

## CITY OF SAINT MARYS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 16, 2012

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regular monthly Council meeting of the City of Saint Marys was called to order by Mayor Sally Geyer on Monday, January 16, 2012 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 January 12, 2012 posted at City Hall, and published in the Daily Press.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor Sally Geyer, Daniel Hepner, Richard Dornisch, Bob Roberts, Gregory Gebauer, Nedward Jacob, Manager David Greene, and Solicitor James Meyer.

**VISITORS**

Visitors included: Tina Gradizzi, John Copelli, Grace Jesberger, Paul Jesberger, Leah Whiteman, Mike Whiteman, Robert Sorg, Mark Cunningham, Jerry Hanes, Lyle H. Garner, C. Alan Weis, Roseanne Gorton, Karen Geis, Beverly Cheatle, and Louis Geis.

**REPORT ON EXECUTIVE SESSIONS**

Mayor Geyer stated Executive Sessions were held on Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012 and prior to tonight's meeting. Both were regarding personnel matters. No decisions were made.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  
January 3, 2012

Richard Dornisch made a motion to approve the minutes of January 3, 2012, seconded by Nedward Jacob, and all were in favor.

**PUBLIC HEARING: 2012**  
Community Development Block Grant Program

Mayor Geyer opened the public hearing for the 2012 Community Development Block Grant Program at 7:03 p.m.

Tina Gradizzi, Community and Economic Development Coordinator, explained the purpose for the public hearing was to provide for citizen participation. The public notice was published on January 5, 2012. This was the first public hearing held for the 2012 CDBG application. CDBG funds are federal dollars that are allocated from the department of Housing and Urban Development to DCED, which is a department of the State of PA in Harrisburg. DCED then allocates funds to various municipalities. The City has received between \$320,000 and \$350,000 annually in prior years, but the 2012 amount was undetermined at this time.

The Anti-displacement and the MBE/WBE Policies were reviewed and approved on December 20, 2010.

A three year long range plan and a one year short range plan will be presented.

Ms. Gradizzi requested the following projects be considered for 2012 funding along with any other projects that may be presented.

Administration: 18% to cover administration costs.  
Low/Mod.: Street Reconstruction and Water/Sewer Improvements.

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## Citizen Comments

Mike Whiteman, owner of the adjacent building to the recently demolished Mullaney building, asked if funding would be available through CDBG for restoration to the side of their now exposed building and Ms. Gradizzi responded the Redevelopment Authority should be contacted for possible funding. They could also prepare a summary of the project and she would review it for possible CDBG funding.

Tentative Selection of Projects will be at the Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012 Council meeting and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Hearing is tentatively scheduled for Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012. The CDBG application should be submitted to DCED no later than March 15, 2012.

## 2011 CDBG Update

2011 CDBG Update:

In 2011 the City submitted a multi-year funded project to improve and reconstruct Mertz Avenue. The 2011 amount budgeted for the project is \$267,931 and it is under the Street Improvements budget line item. After review of the grant application, the Grant Manager at DCED (Department of Community and Economic Development) has suggested changing the budget line item to Water/Sewer Improvements rather than Street Improvements because more of the project is Water/Sewer. This update is for Council's information and that the project itself isn't going to change, just the way it is listed on the Budget Summary for recordkeeping purposes.

## City Wide Survey

City-Wide Survey:

In an effort to qualify additional Street/Road and Sewer/Water Improvements throughout St. Marys a City-Wide Income survey is being considered. The City is divided into three tracts and it is necessary to receive a certain amount of surveys from each tract. In an effort to save on mailing costs Ms. Gradizzi was going to begin by surveying residents who pay their sewer bills and taxes in person. She had consulted with the Sewer Office and they had given her what they thought were the busiest times for people coming in to pay their bills. Also, News Releases will be posted in the Lobby at City Hall. Ms. Gradizzi will ask residents to complete the survey which consists of only 5 questions that require either a check mark or a yes or no answer. Residents will be asked to sign their surveys and provide their addresses. At least 400 completed surveys are needed and 51% or more of those survey results must meet DCED standards in order to use the results for future projects. Residents were encouraged to stop by the Sewer Office the weeks of January 16<sup>th</sup> and January 23<sup>rd</sup> to complete a survey. If residents would like one mailed to them please call 781-1718 ext. 225.

## Public Hearing Closed

Mayor Geyer closed the public hearing at 7:16 p.m.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS ON  
AGENDA TOPICS**

There were no citizen comments on agenda topics.

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**MANAGER'S REPORT**

January 4- Met with Solicitor Wagner to update him on various matters pertaining to the City.

January 10- Tim Brennan and I met with Daryl Volgarino from Devo and Associates to discuss the installation of the new parking machines for the garage. Tentative delivery date was February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012

January 11- Met with Bob Yoder and North Central representatives Bob Imhof and Dave Puncheon to discuss the Hotel Project.

January 11- Met with Mark Murphy to discuss the St. Marys Airport Industrial Park lots that are for sale. Mark is a real estate broker looking for industrial land for a client.

January 12- Met with Joe Goetz and Thad Sorg to discuss the Wastewater Treatment Plant operations.

Councilman Dornisch requested an update on the downtown hotel project and Manager Greene responded that North Central had received notification the Developer's Grant for \$3.3 million was approved, but the \$5.5 million in additional funding had not yet been secured.

Councilman Dornisch also asked for further details regarding the inquiry into the land at the Airport Industrial Park and Manager Greene responded the broker had stated his client was interested in land for industrial purposes with a possible location in St. Marys.

