

CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL WORKSESSION

JANUARY 7, 2013

CALL TO ORDER

A Council worksession of the City of Saint Marys was called to order by Mayor Sally Geyer on Monday, January 7, 2013 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 3, 2013, posted at City Hall, and published in the Daily Press.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor Sally Geyer, Nedward Jacob, Daniel Hepner, Gregory Gebauer, Richard Dornisch, Gary Anderson, Bob Roberts, Manager David Greene and Solicitor Thomas Wagner.

VISITORS

Visitors included: Warren Stewart, Katie Weidenboerner, Brian Fleming and Richard Sadley.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
December 17, 2012

Gary Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes of December 17, 2012, seconded by Bob Roberts and all were in favor.

REPORT ON EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Geyer stated an Executive Session was held immediately prior to tonight's meeting regarding personnel matters. No decisions were made.

Request to add agenda item
Motion

Gregory Gebauer made a motion to add discussion to the agenda regarding the salary increases and health care benefits for the non-union employees, seconded by Nedward Jacob.

Discussion

Gary Anderson questioned if a two third majority was necessary to amend the agenda and Solicitor Wagner responded no.

Mayor Geyer commented she strongly disagreed with adding this item to the agenda without first notifying the public so they could comment on the item.

Richard Dornisch concurred with Mayor Geyer and believed prior notification should have been provided to the public.

Mayor Geyer stated the taxpayers had the right to comment on any issue that may add additional costs to them.

She further stated she strongly disagreed with the motion.

Gregory Gebauer stated if the healthcare issue was not resolved prior to tonight's meeting the costs would be greater.

Nedward Jacob stated there had been other items added to the agenda at a meeting and he believed there was no reason why this could not be added to tonight's meeting.

Mayor Geyer stated it had been previously stated at a public meeting that there would not be any wage increases and no one had the opportunity to comment on the issue. She believed it was a "back room" deal and did not like it at all.

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Nedward Jacob stated it was not a "back room" deal.

Bob Roberts stated it was not a "back room" deal by any stretch of the imagination.

Gregory Gebauer stated if Council did not make a decision on the topic it would cost the City more money pertaining to the healthcare plan because of the City providing two different healthcare plans.

Mayor Geyer stated she understood Councilman Gebauer's point, but believed the topic should have been on the agenda so it could have been advertised to provide the opportunity for citizens to comment on the topic.

Roll call vote- Motion Passed

On a roll call vote Councilmen Gebauer, Hepner, Jacob, Roberts and Anderson voted in the positive and Councilman Dornisch and Mayor Geyer voted in the negative. Motion Passed 5 to 2.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA TOPICS

There were no citizen comments on agenda topics.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION:

Consider for adoption:
Resolution No. 13-1, re:
Authorizing agreements between
the City and PennDOT
Motion

Resolution No. 13-1 was presented for adoption authorizing the Mayor to sign all Agreements between the City and PennDOT for the year 2013 and the City Manager be authorized and directed to attest to the same.

Bob Roberts made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 13-1, seconded by Daniel Hepner.

Discussion

Nedward Jacob questioned what type of agreements the Resolution was authorizing and Manager Greene responded it was all agreements approved by Council. It was an annual requirement by PennDOT.

Gary Anderson questioned if the sewer project on S. St. Marys Street would be included and Manager Greene responded the agreement for the sewer project was approved at the last Council meeting.

Motion Passed

All were in favor to adopt Resolution 13-1.

Wage Increases for Management
Employees (added to agenda)

After a brief discussion it was determined the Wage Increase for Management was to be added to the Legislative Action portion of the agenda.

Nedward Jacob stated at the Executive Session there was discussion regarding wage increases and insurance for the management employees.

Motion

Nedward Jacob made a motion that the Management Employees be included in the same agreement as agreed by the Non-Uniformed Union employees, with the same insurance plan, same deductible and same contribution, seconded by Bob Roberts.

Clarification of Motion

Gregory Gebauer wanted to clarify the motion as a 2 percent increase for Management employees with the same changes to the insurance benefits as the Union employees and Nedward Jacob responded that was correct.

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Discussion

Mayor Geyer again stated she strongly disagreed with how the change was being handled by Council. She believed the issue was done in the "back room" instead of when the budget was being prepared. She further stated the public were told there were no increases in wages.

Bob Roberts stated no increase in wages was a misstatement by Council.

Gregory Gebauer stated the wages were also increased for the Union employees.

Mayor Geyer stated the Management was not included with the Union.

Gregory Gebauer stated Council needed to finalize the healthcare issue.

Mayor Geyer stated for the record she disagreed with how the issue was being handled.

Gregory Gebauer stated for the record Council needed to finalize the healthcare issue. He further stated there should only be one health plan for all of the City's employees to provide the best savings.

Mayor Geyer stated she had no information that proved a cost savings.

Nedward Jacob responded the information was received last week by Council from the Finance Director.

