Business' and had nothing to report during this portion of the meeting.

CITY COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

1. Council Member Glamm attended the November 20th School Board Meeting. Council Member Weinandt will attend the December 18th School Board meeting.
2. Mayor More attended the Blue Earth County Mayors and Clerks meeting on November 9th in Vernon Center. The speaker for the evening was Laurie Balata with USDA Rural Development. The next meeting will be held on January 11th with the City of Mapleton hosting.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Nancy Nulph, 10 Fitzloff Avenue, was present to discuss the status of clean-up of the property at 204 Park Street North. The City Attorney will send a letter to the owner of the property regarding clean-up. Ms. Nulph also discussed organizing a Neighborhood Watch Program and will get information to Clerk-Treasurer Seys for the City Newsletter, Facebook page and website.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 8:31 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