

CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL WORKSESSION

January 5, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

A Council worksession of the City of Saint Marys was called to order by Mayor Sally Geyer on Monday, January 5, 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 members of Council on December 31, 2008, posted at City Hall, and published in the Daily Press.

ROLL CALL

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

VISITORS

Visitors included: Michael Mullaney, Victor Straub, Daniel Hepner, Warren Stewart, Todd Caltagarone, and Richard Sadley

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
December 15, 2008

Richard Dornisch made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular Council meeting held on December 15, 2008, seconded by Steven Skok, and all were in favor, except Sean Gabler who abstained.

December 22, 2008

Richard Gabler made a motion to approve the minutes of the Continuation meeting held on December 22, 2008, seconded by Thomas Farley, and all were in favor, except Sean Gabler who abstained.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON
AGENDA TOPICS

Victor Straub requested to speak later on the agenda regarding the St. Marys Municipal Authority.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION
Police Dept. Policies
Use of Neuro-Muscular:
Incapacitation
(Taser) Policy

A policy for the "Use of Neuro-Muscular Incapacitation (Taser)" was received from the St. Marys Police Department for Council's review and approval. It was noted Solicitor Jacob reviewed this policy and some minor changes have been made based on his recommendation.

Chief Todd Caltagarone explained the need for the Taser Policy and also stated a copy of both the "Use of Force" and the "Supervisory Taser Use" reports are attached to the policy.

After a lengthy discussion by Council regarding their concerns, Thomas Farley made a motion to approve the "Use of Neuro-Muscular Incapacitation (Taser) Policy", seconded by Richard Gabler, and all were in favor, except Richard Dornisch who opposed. The motion passed by majority vote.

Pepper Aerosol
Restraint Spray
Policy

A policy for the "Pepper Aerosol Restraint Spray" was received from the St. Marys Police Department for Council's review and approval. Solicitor Jacob also reviewed this policy.

January 5, 2009

Richard Gabler made a motion to approve the "Pepper Aerosol Restraint Spray Policy". The motion was seconded by Dennis Nero.

Chief Todd Caltagarone also explained the need for this policy and noted that this policy is just being updated.

Motion Passed

After a discussion, all were in favor to approve the pepper spray policy.

Appointments:
Redevelopment Authority

Manager Greene explained that the vacancy on the Redevelopment Authority was published on the front page of the Daily Press on December 26th and also published three times under "Legal Notices" on December 20th, 24th, and 26th. He stated we have three interested applicants for the position; Lisa Barrett, Joseph Haines, and Warren Stewart.

1st Motion

Mayor Geyer made a motion to reinstate Warren Stewart on the RDA. The motion was seconded by Sean Gabler.

Sean Gabler would like to see the RDA increased from 5 members to 7 members noting the RDA's by-laws would need to be revised. He stated the City has three interested individuals and he would like to see all three appointed to the RDA Board.

Richard Dornisch felt this appointment should be postponed until Council and the RDA have more time to review the applicants.

Amended Motion

Mayor Geyer amended her motion to postpone this appointment for two weeks to allow the RDA to consider a seven member board. The amended motion was seconded by Sean Gabler and all were in favor.

The Manager was instructed to acquire more information on Lisa Barrett.

Thomas Farley suggested that the vacancy be re-advertised.

Municipal Authority

Manager Greene explained this position was also re-advertised and that no "Letters of Interest" were received.

Victor Straub

Victor Straub, Chairman of the Municipal Authority, requested that Council reconsider the reappointment of Gabe Uljon as a member of Authority. He noted Mr. Uljon was reappointed by Council to the

CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL WORKSESSION

January 5, 2009

Benzinger Sewer Authority. Mr. Straub presented background information stating when the Borough and the Township became a City, the Benzinger Township Sewer Authority was absorbed into the Municipal Authority. Mr. Straub stated the Benzinger Sewer Authority will only exist until all bond issues and loans are satisfied which will be August 1, 2010 and that they only meet once a year. Mr. Straub highly recommended Mr. Uljon be re-appointed as a member of the Municipal Authority

The vacancy on the Municipal Authority will be readvertised. It was noted Mr. Uljon will need to resubmit a "Letter of Interest" to Council.

St. Marys Board of Health and St. Marys Zoning Hearing Board

Since no "Letters of Interest" were received for the St. Marys Board of Health and the St. Marys Zoning Hearing Board (alternate), these positions will also be readvertised.

Richard Dornisch felt it would be wise for the City to appoint a committee to come up with interested individuals to serve on City boards.

It was decided that Richard Dornisch would be the one man committee. Dennis Nero and the rest of Council could also submit names to Mr. Dornisch.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION
Sewer System near Lesser Jewelers

Mayor Geyer questioned Mike Mullaney, Public Works Director, on the status of the drainage problem at Lesser Jewelers. Mr. Mullaney stated a meeting has been scheduled with PennDOT on Friday, January 9th at 10:00 a.m. to discuss the issue. The meeting will be held at the site (corner of Brusselles and So. Michael Streets). Council is invited to attend.

Intersection of Brusselles, So. Michael, and Chestnut Streets

Richard Dornisch expressed his concerns regarding the traffic pattern at the intersection of Brusselles, So. Michael, and Chestnut Streets. He felt that traffic in the center lane on Brusselles Street should have to stop further back to allow vehicles more room to make the turn. A truck has a very difficult time squeezing through this intersection. Also, Mr. Dornisch noted it is difficult for traffic to make the turn onto Chestnut Street and stay in the proper lane due to parked vehicles.

Mayor Geyer agreed with Mr. Dornisch stating larger vehicles have a problem making the turn onto Brusselles Street if vehicles are in the center lane and stop to close to the intersection.

January 5, 2009

Sean Gabler felt the "No Left Turn" sign at this intersection confuses travelers entering St. Marys from Bruxelles Street. Where the sign is positioned, it looks like the sign means do not turn left onto Chestnut Street, instead of So. Michael Street.

Richard Gabler stated that if the sign was removed, more vehicles would try to make the left turn onto So. Michael Street.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Sean Gabler stated 2009 is an important year for local government. The City has three Council persons and one mayor up for re-election. The first day to circulate petitions is February 17th.; and he encouraged citizens of the City, who have an interest in local government, to run for these positions.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mayor Geyer made the following announcement:
- Next Council meeting will be held on
Monday, January 19, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Sean Gabler made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mayor

Shirley Dicklass
Recording Secretary