

CITY OF ST. CLAIR
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 02, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Marvin More at 7:01 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, Cindy Glamm, Duke Arndt and Randy Thompson. Council Members absent: Council Member Dick Fitzloff was absent. City Staff present: Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer and Thad Baker, Public Works Supervisor and Bill Fitzloff, Fire Chief. Others present: Jeff Domras (Bolton and Menk), Jane Qualey (US Solar), Deputy Jeff Wiborg (Blue Earth County Sheriff's Dept.) and Randy Schindle (local DNR Forester).

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 Thompson to approve the agenda. Motion carried with all in favor.

The minutes of March 04, 2019 Regular Council Meeting were approved with a motion by Council Member Glamm, seconded by Council Member Thompson and carried with all in favor.

The invoices and bills for the month of March 2019 were approved with a motion by Council Member Thompson, seconded by Council Member Glamm and carried with all in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – The following Unfinished Business items were discussed:

US SOLAR – Jane Qualey was present representing US Solar. As discussed at the March City Council meeting, US Solar is a Minnesota based company, which plans to construct a 1 megawatt solar garden on 10 acres of land near Rapidan, Minnesota. Clerk-Treasurer Seys forwarded the proposed agreement from US Solar to the City Attorney, Chris Kennedy for his review. Mr. Kennedy noted that these types of agreements are becoming quite common and at present are working quite well. Mr. Kennedy expressed concern as to what would happen if there is a change in the law that would release Xcel Energy from its obligation to purchase the energy from US Solar. Ms. Qualey stated that US Solar is protected from that as Xcel Energy is under contract with US Solar to purchase the solar energy for 25 years. Ms. Qualey further noted that per the agreement, all liability, all repairs and all other concerns and obligations are the responsibility of US Solar. Ms. Qualey explained that construction of the solar garden is expected to begin in May and is expected to take approx. 8 weeks, weather permitting, with the solar garden on-line with subscribers receiving credits starting in July/August. Ms. Qualey reiterated that the term of the agreement is 25 years; however, US Solar is offering early exit options to the City in year 15 and year 20, with no fee or penalty to the City for exercising the early exit options. A motion was made by Council Member Thompson, seconded by Council Member Glamm to enter into a solar subscription agreement with US Solar at the full 100%. Motion carried with all in favor.

PARK STREET NORTH LIFT STATION MITIGATION PROJECT UPDATE – Jeff Domras (Bolton and Menk) was present to discuss the Park Street North Lift Station Mitigation Project and the utility easement and the status of the lease agreement between Fitzloff Properties and the US Postal Service (USPS). Information regarding the project has been e-mailed to U.S. Postal Service representative Denise Stobbe and Clarisa at the Denver USPS office. A Special City Council Meeting was held on Saturday, March 15, 2019 to discuss the easement/lease for this project. At this time the City is waiting to hear back for the Postal

Service site engineer regarding his review. The City opened bids on the project on January 23rd. DMI was the apparent low bidder. Mr. Domras has been in contact with DMI and they (DMI and their sub's) are willing to hold their numbers until April 22nd. Mr. Domras will continue to contact Ms. Stobbe and Clarisa at the Postal Service in Denver to follow up and make sure things on their end are moving forward.

NEW BUSINESS – The following New Business items were discussed:

ADDRESS CONFUSION – Randy Schindle was present and discussed address confusion when ordering items on-line. Mr. Schindle explained that in some instances a message will appear stating 'invalid address' or 'no such address', even though the address is correct. Others present at the meeting have experienced similar problems. The Council briefly discussed the matter but wasn't sure what the City could do to remedy the situation. The Council felt it is a matter for the Postal Service, delivery services or on-line mapping system.

EMERALD ASH BORER – Randy Schindle, local DNR Forester, was present to discuss emerald ash borer (EAB). Mr. Schindle explained that EAB is currently in a 15 Minnesota counties, the closest being Martin County. Mr. Schindle stated that removal of trees infected with EAB can be costly; averaging approx. \$1,500 per tree. Mr. Schindle noted that legislation is pending in Minnesota, which would provide grant funding to help residents with tree removal costs. To be in line for the grant funding an ash tree inventory throughout the City will need to be completed. Mr. Schindle has offered to conduct the inventory and compile the data needed for the grant application. Mr. Schindle will provide EAB information to Clerk-Treasurer Seys to include with the next City Newsletter and to post on the City website and Facebook page. In the near future Mr. Schindle plans to conduct an informational meeting at City Hall to discuss emerald ash borer, tree removal costs and other related EAB information.

ANNUAL POPPY PROCLAMATION – The annual Poppy Proclamation was presented. A motion was made by Council Member Glamm, seconded by Council Member Thompson to approve the proclamation designating the month of May 2019 as 'Poppy Month' in the City of St. Clair. Motion carried with all in favor.

ALLEY MAINTENANCE – The City has received a request for crushed rock/gravel to be added to the alley between 101 and 105 Agency Street. The crushed rock/gravel will be added in the near future.

REPORTS

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Bill Fitzloff reported on the following:

1. The Annual Firefighters Dance will be held on Saturday, April 13th with the Eagle Lake and Madison Lake Fire Dept. The dance will be held 8:30 pm – 12 midnight at the Eagle Lake American Legion.
2. The Fire Dept. has purchased a new TV for training purposes. Options for mounting the TV were discussed, either mounting the TV on the City Hall Meeting Room wall, or mounting the TV on the cart where the previous TV was mounted. After discussion, a motion made by Council Member Glamm, seconded by Council Member Thompson to mount the TV on the cart and keep the TV in the Fire Dept. Office. Motion carried with all in favor.
3. Gutter options on the east side of the City Hall/Fire Hall building were again discussed. The City will continue to investigate options.

4. The Fire Dept. has received a donation from Ardis Steel in the amount of \$1,000. Mrs. Steel requested that the donation be used towards a washing machine for turn-out gear. A motion was made by Council Member Glamm, seconded by Council Member Arndt to accept the donation received from Ardis Steel in the amount of \$1,000, to be used towards a washing machine for Fire Dept. turn-out gear. Motion carried with all in favor.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. REPORT

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

1. MN Rural Water Association offers GIS/GPS data collection and mapping to small cities in Minnesota. In collecting the data a team will come to town and work with the Public Works Dept. employees in locating and confirming every curb-stop, main, manhole, valve, etc. associated with the City water and sewer system. The cost is \$9,000. Public Works Supervisor Baker noted that this cost is very reasonable compared to others he has researched. After discussion a motion was made by Council Member Glamm, seconded by Council Member Arndt to approve the MN Rural Water Association proposal of \$9,000 for GIS/GPS of the City water and sewer system. Motion carried with all in favor.
2. A street repair project on Mill Street was briefly discussed. Street repair along with replacement of water mains and hydrants was also discussed.
3. The City has received a proposal from D&D Lawn Service, Owatonna for mosquito spraying. A motion was made by Council Member Glamm, seconded by Council Member Arndt to try it this year and approved mosquito spraying every two (2) weeks from May through the end of June. Motion carried with all in favor.

CITY CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

City Clerk-Treasurer Catherine Seys reported on the following:

1. The City of St. Clair will be hosting the Blue Earth County Mayors and Clerks on Thursday, April 11th. The speaker for the evening will be Kelly McBride, Director of the Blue Earth County Library.
2. Severe Weather Awareness Week is April 8th – 12th, with the statewide tornado drill sounding on Thursday, April 11th at 12:45 pm and 6:45 pm.
3. City Wide Clean-Up Day has been scheduled with LJP Waste and Recycle for Saturday, May 4th.
4. A St. Clair Days Fundraiser has been scheduled for Friday, May 10th from 5 pm to 8 pm at the Uptown Tavern.
5. Planning is underway for St. Clair Days 2019 (June 20, 21, 22 and 23).
6. Clerk-Treasurer Seys is working to update the City Zoning Ordinance.

CITY COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

1. Council Member Arndt attended the March 18th School Board meeting. The next School Board meeting will be held on Monday, April 22nd, Council Member Glamm plans to attend.
2. The March meeting of the Blue Earth County Mayors and Clerks was held on Thursday, March 14th with the City of Amboy hosting. Neither the Mayor nor Clerk were able to attend the meeting. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 11th with the City of St. Clair hosting.

PUBLIC COMMENT – There were no comments from the public during this portion of the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. Motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Thompson seconded by Council Member Arndt and carried with all in favor.

Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer