

CITY OF SAINT MARYS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

MARCH 18, 2013

CALL TO ORDER

The regular monthly Council meeting of the City of Saint Marys was called to order by Mayor Sally Geyer on Monday, March 18, 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 March 14, 2013, posted at City Hall and published in the Daily Press.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**ROLL CALL**

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

VISITORS

Visitors included: Bob Howard, Grace Jesberger, Paul Jesberger, Amy Cherry, Richard Sadley, Steve Michuck, Yvonne Michuck, Warren Stewart and Katie Weidenboerner.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

March 4, 2013

Richard Dornisch made a motion to approve the minutes of March 4, 2013, seconded by Nedward Jacob and all were in favor.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Dean Ball from PennDOT, re: Update on S. St. Marys Street/Route 255 Project

Dean Ball from PennDOT provided the following update regarding the S. St. Marys Street/Route 255 Project:

The General Contractor for the project is Dave Gutelius Excavating. A public meeting will be held on March 27th from 7:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. at the South St. Marys Elementary School to meet with the contractor and will provide an opportunity to ask questions.

Within the next few weeks the contractor will be doing survey work, utility marking, erosion and sediment control, marking trees for removal, the asbestos investigation for the demolition of the acquired homes.

Monday, April 8th is the scheduled date to begin the excavation of the center lane beginning at Tractor Supply/Wendy's intersection towards Pistner Road/Dairy Queen area (Phase I) and the placement of temporary traffic signals.

As the contract states, there will always be one northbound lane, one southbound lane, and one center turn lane.

The work will be performed 24 hours a day, four days a week to help expedite the process and provide less interference to the local businesses.

After the center lane work is completed the traffic will be moved to the southbound lanes with a center lane then to the northbound lanes with a center lane.

In June the water and sewer replacement is scheduled for Vine Road to State Street.

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In 2014 the project will move to the Pistner Road/Dairy Queen area towards State Street and detours will be alternately implemented for East Arch Street and Vine Street closures.

The final phase of the project is the State Street intersection and necessary detours will be in place for 3 – 4 weeks before the start of the school year.

He explained the temporary traffic signals will have the video detection system in order to allow S. St. Marys Street/Route 255 traffic to flow, but if problems arise they will adjust the timing or take any action necessary to keep traffic flowing.

He asked the motoring public to be patient and pay attention to changing traffic patterns.

Council was concerned with the school buses entering Route 255 and Mr. Ball stated most of the work in front of the school will be done while school is not in session and they would work with the School District to accommodate them as much as possible.

Council was also concerned with the Emergency vehicles negotiating through the construction area and Mr. Ball stated it shouldn't be a problem because of the availability of the center turn lane and side buffers.

Mr. Ball further explained out of a 12.9 million budget, approximately 600 to 700 thousand dollars was for traffic control to keep traffic flowing.

Council thanked Mr. Ball for his presentation.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA TOPICS

There were no citizen comments on agenda topics.

MANAGER'S REPORT

February 19- Attended a meeting with the St. Marys Historic Preservation Group held at the St. Marys Chamber offices.

February 27- Attended the North Central Regional Planning and Development Commission Board meeting held in Ridgway.

March 5- The personnel Committee and the Manager met with Ed Fosnaught from the Pennsylvania DCED to listen to a presentation on the DCED Early Intervention Program and the DCED Peer to Peer Program. The Committee was exploring any grant opportunities to fund our personnel policy updates.

March 7- Councilman Hepner, Matt Pfeufer and the Manager attended a round table meeting with Representative Matt Gabler to discuss various issues dealing with our City.

March 12- Councilman Roberts, Chief Caltagarone and the Manager attended a meeting held at the CEC building to hear plans for the new program called "Our

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Town St. Marys" that will be filmed later this year.

March 14- Met with Sean Gabler and Joe Trimarki from First Commonwealth Bank.

March 14- Met with Mark Adams from Senator Scarnati's office to discuss various issues pertaining to the City.

Discussion

Gregory Gebauer questioned why all of Council did not have the opportunity to attend some of the above mentioned meetings and Manager Greene responded he would ask them to include all of Council in the future.

Nedward Jacob requested the St. Marys Heritage Group provide a presentation to Council.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Wagner stated several months ago he was contacted by the Shade Tree Commission regarding a change to the City Code and the definition of a "Shade Tree". The issue was previously presented to Council without any resolution. The Shade Tree Commission was concerned with the responsibility of trees within the City's right of way. The information would be forwarded to Council and he requested their comments before moving forward with a draft ordinance.

APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES

Motion

Bob Roberts made a motion to approve the Expenditures from February 17, 2013 until March 16, 2013, seconded by Gary Anderson.

Questions

Mayor Geyer questioned a line item regarding Alfieri & Alfieri and Manager Greene responded it was for the Floyd Howell property litigation.

Nedward Jacob questioned if a line item regarding Elk County and the printing of tax bills included the cost to mail the bills and Manager Greene responded yes.

Nedward Jacob questioned if Manager Greene had received a response from the HR Group and Manager Greene responded he had called them, but had not yet received an answer.

Nedward Jacob also questioned line items regarding the purchase of a new sewer truck and Manager Greene responded the truck chassis was purchased separately from the body.

Gregory Gebauer questioned if the sewer truck was included in the budget and Manager Greene responded yes.

Motion Passed

All were in favor to approve the Expenditures.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mayor Geyer gave the following Treasurer's Report as of February 28, 2013:

Total Revenue for the General Fund was \$386,146 or 6.47 percent of budget and total Expenditures were

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\$790,389 or 13.24 percent of the budget. Last year at this time Revenue was at \$386,203 and Expenditures were \$777,726. Benchmark figures would be at 16.67 percent. The City should be receiving a portion of the real estate tax revenue by the end of March. Pension plans continue to climb in market value. The City has collected \$263,813 or 21.98 percent of the budget in Earned Income Taxes.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION:

Subdivision Application, re: Jennie T. Kallas , Four Wheel Drive

A subdivision application was presented from Jennie T. Kallas for property located on Four Wheel Drive. The subdivision proposed to divide a 0.7593 acre lot from a 3.1359 acre parcel as a stand-alone lot. The new lot is accessed via a private right-of-way and has access to public water and sewer. No new buildings are proposed at the present time. The subdivision complies with the zoning ordinance. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the subdivision upon receipt of assurances that the new lot has a guaranteed access to the public sewer line and the acreage of the residual parcel, if corrected. The applicant's attorney has provided a copy of a deed that contains a right-of-way (Four Wheel Drive) that this lot has access to for utility services and the residual parcel's acreage is corrected on the recordation plats.

Motion Passed

Daniel Hepner made a motion to approve the Jennie T. Kallas subdivision application, seconded by Richard Dornisch and all were in favor.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

Ceramic Street

Bob Roberts explained Ceramic Street also known as Tannery Street was originally a two way street until 15 years ago when the industrial (Stackpole) complex was sold to various companies. At that time the roadway was changed to a one way street to accommodate the increase in tractor trailer traffic to those businesses. Since that time the Recycling Center was allowed into the complex and has generated a substantial increase in traffic. The exiting traffic is now forced to travel through the entire complex.

He further stated after contacting numerous businesses within the complex he was told they were in favor of returning Ceramic Street to a two way street. A majority of the truck traffic exiting the complex is attempting to access Bruxelles Street/Route 120. If the trucks were permitted to exit from Ceramic Street it would provide easier access for them via John Street.

He believed Ceramic Street should be a two way street from Battery Street to Stackpole Street and understood the possible issues that the change might create.

Motion

Bob Roberts made a motion to change Ceramic Street to allow two-way traffic from Battery Street to Stackpole Street, seconded by Nedward Jacob.

Discussion

Mayor Geyer commented Council had received a list of concerns from City Engineer Tim Brennan.

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Bob Roberts stated he had spoken with Mr. Brennan and because he is the City Engineer he is obligated to point out the possible problems. Because of other businesses loading and unloading trucks along Curry Avenue and blocking the current exit, traffic is already exiting through Ceramic Street. He believed Council should make it legal for the traffic to exit through Ceramic Street.

Mayor Geyer agreed it would be much easier to exit the complex on Ceramic Street.

Nedward Jacob commented most of the City's intersections are not wide enough for tractor trailers.

Richard Dornisch commented if the change to two-way traffic creates a problem, Council could review it again and make another change.

Gregory Gebauer questioned if a traffic study would be necessary and Bob Roberts stated no, since the streets were all City streets.

Solicitor Wagner commented an Ordinance would need to be prepared to finalize the change.

Amended Motion Passed

Bob Roberts amended his motion that an Ordinance is prepared and published to allow two-way traffic on Ceramic Street from Battery Street to the intersection with Stackpole Street, Nedward Jacob amended his second, and all were in favor.

"Leg Traps" in the Kaulmont Park area

Mayor Geyer stated animal 'leg traps' were found by some children near Kaulmont Park. She believed it was not allowed, but was concerned for the children playing at the park.

Solicitor Wagner suggested the PA Game Commission be contacted.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS
ON NON-AGENDA TOPICS**

Carl Hasselman

Carl Hasselman questioned if the meeting was supposed to be aired on television, because it was not. He also requested Council consider making Ceramic Street a two-way Street.

Steve Michuck

Steve Michuck had questions regarding possible subdivisions on West Creek Road, the Elk County Industrial Authority and the Wetlands Interpretive Center.

Solicitor Wagner commented he believed the entire property he was referring to was purchased by West Penn.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Anderson
DCED Programs

Councilman Anderson explained the Personnel Committee met with a representative from D.C.E.D. regarding two programs that are available to the City. A "Peer to Peer" program which they would consider using one of their experts to review the City's policy and personnel manuals. He believed it was a "good

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thing” to apply for. The other program that was discussed and funded at a 50 – 75 percent level was considered a benchmarking program against other municipalities. It would be according to what areas the City requested for comparison. He believed it was something the City should consider before the preparation of next year’s budget.

Councilman Hepner commented the proposals were interesting, but because the City was not considered a “distressed” City the options for funding may be limited and he requested more information.

Manager Greene stated he just received more information in today’s mail and he would forward it to Council.

Councilman Jacob commented he agreed with Councilman Anderson regarding the benchmarking program.

Councilman Dornisch
Parking along Center Street during
church services

Councilman Dornisch explained a recent problem regarding parking along the upper portion of Center Street during church services and individuals received a parking violation. He suggested some discretion is needed when enforcing some of the parking rules especially when it is Sunday morning and the majority of residents are attending mass.

Councilman Hepner commented the area is signed as “No Parking”, but agreed with Mr. Dornisch.

Councilman Roberts commented when Center Street was reconstructed the resident’s along the upper portion of Center Street did not want the road widened, so the determination was then made that certain portions would be signed as “No Parking”.

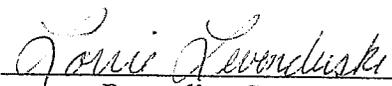
ANNOUNCEMENTS

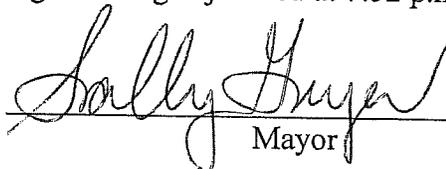
Mayor Geyer made the following announcements:

- The next Council worksession will be held Monday, April 1, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

Richard Dornisch made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.


Recording Secretary


Mayor