

CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL WORKSESSION

March 1, 2004

- CALL TO ORDER**
A Council worksession of the City of Saint Marys was called to order by Mayor David Meier on Monday, March 1, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the Council Room of City Hall, 808 South Michael Street. Notice of the meeting was sent to Council on February 26, 2004 and posted at City Hall. Notice of this meeting was also published in the Daily Press.
- ROLL CALL**
Present: Mayor David Meier, Robert Roberts, Thomas Farley, Gelindo Bonfardine, Steven Skok, Mark Kopp, Dennis Nero, Maurice J. Azain, City Manager and Solicitor Stephen French
- VISITORS**
Visitors included: Jerry Sorg, Jerry Marshall, Steve Michuck, Yvonne McKinney, Andy Swasta, Richard Sadley, Herb Straub, Joe Goetz, Chris Goetz, Robbie Weisner, Tom Goetz, Scott Scutella, Thomas "Doc" Lyons, and Tom Wagner
- MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 16, 2004**
Robert Roberts made a motion to approve the minutes of February 16, 2004, seconded by Gelindo Bonfardine, and all were in favor.
- APPRECIATION AWARDS**
Mayor Meier stated that 25-year service awards were to be awarded tonight to Steven Samick and John Brunner, but that they were unable to attend. These awards, plus Stephen Skrzypek's award, will be presented at a future Council meeting.
- REPORT ON EXECUTIVE SESSION**
An Executive Session was held following the Council meeting of February 16, 2004 to discuss personnel matters. No decisions were made.
- CITIZEN COMMENTS**
AGENDA ITEMS
Tom Wagner
Tom Wagner, Solicitor for the Benzinger Township Golf Course Authority, was present to answer any questions regarding City Ordinance No. D-182 guaranteeing the Golf Authority's refinancing.
- Tom Farley
Thomas Farley thanked Mr. Wagner for including the Amortization Schedule and Release Form per his request.
- Yvonne McKinney
Yvonne McKinney questioned several items concerning the Benzinger Township Golf Course Authority refinancing.
- Steve Michuck
Steve Michuck asked what land the Golf Authority plans on acquiring? Herb Straub informed him land adjacent to the golf course.
- Tom "Doc" Lyons
Tom "Doc" Lyons asked why does the City need to back the loan for the Golf Course Authority? He was informed that it is a bank requirement.

CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL WORKSESSION

March 1, 2004

OLD BUSINESS

Elk County
Humane Society
Lease

Since the revised Elk County Humane Society Lease was not available for tonights' meeting, Council postponed a decision until the revised lease is received from the society.

**NEW ORDINANCE
FOR CONSIDERATION**

Ordinance No. D-182
Golf Course
Refinancing

Ordinance No. D-182 was submitted authorizing the incurrence of a lease rental debt by the City pursuant to the execution and delivery of a Guaranty Agreement with the Benzinger Township Municipal Golf Course Authority and Northwest Savings Bank, authorizing the execution and filing of a debt statement and approval request with the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

Thomas Farley made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. D-182, seconded by Robert Roberts. On a roll call vote, Messrs. Skok, Roberts, Farley and Nero voted in the affirmative. Mr. Bonfardine voted in the negative and Messrs. Meier and Kopp abstained. The motion passed by majority vote.

NEW BUSINESS

LERTA Application
Contact Technologies,
Inc., 229 West Creek
Road

A motion was made by David Meier to approve the LERTA Application for Contact Technologies, Inc., seconded by Thomas Farley, and all were in favor. The application is for an addition to an existing air compressor room. The projected cost of the improvement is \$40,000.

Award of Bid
Communication System

The following six bids were received for the Communication System for the Wastewater Treatment Plant:

| <u>Company</u> | <u>Option 1 Direct Purchase</u> | <u>Option Rental (48 mos.)</u> |
|---|---|--|
| North Star Com., Inc. Cecil, Pa. | \$ 7,966.04 | \$ 9,385.16 |
| Bronder Tech. Ser., Inc. Butler, Pa. | \$17,944.00 | \$17,822.00 |
| Alltel..... Ridgway, Pa. | \$17,195.06 | \$20,907.98 |
| Mashan Com. & Electronic Home, PA | \$24,043.95 | \$21,281.27 |
| Dagostino Electric Ser.. Pittsburgh, Pa. | \$19,900.00 | \$19,161.84 |
| Electronic Com. Ser..... Albion, PA | \$18,063.27 | \$18,835.45 |

The Public Works Director recommended that the bid for the communication system be awarded to North Star Communication, Inc. for a direct purchase price of \$7,966.04.

CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL WORKSESSION

March 1, 2004

Gelindo Bonfardine made a motion to award the bid for the communication system to North Star Communications, Inc. in the amount of \$7,966.04, seconded by Mark Kopp, and all were in favor.

County of Elk
City Tax Collector

The City received a letter from the Elk County Commissioners regarding the City Tax Collector. The letter stated that Section 905 of the St. Marys Home Rule Charter gives City Council the power to retain or abolish the office of elected Tax Collector. It has recently come to the Commissioners' attention that formal retention or abolishment must be made by early February, 2005. Section 905 requires the adoption of an ordinance no later than the earliest permitted date to circulate nomination petitions for the office of Tax Collector.

Robert Roberts would like to see the pros and cons and the cost of retaining or abolishing the office of elected Tax Collector. Thomas Farley suggested that the City Treasurer collect the taxes.

Tom Wagner informed Council that there is a legal issue involved because the Tax Collector also serves the School District and the County. Solicitor French, the Manager, and the Finance Director are to research this issue.

Reopening of
Police Contract

Dennis Nero made a motion to reopen the Police Contract regarding Article XXI and Article XXXX, these two Articles only, per the terms of our agreement with the St. Marys Police Department, seconded by Gelindo Bonfardine, and all were in favor.

Mr. Nero informed Council that he did discuss this issue with Officer Phil Hoh, Chairman of the St. Marys Police Benevolent Association, who agreed to reopen the contract for the two Articles only. Article XXI is "Out of Rank Pay" and Article XXXX is "Sergeant Position". Solicitor French and the Manager are to prepare a certified letter informing the police of Councils' request to reopen the Police Contract.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Robert Roberts made a motion to approve the Crystal Fire Department's 25-Year Plan, seconded by Steven Skok, and all were in favor.

Robert Roberts presented the Goals and Objectives for the Police Department. Mr. Roberts also made a motion to approve the activities at the airport per letter received regarding the drag race events, seconded by Gelindo Bonfardine, and all were in favor.

March 1, 2004

Steven Skok reported on the Planning Commission meeting of February 17th. He commended Michael Lecker, Chairman, for his handling of the citizens regarding the proposed rezoning of S. St. Marys Street, 54 names were added to the petition opposing the rezoning, and that Route 120 was designated as a scenic highway.

Mr. Skok stated the Revitalization Committee would like a single calendar of events published, they questioned the rezoning variances, and blighted areas especially the two houses on Fourth Street. Manager stated that the houses could be razed by the City and send the bill to the property owner. The committee also requested the City furnish a list of all the vacant lots and buildings in the downtown area.

Steven Skok also reported on the Recycling Task Force meeting held on February 26th. The Solid Waste Authority would like to have a permanent site for recyclable electronic items at the Stackpole Complex.

Mayor Meier asked how can the City enforce variances? Solicitor French said have the Code Enforcement or Zoning Officers review the original variances and if they are not in compliance, the officers could close them down.

Gelindo Bonfardine inquired about the status of the ordinance regarding the 20' stack on outdoor furnaces.

Jerry Sorg, once again, requested that the City Ordinance regarding the 20' stack height on outdoor furnaces be revised.

Solicitor French recommended that Council have an independent research done on this subject. Mayor Meier instructed the Manager to obtain two or three E-Mail or FAX recommendations from manufacturers regarding the 20' stack and bring data back to Council.

Thomas Farley informed Council that the Goals and Objectives for the Wastewater Treatment Plant have been completed.

Mayor Meier instructed the Manager to include all the Goals and Objectives for the City in the weekly packets for Council. The Goals and Objectives are to be placed on the March 15th agenda for Councils' approval. On March 16th, if approved by Council, the Goals and Objectives are to be placed on the City's web site.

CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL WORKSESSION

March 1, 2004

Council held a lengthy discussion regarding the Uniform Construction Code (UCC). Thomas Farley informed Council that he has information from a web site that lists the names of individuals that are registered and ones that are certified. He stated one name from the City was listed as registered only.

Manager Azain informed Council that five names from the City have been registered for \$50.00 each and that these individuals have three years to get certified. Thomas Farley will check the web site again to see if the five names are listed.

Robert Roberts was concerned that the City will not be able to handle the UCC inspections. Mayor Meier stated the Manager and Code Enforcement Officer must submit a detailed plan in time to be placed on the March 15th agenda.

Solicitor French explained that anyone who opts-in would use their own inspectors or they could hire certified inspectors on an as-needed basis. Anyone who opts-out would use the inspectors listed by the state. Mayor Meier stated that if anyone would like to avail themselves on an as-needed basis, they should contact the City.

After a brief discussion regarding the City's recycling program, David Meier made a motion that the solicitor and manager revise the City's recycling ordinance to implement electronic recycling and also revise the curb-side recycling to include all the recyclables that the City currently is mandated to recycle. The motion was seconded by Robert Roberts, and all were in favor.

Mayor Meier requested that the Manager contact Guy McUmbert, of DEP, as soon as the snow melts to visit the City's compost facility. There may be grant money available. Mr. Meier also stated that the City could receive a 90% grant for a new recycling truck with the Solid Waste Authority paying 10%. The truck must be parked on City property. A second truck could also be shared between Ridgway and Saint Marys.

Thomas Farley suggested that roll-off recycling containers be placed where there are presently small containers.

Robert Roberts requested that an Executive Session be held immediately following this meeting to discuss personnel matters.

CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL WORKSESSION

273

March 1, 2004

Mayor Meier stated that Scott Neil has been hired as a full-time Police Officer effective February 22, 2004.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Meier made the following announcements:

- Next Council meeting will be held on Monday, March 15, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.
- Congratulations to Brad Steinbach District 9 Wrestling Champion, Greg Wehler placing 1st in the diving championship at State College, and to the ECCHS Boy's Basketball team winning the district championship.
- Business Expo will be held on March 6 and 7, 2004.
- The Jobs and Tax Relief Act of 2003 provides major incentives for businesses to invest in new equipment.
- Mayor attended North Central's meeting on February 25th.
- The HOME Program and the Elm Street Program applications have been submitted to DCED.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned on a motion made by Robert Roberts, seconded by Dennis Nero, and all were in favor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An Executive Session was held regarding personnel matters.

Mayor

Birley Dicklas
Recording Secretary