

CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL WORKSESSION

MARCH 1, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

A Council worksession of the City of Saint Marys was called to order by Mayor Sally Geyer on Monday, March 1, 2010 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 February 25, 2010, posted at City Hall, and published in the Daily Press.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Sally Geyer, Bob Roberts, Steven Skok, Richard Gabler, Jr., Daniel Hepner, Richard Dornisch, and Manager David Greene. Dennis Nero was excused.

VISITORS

Visitors included: Special Guest State Representative Matt Gabler, Dale Bille, Warren Stewart, Ed Bogacki, David J. Brown, Paul Baumgratz, Richard Sadley, Fritz Lecker, and Clark Lecker.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
February 15, 2010

Richard Dornisch made a motion to approve the minutes of February 15, 2010, seconded by Bob Roberts, and all were in favor.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION
Re: PennDOT; South St. Marys
Street project

PennDOT Project Manager, Dean Ball presented Council with a detailed description of two separate projects; one will run from Wendy's north to Route 120 (State Street) continuing to Rock Street on Route 120 with an estimated construction cost of \$11.3 million dollars. The second project is from Wendy's south to Route 948 (Kersey Road) with an estimated project cost of \$6 million dollars. Both projects are scheduled for 2012 with a possibility of a fall of 2011 start.

Mr. Ball then introduced Brian St. John, from McCormick Taylor Engineers, the designers of the projects, and Jim Roman, with the traffic unit at PennDOT. A slide show was presented to Council describing the two different projects; at the southern end (Wendy's to Route 948) placing a 5 or 6 inch overlay on top, including new curb, and drainage. From the Wendy's intersection on Route 255 north to Route 120, would be a full depth re-construction. This would include the removal of any existing material and replacing the five lanes with bituminous and concrete at some of the intersections. Keeping the same configuration but with improvements to existing traffic signals and re-doing of crosswalks to accommodate pedestrians. There would be 3 phases of construction to minimize the disruption to the businesses and most of the access work (paving) would be done at night.

Daniel Hepner asked what the basic problem with the highway was. Mr. Ball responded that the highway was 40 years old, the concrete has lost its strength, and is not in good shape.

From the Dairy Queen portion toward the Vine Street intersection would be a transition of four lanes down to three lanes. A right turn lane being added at Vine Street and a center turn lane with a four foot shoulder on each side was being proposed. The three lane portion would continue towards Route 120 to

CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL WORKSESSION

MARCH 1, 2010

approximately Race Street where the four lanes would resume.

The work on Route 120 would include widening, a right turn lane onto Route 255, utility upgrades, elimination of the south side sidewalk, and removal of the wall cut back slope, which may require some right-of-way acquisitions.

Council had the following concerns:

- transition of four to three lanes, especially in front of the elementary school
- longer wait times at the reconfigured traffic lights
- increased congestion in the three lane area
- omission of Route 120 north to the railroad tracks
- option of an overhead walkway for the elementary school not being considered
- large amount of truck traffic within the traffic count
- ability to continue to accommodate the movement of the locally manufactured products
- excess of traffic that would be on added on Chestnut Street.

Manager Greene asked what the price difference between the three lanes compared to the five lanes was. Mr. Ball stated it would increase the project cost from \$11.3 to \$14 million.

Mr. Ball stated that the concerns of Council would be considered and there would be additional opportunities at future scheduled public meetings for residents to also voice their concerns. All of these concerns would then be taken into consideration.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA TOPICS

Representative Matt Gabler approached Council and expressed his appreciation of the safety concerns of the projects but also expressed his concern over human emotion being a factor and the elementary school area being a safety issue.

Dale Bille, expressed his concerns about the Route 255 and West Theresia Road traffic and suggested a traffic light be added.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION Police and Non-Uniform Pension Plans (Agenda Change)

Mayor Geyer stated the Pension Plans would be moved to the first item under Legislative Action.

Carol Muhitch, Finance Director, presented Council information from Tom Zimmerman, the actuary from Conrad Siegel's office, stating that due to a 23 percent loss in the 2007 and 2008 Pension Plans values the City's Minimum Municipal Obligation for the 2011 and 2012 would be affected.

