

CITY OF ST. CLAIR
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 04, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Marvin More at 7:00 p.m. Council Members present: Mayor More, Randy Thompson, Duke Arndt and Dick Fitzloff. Council Members absent: Cindy Glamm. City staff present: Bill Fitzloff (Fire Chief), Thad Baker (Public Works Supervisor) and Catherine Seys (City Clerk-Treasurer). Others present: Jessica Green (Northland Securities) and Connie Johns (School Board liaison).

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Mayor More welcomed everyone.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA, MINUTES AND BILLS

A motion was made by Council Member Thompson, seconded by Council Member Arndt to approve the August meeting agenda as printed. Motion carried with all in favor.

The minutes of the July 2020 Regular Council Meeting were approved with a motion by Council Member Thompson, seconded by Council Member Fitzloff and carried with all in favor.

The invoices and bills for the month of July 2020 were approved with a motion by Council Member Arndt, seconded by Council Member Fitzloff and carried with all in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – The following Unfinished Business items were discussed:

MILL STREET/PARK STREET SOUTH PROJECT – the following items were discussed:

1. Jessica Green (Northland Security) was present to discuss the bond issue for the 2020 Reconstruction project and the refunding bond for the 2010 USDA Rural Development (Water Tower) loan. The bond sale was Thursday, July 30th and Ms. Green reported that it went very well and that the City garnered very good interest rates on the bonds. Ms. Green noted that the parameters resolution passed by the City Council indicated that there must be at least a \$100,000 savings with respect to the refunding bond for the 2010 USDA RD loan; the savings was considerably higher at \$154,356. A motion was made by Council Member Thompson to approve Resolution # 2020-12 'A Resolution Awarding the Sale of General Obligation Bonds, Series 2020A, in the Original Aggregate Principal Amount of \$1,510,000; Fixing their Form and Specifications; Directing their Execution and Delivery; Providing for their Payment; and Providing for the Redemption of Bonds Refunded thereby'. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fitzloff. The motion carried with Council Members Thompson, Fitzloff, Arndt and Mayor More in favor. No Council Members were opposed. Council Member Glamm was absent.
2. Clerk-Treasurer Seys noted that the Mill Street/Park Street South Improvement Project start date has been pushed back until mid-August. The contractor (DMI) is working on a project in Good Thunder where heavy rains have caused delays to their construction schedule.

NEW BUSINESS – The following New Business items were discussed:

PROPERTY LINE ENCROACHMENT CONCERN – This item was tabled until September, so that all affected property owners can be in attendance.

SCHOOL PROPERTY (formerly Northtown Auto) – Residents on the south side of the 300 block of Front Street West with property abutting the School property have expressed questions regarding the school's intended use of the property and concern regarding drainage. School Board Member Connie Johns stated

that the School will begin clean-up efforts on the property in the near future. Ms. Johns further noted that the plans for the eventual use of the property are in the very preliminary planning stage.

CARES ACT FUNDS – Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act Funds are available to counties, cities, townships and school districts. The City will receive \$62,683 in CARES Act funds. Clerk-Treasurer Seys will participate in a remote video meeting on Friday, August 7th with the Blue Earth County Administrator (Bob Meyer) and Deputy County Administer (Josh Milow), as well as other area city and township clerks to discuss the CARES Act funding and eligible uses. The City received a request from St. Clair School Superintendent Tim Collins asking that the City consider transferring some of their CARES Act funds to the School district. The Council discussed the request but will research eligible uses for the funds as well as needs within the City prior to making any commitment to the St. Clair School District.

REPORTS

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Bill Fitzloff reported on the following:

1. The Fire Dept. has responded to 92 calls to date in 2020.
2. All Townships in the St. Clair Fire District (Decoria, LeRay, Mankato, McPherson and Medo) have approved and signed the 2020 – 2023 Fire Contracts.
3. Two (2) St. Clair Fire Dept. members have submitted their resignation; Marvin More (effective July 15, 2020) and Shawn Kunz (effective December 31, 2020).

PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. REPORT

Public Works Supervisor Thad Baker reported on the following:

1. Cluster mailboxes for the area on Main Street West served by the Mankato mail route have been ordered but have not yet been delivered .
2. The City obtained a quote from Affordable Lawn & Snow in the amount of \$300 for weed spraying of the McPherson Union Cemetery and the St. John's Cemetery (Willow Lane). Motion by Council Member Arndt, seconded by Council Member Fitzloff to accept the quote from Affordable Lawn & Snow for weed control at the McPherson Union Cemetery and St. John's (Willow Lane) Cemetery for fall application. Motion carried with all in favor.
3. KLM Engineering will be cleaning the interior of the water tower. They have experienced delays on other projects but expect to begin the St. Clair project in late August/early September. The project will take approx. 2-3 weeks to complete.
4. Every three (3) years the City is required to conduct residential tap water sampling as part of the MN Dept. of Health Lead and Copper Testing Program. The residential tap water samples were collected on June 17th and submitted to the testing lab in Virginia MN. The City recently received the results of the testing; all samples were found to be well within the acceptable limits for both lead and copper.
5. The City has been notified that the MN Dept. of Health will be initiating the planning phase in developing a Wellhead Protection Plan for the City. The planning phase is expected to begin September 2020. The entire Wellhead Protection Plan has a completion date of March 1, 2023.

CITY CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

City Clerk-Treasurer Catherine Seys reported on the following:

1. ELECTION UPDATE:
 - The period for filing Affidavits of Candidacy is currently open. The filing period opened on Tuesday, July 28th and closes at 5 pm on Tuesday, August 11th.

- Early Voting by Absentee Ballot is encouraged, especially for those who might not feel comfortable going to the polling place on Election Day due to the Covid virus.
- Clerk-Treasurer Seys discussed voting booths. The City voting booths are 40+ years old and while the booths are still in good repair, they do not allow for social distancing. Clerk-Treasurer Seys discussed the purchase of new booths with Mike Stalberger, Blue Earth County (BEC) Elections Director. Mr. Stalberger noted that BEC has CARES Act funding available to all in-person precincts in Blue Earth County, with St. Clair’s share being just under \$600. Mr. Stalberger further noted that the purchase of election booths that will allow for social distancing would be an eligible use of the funds. Motion by Council Member Thompson, seconded by Council Member Arndt to purchase six (6) election booths utilizing CARES Act funding. Motion carried with all in favor.
- The 2021 Budget Workshop was scheduled for Tuesday, September 1st at 6:00 pm.

CITY COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

1. Council Member Glamm attended the July 20th School Board meeting. Council Member Arndt will attend the August 24th School Board meeting.
2. The Blue Earth County Mayors and Clerks do not meet during the summer months of July and August. St. Clair is scheduled to host the September BEC Mayor/Clerk meeting; but will cancel due to Covid.

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

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m. Motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Fitzloff seconded by Council Member Thompson and carried with all in favor.

Catherine Seys, City Clerk-Treasurer