

CITY OF ST. CLAIR
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 07, 2020

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, Cindy Glamm, Duke Arndt, Randy Thompson and Dick Fitzloff. Council Members absent: No Members were absent. City Staff present: Bill Fitzloff, Fire Chief, Thad Baker, Public Works Supervisor and Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer. Others present: David Kruse and Simon Kruse.

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 with the addition of Simon Kruse to discuss his proposed Eagle Scout Project. Motion carried with all in favor.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – There were no Unfinished Business items to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS – The following New Business items were discussed:

2020 OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS AND DESIGNATIONS RESOLUTION – Clerk-Treasurer Seys presented the 2020 Official Appointments and Designations Resolution. After review and discussion a motion was made by Council Member Glamm, seconded by Council Member Arndt to approve the 2020 Official Appointments and Designations Resolution. Motion carried with all in favor.

2020 FEE SCHEDULE – Clerk-Treasurer Seys presented the Resolution Setting Compensations, Fees and Rates for 2020. After review and discussion, a motion was made by Council Member Glamm, seconded by Council Member Arndt to approve the Resolution Setting Compensations, Fees and Rates for 2020 with the following changes:

Compensation for Election Judges will increase from \$10.00 per hour to \$12.00 per hour.

The charge for the City mowing a neglected lot will increase from \$50.00 to \$100.00 per occurrence.

The monthly garbage rate will increase from \$13.50 to \$14.00 per month.

The sanitary sewer base charge will decrease from \$30.00 to \$21.50 per month.

The water base charge will increase from \$13.00 per month to \$21.50 per month.

It was noted that while the base rate for both water and sewer is changing, the total base rate amount (\$43.00) is remaining the same. Residents will not see an increase on their water/sewer bill due to this rate change. The change will be in how the base rate is allocated between the water fund and the sewer fund. Motion carried with all in favor.

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING – A Special City Council meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, January 22, 2020 for the annual employee reviews.

PROPOSED EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT – Simon Kruse (Boy Scout and 9th grade student at St. Clair School) was present to discuss a proposal for his Eagle Scout Project. Mr. Kruse’s proposal included the following:

1. Add a new layer of wood chips to the playground area at Memorial Park.
2. Add a bench swing at Memorial Park (placement to be determined).
3. OPTIONAL: Create a Gaga Ball pit. Mr. Kruse discussed that Gaga Ball is a relatively new, fun game that is gaining popularity in the U.S., explaining that it is similar to, but safer than dodgeball. Mr. Kruse further explained that the game is played in an octagon pit (each of the eight sides of the pit are 6’ long, leaving a 48’ perimeter for play; the sides of the pit are approx. 2 ½’ to 3’ high).

Mr. Kruse estimated the cost of the woods chips at \$2,000, the bench swing at \$750 and the Gaga Pit at \$800. Mr. Kruse is hoping that through donations he’ll be able to raise half of the total cost. The Council will look over the proposal and discuss the Gaga Pit option with area cities that have a Gaga Pit. The Council will further discuss the proposal at the regular February meeting.

REPORTS

FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT

Fire Chief Bill Fitzloff reported on the following:

1. The Fire Dept. responded to 127 calls in 2019 and has responded to 2 calls to date in 2020.
2. Motion by Council Member Glamm, seconded by Council Member Thompson to approve Jerry Hohn to serve as Secretary of the St. Clair Fire Dept. Motion carried with all in favor.
3. Township Fire Contracts are due for renewal this year (April 1, 2020). Fire Chief Fitzloff and Clerk-Treasurer Seys will compile information to begin the Fire Contract negotiation process.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. REPORT

Public Works Dept. Supervisor Thad Baker wasn’t present, Clerk-Treasurer Seys reported on the following Public Works Dept. items:

1. The cluster mail box unit for residents on Horseshoe Lane has been installed and went into service on December 23, 2019.
2. The 3-way STOP signs have been installed at the Park Street South and Front Street East intersection. Two (2) of the signs have been permanently installed and, until the cluster of utilities and fiber optics can be better determined, the third sign is on a temporary stand.
3. KLM Engineering completed the water tower inspection, with recommendations for reconditioning the inside of the tower (\$29,000) and power washing the exterior of the tower (\$4,469). The proposed recommendations would take approx. 3 weeks to complete and will extend the timeline when major reconditioning is required (usually when the tower has been in service 20 -25 years) by 10 to 12 years. Motion by Council Member Fitzloff, seconded by Council Thompson to approve the recommendations from KLM to recondition the tower interior and power wash the tower exterior. Motion carried with all in favor.

CITY CLERK-TREASURER’S REPORT

City Clerk-Treasurer Catherine Seys reported on the following:

1. The 11th Annual Donuts with Santa and Mrs. Claus event was held on Saturday, December 14th. The event was very well attended.
2. For the 2nd year, the Blue Earth County Property and Environmental Resources Dept. is sponsoring the Christmas Light Recycling Program. A Christmas light recycling bin is located in the St. Clair City Hall Meeting Room and City Halls throughout Blue Earth County.

CITY COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

1. Council Member Glamm attended the December 23rd School Board meeting. Council Member Arndt will also attend the January 27th School Board meeting.
2. The Blue Earth County Mayors and Clerks group doesn't meet during the month of December. The next meeting will be Thursday, January 9th with the City of Mapleton hosting.

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

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. Motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Glamm seconded by Council Member Arndt and carried with all in favor.

Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer