

August 3, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

A Council worksession of the City of Saint Marys was called to order by Mayor Sally Geyer on Monday, August 3, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the Council Room of City Hall, 11 LaFayette Street. Notice of this meeting was sent to Council on July 30, 2009, posted at City Hall, and published in the Daily Press.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Sally Geyer, Dennis Nero, Thomas Farley, Steven Skok, Richard Gabler, Jr., Richard Dornisch, Sean Gabler, and City Manager David Greene

VISITORS

Visitors included: Warren Stewart, Joe Penfield, Richard Sadley, Kevin O'Leary, Dan Hepner, and Bruce Gerber

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

July 20, 2009
Memo from Matt
Pfeufer

Manager Greene read the following memo from Matt Pfeufer. Mr. Pfeufer stated he erroneously described the original parcel in the DeFranco Subdivision as being around 80,000 sq. ft. in size in his memo describing the application. He stated the correct size of the original parcel is around 44,866 sq. ft. The Manager noted on page 3 of the minutes under the Subdivision Application the sq. ft. should be 44,866 instead of 80,000.

Sean Gabler made a motion to approve the minutes of July 20, 2009, with the above noted memo correction. The motion was seconded by Richard Gabler, and all were in favor.

REPORT ON EXECUTIVE
SESSION

Mayor Geyer stated an Executive Session was held prior to this meeting regarding legal issues. No decisions were made.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Joe Penfield

Joe Penfield, resident of St. Marys, explained an incident he experienced Memorial Day weekend at around 11:00 p.m. Mr. Penfield stated he was travelling on his motorcycle on the Johnsonburg Road to turn into South Paul Road when he noticed flashing police lights and thought there was an accident but when he got next to the police car, a City Police Officer displayed a sign which read "Seat Belt Safety Check". He felt this was a very dangerous situation because he was blinded by the flashing lights just for a belt check and that motorcycles do not have seat belts. Mr. Penfield requested that this seat belt incident be looked into.

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Mr. Penfield stated he will be attending the next Council meeting to see what was done regarding this seat belt check. He also referred to a study which was conducted years ago regarding the Police Department. He requested that members of Council receive a copy of the study.

Warren Stewart

Warren Stewart asked if there is an up-date on the parking garage. The Manager responded not as of yet. Mr. Stewart suggested, in case the garage does not get started this year, could the City level out the land so it could be utilized as a parking lot this year. Mr. Stewart also questioned if the parking lot next to the Moose will be cleaned up? The Manager stated the lot will be taken care of during the reconstruction of Depot Street.

Warren Stewart also addressed Lesser's corner. He stated the corner is an eye-sore and felt either the City or the State should repair the corner. The Manager responded he should have something to report by August 18th.

Bruce Gerber

Bruce Gerber stated he owns property at 263 Bruxelles Street next to the old service station and through his property there is a stormwater drain, which is 36" to 48" in diameter. He said there is a hole in the drain and he is concerned his four small children could fall into it. Mr. Gerber noted he contacted the City last fall but nothing was done. He is now requesting the City fix the problem. The Manager will look into his request.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Kevin O'Leary re:
Outhouse Races

Kevin O'Leary was present to explain a fundraiser event to help raise money for MS. The fundraiser would consist of "Outhouse Races" to be held on October 17, 2009 on Market Street. Mr. O'Leary requested the closing of Market Street to through traffic from 2:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. He also requested that the "Open Container" Law be waived from 3:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Market Street for the event. Mr. O'Leary would like to have help from the Police Department to patrol the area. A "Beanie Weenie" Dog Show will also be held on October 17th.

After a brief discussion, Dennis Nero made a motion to close Market Street from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and to waive the "Open Container" Law from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on October 17th on Market Street only. The motion was seconded by Richard Dornisch, and all were in favor.

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TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

There were no topics for discussion.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Dennis Nero stated there are occasions when area residents bring issues to City Council which are day-to-day operations of the City, not that we don't like to hear their concerns, but they should first go to City Hall. The day-to-day problems should be reported to the City Manager or to the Public Works Director. Problems can be addressed right away and not have to wait for a Council meeting. If no action is taken, then they should bring the issue to Council.

Sean Gabler stated since the last Council meeting he received a lot of "Fan Mail" regarding the fire sirens. He felt the City should apply for grants to repair the system. The Manager noted he spoke to the Police Chief and they plan to meet with the Fire Chief to see if the sirens are still functional.

Steven Skok noted he spoke to the Fire Chief and he felt the sirens are not operational but that he liked the idea.

Sean Gabler also questioned the status of the 15 mph speed limit at the Benzinger Park area. Manager Greene stated the Police Chief and the Public Works Director have discussed the issue. According to the Vehicle Code, we cannot enforce the speed limit below 25 mph. Mr. Greene noted there are playground zones and school zones that have 15 mph speed limits.

Thomas Farley asked that copies of the Police Study, per Mr. Penfield's request, be placed in Councils' packets this week.

Mr. Farley stated a resident complained about citizens going to the Marienstadt Building on Depot Street for lunch who are parking across the street and are actually parking on the sidewalk. He requested the Manager tell the Police Chief to advise the citizens, that are parking there, to park beyond the sidewalk, so residents do not have to go out into the street to get around the parked vehicles. The Manager will look into this matter.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mayor Geyer made the following announcement:
- Next Council meeting will be held on Monday,
August 17, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

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Kevin O'Leary

Kevin O'Leary questioned if he needs any liability insurance for the Outhouse Races. The Manager suggested that he obtain a rider on the Chamber of Commerce's policy.

ADJOURNMENT

Richard Dornisch made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mayor

Barley Dicklas
Recording Secretary