Gary Anderson questioned if the Mayor agreed the healthcare savings were \$112,000 a year and if she wanted to wait to enact those savings?

Mayor Geyer questioned why the issue was not brought up during the budget discussions?

Gary Anderson stated the Mayor sets Council's agenda and she should have brought up the issue.

Richard Dornisch disagreed with Councilman Anderson and stated there was flexibility in the budget which allowed the issue to be handled, however he questioned if the issue could be deferred to another meeting. The issue should have been discussed in October during budget workshops. He restated his disagreement with the issue being placed on tonight's agenda.

Mayor Geyer restated her disagreement with the issue.

Gregory Gebauer stated Council had an Executive Session prior to tonight's meeting to discuss the topic and if Council had "true" workshop meetings it could have eliminated the disagreement.

Mayor Geyer stated the topic could have been added to Topics for Discussion and then voted on at a later date in order to allow the citizens to be aware that Council was discussing the topic.

Richard Dornisch questioned what would it cost the City

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to hold off for another month and Bob Roberts responded the potential savings were \$37,375.

Nedward Jacob stated at Council's last meeting the Union Contract was approved and he believed the Management would also receive the same benefits.

Nedward Jacob requested citizens comments be heard from the audience and the Mayor responded the audience didn't know it was on the agenda.

Roll call vote- Motion Passed

On a roll call vote Councilmen Gebauer, Hepner, Jacob, Roberts and Anderson voted in the positive and Councilman Dornisch and Mayor Geyer voted in the negative. Motion Passed 5 to 2.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

There were no topics for discussion.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON
NON-AGENDA TOPICS

Warren Stewart

Warren Stewart questioned the Parking Garage figures that he had received from the Manager.

Council and the Manager briefly discussed the source of funds, non-reimbursable expenses, the reduction in size, transfer of land, consultant's agreement and availability of funds for the Parking Garage Project.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Jacob
Parking meters

Councilmen Jacob requested an update on the calibration of the parking meters and Manager Greene responded there were numerous meters that did not pass the calibration test and could not be reinserted into the meter heads. They would be sent in for repair and recalibrated as soon as possible.

Injection Wells

Councilman Jacob questioned if the City or the County was considering legislation regarding injection wells.

Councilman Hepner described the previous process for injection wells.

Councilman Jacob was concerned with the injection of "polluted" water into the ground.

Council briefly discussed the injection well process.

Brine use

Councilman Jacob questioned if "brine" was being utilized by the Road Crew?

Councilman Roberts
Road Crew

Councilman Roberts questioned the procedure for calling out the Road Crew during snow events and the percentage of Road Crew workers off in one day and Manager Greene responded he would find out the answers to both Councilmen Jacob and Roberts questions.

Councilman Roberts requested the item be placed on the next agenda for discussion.

Councilman Jacob
Sewer Base Rate

Councilman Jacob requested an update on the explanation of the difference of one dollar of the sewer base rate not going to the sewer line repair fund and Manager Greene responded the one dollar was allocated to the Sewage Treatment Plant to balance its budget.

Council briefly discussed the issues with the possibility of

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a mandated reduction of inflow and the possible positive results of the recent "re-lining" process.

Floyd Howell property

Councilman Jacob questioned why the Floyd Howell property was still occupied after a court case against him was in the City's favor. He suggested the matter be looked into further.

No Parking signage

Councilman Jacob requested replacing some of the no parking 2-6 am signage that was taken down.

Broadcast of meetings

Councilman Jacob requested the television broadcast of the Council meeting have better quality for audio and video.

Councilman Gebauer
Workshop meetings

Councilman Gebauer requested Council consider a true workshop (worksession) meeting to discuss issues prior to Council's regular meeting.

Mayor Geyer commented Councilmember's could add items to the agenda at any time or ask to have an item tabled.

Councilmen Jacob and Roberts stated their reasons why they agreed with the change to a workshop meeting.

Councilman Anderson
Berkheimer/wage tax collections

Councilman Anderson requested an update on Berkheimer and Solicitor Wagner responded he had no further information.

Manager Greene stated the deficit in wage tax collections for the 1st quarter was reduced to \$60,000 according to what was collected in 2011.

Councilman Dornisch
Deputy Mayor

Councilman Dornisch suggested the Deputy Mayor title be changed every year instead of waiting for the reorganization meeting.

Mayor Geyer
Management employee decision

Mayor Geyer stated she wanted the public to know that she was opposed to how the Management employee topic was handled.

Councilman Roberts stated he resented Mayor Geyer's comment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Geyer made the following announcements:

- The next Council meeting will be Monday, January 21, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.
- Presentation of plaque for 25 years of service to David G. Cuneo.
- Thank you to JoAnn Seltzer from the Courier Express for her years of service and welcome to the new reporter Katie Weidenboerner.

ADJOURNMENT

Gary Anderson made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Lorrie Levenduski

Recording Secretary

Sally Geyer

Mayor