Councilman Jacob commented he was told Mr. Yoder was going to be the contractor on the downtown hotel project, not the owner and Manager Greene responded it was one of the options being considered.

**APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES**

Bob Roberts made a motion to approve the Expenditures from December 18, 2011 to January 14, 2012, seconded by Richard Dornisch

Councilman Gebauer had numerous questions on the Expenditures and Manager Greene provided an explanation on some items and stated the rest he would provide the details as soon as possible.

Councilman Jacob asked if the City would be reimbursed on the cost to replace a pedestrian pedestal pole that was recently knocked over and Manager Greene responded if it was determined who hit it, then their Insurance company would be sent a claim.

All were in favor to approve the Expenditures, except Gregory Gebauer, who opposed.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

Mayor Geyer presented the Treasurer's Report as of December 31, 2011. As for now, the total Revenue for the General Fund is \$7,186,762.53 or 104.46 percent of budget and the Expenditures to date were \$6,376,139.10 or 92.68 percent of budget. All other funds were well within their budget with some carryovers to next year.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Consider for adoption Resolution No. 12-1, re: Authorization for Agreements between the City and PennDOT

Resolution No. 12-1 was presented for adoption to authorize the Mayor to sign all Agreements between the City of St. Marys and PennDOT for the year 2012, on its behalf, and that the City Manager be authorized and directed to attest the same.

Manager Greene explained this was an annual requirement by PennDOT.

Motion Passed

Richard Dornisch made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 12-1, seconded by Daniel Hepner, and all were in favor.

Appointment of Vacancy Board Chairperson

Daniel Hepner made a motion to appoint Robert (Bob) Ordiway as the Vacancy Board Chairman, seconded by Bob Roberts, and all were in favor.

Appointments to City Authorities, Boards and Commissions  
Library Board of Directors

Daniel Hepner made a motion to appointment Jim Hoffman as a member of the Library Board of Directors, seconded by Richard Dornisch, and all were in favor.

Proposed Yard waste Collection Program

Manager Greene and Tina Gradizzi presented the following information regarding the proposed yard waste collection program:

Recycling ACT 101; 904 Performance Funding and Proposal for Program Changes:

The City of St Marys is a Third Class City with population in excess of 10,000 so we are mandated to follow the States Recycling ACT 101. We currently provide a curbside recycling program for our residents, which provides for the collection of three materials (annual cost \$62,500). Our Street Department has a curbside Leaf Collection program which provides for residents to have at least two opportunities to have their leaves collected at curbside each year (avg. annual cost \$36,200). The City provides a compost site, free of charge, to residents 7 days a week all year round (annual cost \$27,600).

However, the City is not compliant with having at least one garden residue, brush and limb collection a year. Each year a 904 Performance Grant funding application is filed with DEP in an effort to secure additional grant funding for the City's recycling programs. DEP is holding close to \$20,000 in Performance Grant funding because the City is not 100% in compliance with Recycling ACT 101.

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The City Manager and Ms. Gradizzi had talked with the Street Department Foreman and Head of the Department to discuss when would be the best time to incorporate the collection of these additional items into the current programs.

With the current budgeted recycling costs being \$126,300 for the Curbside Recycling, Leaf Collection and Compost Site as well as an additional \$10,500 for two Clean up days each year, the following was proposed:

Add Garden Residue to the Fall Leaf Collection. All garden residue must be bagged in order for the Street Department to pick it up. Add Limbs and branches to the Fall Leaf Collection. The limbs and branches must be no more than 4 ft. in length and 2 inches in diameter and must be bundled together in bundles less than 50 lbs. Any other size limbs and branches can be taken to the compost site by residents.

City to offer bags for the garden residue and tags for the limbs and branches at a cost to the residents. When residents purchase bags and tags they will provide their addresses so that the Street Dept. will have a list of the number of people utilizing the service as well as an idea as to how much material they would be collecting from each street. Residents would have to purchase the bags and tags in order to utilize these additional curbside services. The funds received would help offset some of the additional costs to add these materials to the collection program.

These additional services will be offered to residents and it will be their choice as to whether or not they choose to participate.

Item Tabled

Council tabled the item until further information could be obtained.

**TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION**

Vacant Council Seat

The Vacant Council Seat discussion was not needed because of the appointment made of the Vacancy Board Chairman.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS  
ON NON-AGENDA TOPICS**

There were no citizen comments on non-agenda topics.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilman Gebauer commented he had received a Complaint Report with numerous items listed that no action was taken and Manager Greene responded he had already discussed the Report with the City Engineer and the Street Department Supervisor and instructed them to clear as many items as possible. Council will receive an updated report as soon as possible.

Councilman Jacob encouraged residents to apply for the two vacancies on the Planning Commission.

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Councilman Roberts requested a review of the no left turn onto Bruxelles Street from Fourth Street. Manager Greene would check on performing a traffic study on the intersection.

Councilman Roberts requested Council consider utilizing the Council Worksessions as a workshop (for discussion only) and not as a regular meeting.

Mayor Geyer made a public apology to Warren Stewart for her comments at the last meeting.

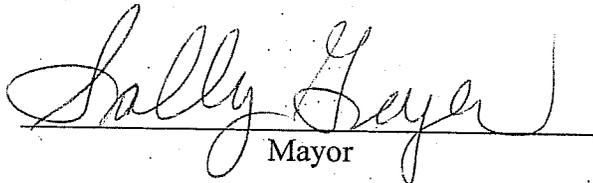
## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Geyer made the following announcements:

- The next Council worksession will be held Monday, February 6, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

## ADJOURNMENT

Richard Dornisch made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

  
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Mayor

  
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Recording Secretary