

CITY OF SAINT MARYS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

January 19, 2009

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 19, 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 Members on January 15, 2009, posted at City Call, 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, City Manager David Greene, and Solicitor Mark Jacob

VISITORS

Visitors included: Tina Gradizzi, Daniel Hepner, Warren Stewart, and Richard Sadley

Solicitor Jacob stated Zito Media has contracted John Salter to televise Council meetings starting next month.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
January 5, 2009

Sean Gabler made a motion to approve the minutes of January 5, 2009, seconded by Thomas Farley, and all were in favor.

2ND PUBLIC HEARING
2009 CDBG Program

Mayor Geyer opened the second Public Hearing regarding the 2009 CDBG Program at 7:02 p.m. and turned the hearing over to Tina Gradizzi, Community and Economic Development Coordinator.

Ms. Gradizzi stated this is the second and final public hearing to be held for the solicitation of public comments concerning the 2009 CDBG projects. A Resolution for this application will be presented to Council for approval at their meeting on February 16, 2009 based on an estimated amount of \$350,000.

The proposed project is for the reconstruction of Depot Street. Phase I from Fourth to So. Michael Streets and, if funds are available, Phase II from Fourth to Stackpole Streets. The total estimated cost of the project in 2006 was \$1,000,000. This project requires a three-year commitment of CDBG funds; \$122,215. in 2007, \$298,547 in 2008, and \$287,000. in 2009. 18% will be allotted for administration costs.

Ms. Gradizzi noted the application will be on display from January 26th through February 16th and asked for Citizens input or questions from Council.

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Richard Dornisch inquired if the project could be extended into 2010. Ms. Gradizzi responded only three years can be used for a multi-year project. However, if the City only has enough funding for Phase I, the City can come back another year for Phase II and start another three years.

Citizens Comments

There were no citizen comments regarding the CDBG Project.

A motion was made by Sean Gabler to approve the project, as presented, seconded by Steven Skok, and all were in favor.

Hearing Closed

The hearing was closed at 7:05 p.m.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON
AGENDA TOPICS

Daniel Hepner asked to speak later under the Redevelopment Authority.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Greene presented the following report:

- December 18th, the Elk Co. Commissioners awarded the City a \$30,000. grant for our Depot Street Streetscape improvement project. The money will come from DCED through the Growing Greener funds.
- December 24th through January 4th, I was on vacation and no meetings were scheduled.
- January 7th, met with Liz Boni to discuss the PA Wilds Woodlins project. We are working on a grant to install 10 wood-carvings throughout the City.
- On January 7th, I had a phone conversation with the potential investor in the Downtown Hotel project. The project continues to to move forward.
- January 9th, Bill O'Connor from Folia Industries notified me that our Historical Plaques have gone into production and should be delivered in about six weeks.
- Attended Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Jan. 12th for the new Industrial Steel Bldg.
- On January 14th, I spoke with Roy Zug from Gannett Fleming about the transferring of a portion of the St. Marys Airport Industrial KOZ land to the Depot Street project for the proposed hotel.

The Manager explained that three KOZ acres located at the Airport Industrial Park, listed as green space or wet land areas, may be transferred to

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another area as long as it is within five miles of the original project. These three KOZ acres would be moved to the downtown area for the proposed hotel project which requires 1.8 acres. He stated the developer has verbally agreed to make payments in lieu of taxes during the length of the KOZ. The Manager noted he is keeping the School District and the County informed and will have more information for Council at a later date.

APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES

Thomas Farley made a motion to approve the Expenditure Report for the period December 14, 2008 thru January 17, 2009, seconded by Richard Dornisch, and all were in favor.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mayor Geyer presented the Treasurer's Report as of December 31, 2008. To date, The total revenue for the General Fund is \$5,775,794.76 or 104.38% of the budget and the expenditures are \$5,831,248.96 or 105.94% of the budget. All other funds are well within their budget with some carryovers to next year. Pension funds had an increase in market value this month, but are still well below cost value as of December 31, 2008.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION
Consider for Adoption
Resolution No. 09-1
re: Recycling
Assistance Grant

Resolution No. 09-1 was presented authorizing the filing of an application in the amount of \$25,000. to the Department of Community and Economic Development. Tina Gradizzi explained the grant funds would be used towards the operating and administration costs for the City's Recycling Program.

Thomas Farley made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 09-1, seconded by Richard Gabler, and all were in favor.

Resolution No. 09-2
re: PA Wilds Woodlins
Project

Resolution No. 09-2 was presented authorizing the filing of an application in the amount of \$25,000. to the Department of Community and Economic Development. The Manager explained grant funds will be used towards a multi-municipal project for PA Wilds Woodlins for ten wood crav-ings placed throughout the City.

Steven Skok made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 09-2, seconded by Sean Gabler, and all were in favor.

Resolution No. 09-3
re: St. Marys Legion
Post 103- Equipment
Grant

Resolution No. 09-3 was presented authorizing the filing of an application on behalf of the St. Marys Legion Post 103 in the amount of \$10,000. to the Department of Community and Economic Development. Tina Gradizzi stated the grant funds will be used towards the purchase of lawn mowing equipment.

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Sean Gabler made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 09-3, seconded by Dennis Nero, and all were in favor.

Resolution No. 09-4
re: Christian Food
Bank - Operating
Grant

Resolution No. 09-4 was presented authorizing the filing of an application on behalf of the Christian Food Bank in the amount of \$16,500. to the Department of Community and Economic Development. Tina Gradizzi explained the grant funds would be used towards operating expenses and for food items.

Richard Gabler made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 09-4. The motion was seconded by Richard Dornisch.

Thomas Farley asked if all the grants approved here tonight have administrative fees in them? Ms. Gradizzi responded administration fees will be part of the grant.

Motion Passed

All were in favor to adopt Resolution No 09-4.

Resolution No. 09-5
re: Project Gifts
for Elk County

Resolution No. 09-5 was presented authorizing the filing of an application on behalf of the Project Gifts for Elk County in the amount of \$10,000. to the Department of Community and Economic Development. Tina Gradizzi stated these grant funds would be used towards operating expenses.

Richard Dornisch inquired about the purpose of the group. Ms. Gradizzi stated they distribute gifts at Christmas time, help needy families, and gifts for children in need throughout Elk County.

Mr. Dornisch added he is not opposed to charity but felt \$10,000. might be better spent elsewhere. He requested a "mission statement" from the group.

Council reminded Mr. Dornisch that the money is not coming from the City and that they were only giving approval for Ms. Gradizzi to apply and to administer the grant.

Mayor Geyer stated Ms. Gradizzi should apply for as many grants as she can to help area organizations.

Mayor Sally Geyer made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 09-5, seconded by Richard Gabler, and all were in favor.

Resolution No. 09-6
re: Neighborhood
Stabilization Program

Resolution No. 09-6 was presented authorizing the submission of a Neighborhood Stabilization Program fund request to the Housing and Economic Recovery

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Act of 2009 in the amount of \$1,000,000. Manager Greene stated these funds would be used to redevelop demolished and vacant properties and for affordable housing units. The City will assume the provision of the full local share of the project cost. Manager Greene explained these funds would be used to finish the Depot Street project from Career Link to Fourth Street.

After questions from Council, Steven Skok made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 09-6, seconded by Sean Gabler, and all were in favor.

Resolution No. 09-7
re: Sanitary Sewer
Rehabilitation
Project Grant
Application
(\$1,000,000.)

Mayor Geyer stated Council received a memo from Michael Mullaney noting the City just received the final information on a grant for \$1,000,000. The deadline for the grant application is February 13, 2009 so it must be placed on tonight's agenda.

Resolution No. 09-7 was presented for Council's approval. Mr. Mullaney stated he is applying for a \$1,000,000. grant to assist in the financing of the Washington Street Sanitary sewer Rehabilitation Project. This grant is for a complete replacement of existing sanitary lines to reduce inflow and infiltration into our system. The program requires a 50% cash match. The City would have to provide \$500,000. in local funds. We have \$300,000. in reserve money that will be contributed from the sewer base rate increase of \$2.00. Mr. Mullaney will request that the Municipal Authority contributes the remaining costs plus engineering to cover the project.

A motion was made by Dennis Nero to adopt Resolution No. 09-7, seconded by Thomas Farley, and all were in favor.

Appointments
Daniel Hepner,
Chairman, RDA

Daniel Hepner, Chairman of the Redevelopment Authority, addressed Council regarding the proposal at the last meeting to increase their Board from five members to seven members. Mr. Hepner stated the Authority's Solicitor informed him that the RDA cannot increase the members because RDAs are governed by a statute. The RDA received three applicants interested in the position. One applicant has withdrawn his name. Mr. Hepner stated the RDA recommends the reappointment of Warren Stewart.

Redevelopment
Authority

Mayor Sally Geyer made a motion to reappoint Warren Stewart as a member of the Redevelopment Authority.

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Sean Gabler stated he would feel more comfortable to have our Solicitor review the statute.

The motion died due to the lack of a second. Sean Gabler made a motion to table the appointment, seconded by Dennis Nero, and all were in favor except Mayor Sally Geyer who opposed. The motion to table passed by majority vote.

St. Marys Zoning
Hearing Board

Manager Greene read a letter from the St. Marys Zoning Hearing Board recommending the appointment of James T. Baumgratz as an alternate member of the zoning board.

St. Marys Zoning
Hearing Board
(Alternate)

Richard Dornisch made a motion to appoint James T. Baumgratz as an alternate member of the St. Marys Zoning Hearing Board, seconded by Richard Gabler, and all were in favor.

TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION
Management Insurance

Dennis Nero explained why he felt all management people, if they are in our health insurance program, should pay the increase the same as union employees. He felt it was not fair that the management employees pay \$12. and the union people pay \$20.

Dennis Nero made a motion that all management employees pay the same increase in health insurance as our union employees were given at the past negotiations. The management employees asked for the same wage increase as the union employees received so they should get the same increase on their health insurance. The motion was seconded by Thomas Farley and all were in favor.

Steven Skok noted that the Police Department's "uniformed" employees are not included.

Motion Passed

All were in favor of the motion.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments on non-agenda topics.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Thomas Farley requested an up-date on the status of the parking garage. Manager Greene noted Joelcole, who is responsible for the demolition of the buildings, has two contractors who are interested in the demolition. Joelcole is waiting for a letter from one of the contractors and as soon as it is received, the bid to demolish the buildings will be awarded. The Quad 3 Group is preparing the land remediation specifications.

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Steven Skok noted that the County has appointed an Open Records Administrator and asked that the Manager check to see if the City needs to appoint one.

Richard Dornisch inquired about the meeting with PennDOT which was held at the corner of Brusselles and So. Michael Streets. The Manager felt because of the location, he recommended the City share in the cost of the project. The City would video-tape the area, repair sidewalks and the drain. PennDOT would do all the road construction.

Mayor Geyer noted tomorrow is the inauguration of our new president and she wished him well.

Tina Gradizzi stated area businesses recycling reports have been mailed and are due by February 1st. She also noted DEP is offering grants for small businesses and if anyone is interested they should call her at City Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mayor Geyer made the following announcement:
- Next Council meeting will be held on February 2, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Executive Session

An Executive Session will be held after adjournment of this meeting to discuss personnel issues.

ADJOURNMENT

Richard Gabler made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mayor

Shirley Dicklas
Recording Secretary