There will be an approximate balance of \$249,000 to be made up by the City's general fund in the 2011 and the 2012 budget or the City did have an option of "Asset Smoothing" which could possibly affect the budget for up to 15 years.

CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL WORKSESSION

MARCH 1, 2010

- Motion Passed Daniel Hepner made a motion to continue to value the Pension Plans assets at market value for the Minimum Municipal Obligation and not the option of asset smoothing, seconded by Steven Skok, and all were in favor.
- Consider for Publication:
Ordinance No. 256 Re: Piper Road
and Aviation Way** Ordinance No. 256 was presented for laying out, opening and adopting Piper Road and Aviation Way as public streets in the City of St. Marys, Pennsylvania, and fixing and regulating the width and locations thereof.
- Motion Bob Roberts made a motion to approve publication of Ordinance No. 256, seconded by Richard Dornisch.
- Discussion Steven Skok questioned if the roads were already paved and Manager Greene stated they were.
- Bob Roberts asked if the City was currently plowing the roads then the City would need to be reimbursed for that effort. Manager Greene responded, yes.
- Motion Passed All were in favor to publish Ordinance No. 256.
- 2010 Wage and Benefit Schedule** The 2010 Wage and Benefit Schedule was presented for Council's approval.
- Motion Steven Skok made a motion to approve the 2010 Wage and Benefit Schedule, seconded by Daniel Hepner, and all were in favor.
- Lease, re: Elk County Humane Society** The Elk County Humane Society was requesting to lease a space from the City to place two candy machines in the lobby area at City Hall.
- Motion Richard Dornisch made a motion to accept the Lease between the Elk County Humane Society and the City of St. Marys for the placement of two candy machines in the lobby area, seconded by Steven Skok.
- Discussion Bob Roberts questioned if the candy machines would be anchored. After a brief discussion of liability, Manager Greene stated he would look into securing the candy machines.
- Motion Passed All were in favor to accept the Lease between the Humane Society and the City, except Mayor Geyer who abstained.
- TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION** There were no topics for discussion.
- CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA TOPICS**
- David Brown David Brown, who resides at the corner of South St. Marys Street and West Arch Street, was concerned that West Arch Street was cracked and deteriorating and wanted to make the City aware of the problem.
- Richard Parson Richard Parsons was looking for maps, but it was determined that the City Planning Commission would have the maps.

CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL WORKSESSION

MARCH 1, 2010

Representative Gabler

Representative Matt Gabler spoke again regarding the Route 255 project. He welcomed the newly elected Council members, was looking forward to working with Council and thanked Council for the invitation to attend tonight's meeting.

Bob Roberts

Bob Roberts then asked Representative Gabler about Act 167, regarding stormwater management. It was causing a lot of concern in the area, and he wondered if Representative Gabler would look into it.

Representative Gabler responded that many of the municipalities shared the City's concerns and he would forward the City's concerns to the State level.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Richard Gabler, Jr.

Richard Gabler, Jr. stated residents are concerned about the parking of cars on Washington Street near the cemetery.

Bob Roberts

Bob Roberts also expressed his concerns about the parking on Washington Street and requested that the Chief of Police and the Street Superintendent review the situation and make a recommendation to Council. He also suggested that the City Engineer look at the Bell and Hose Tower and give Council an opinion of its condition. He asked if the snow surrounding the parking meters would be removed soon and was concerned that certain handicapped parking spaces were being taken by the same individual all day.

Richard Dornisch

Richard Dornisch commented he did not see any problems with the Washington Street parking, the Bell and Hose Tower, or the handicapped parking.

Steven Skok

Steven Skok commented that the City residents should watch their mail for the next coming weeks for the 2010 Census forms and to please take 10 minutes to fill out the form in order to benefit the community.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

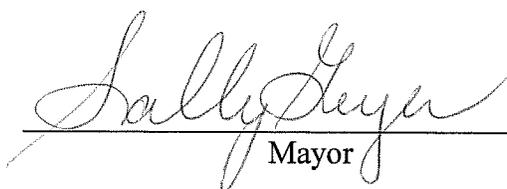
Mayor Geyer made the following announcements:

- The next Council meeting will be Monday, March 15, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

Richard Gabler, Jr. made a motion to adjourn the meeting.


 Recording Secretary


 Mayor