

CITY OF SAINT MARYS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

NOVEMBER 21, 2011

CALL TO ORDER

The regular monthly Council meeting of the City of Saint Marys was called to order by Mayor Sally Geyer on Monday, November 21, 2011 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 November 17, posted at City Hall, and published in the Daily Press.

Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was held for former Mayor Jim Auman.

ROLL CALL

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

VISITORS

Visitors included: E. Friedl, Rebecca Nelson, Mary K Frey, Bob Carnes, Greg Gebauer, Marshall Wolfe, Richard Sadley, Ned Jacob, Mike Brock, and Warren Stewart.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
November 7, 2011

Richard Gabler, Jr., made a motion to approve the minutes of November 7, 2011, seconded by Daniel Hepner, and all were in favor, except Dennis Nero who abstained.

REPORT ON EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

An Executive Session was held immediately prior to tonight's Council meeting regarding legal matters. No decisions were made.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA TOPICS

There were no citizen comments on agenda topics.

MANAGER'S REPORT

October 19- Attended the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) meeting held at the North Central Regional Planning and Development offices in Ridgway.

October 24- Attended the Parking Committee meeting held here at City Hall.

October 26- Attended the Ribbon Cutting ceremony held at the Sinnemahoning State Park for the new PA Wilds Interpretive Center.

October 26- Attended the Elk County Earned Income Tax Collectors meeting held at the St. Marys High School.

October 31- Attended the Elk County Earned Income Tax Collectors meeting held at the St. Marys High School.

November 9- Carol Muhitch and I met with representatives from St. Marys Insurance to review our short term disability policy for the City employees.

November 9- Attended a meeting of the Zoning Hearing Board held here at City Hall.

November 16- Carol Muhitch and I met with Randy Geci from Nicklas Insurance Group to discuss the City's Hospitalization plan.

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November 16- Attended the Zoning Hearing Board meeting held here at City Hall.

APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES

Bob Roberts made a motion to approve the Expenditures from October 16, 2011 to November 16, 2011, seconded by Richard Dornisch, and all were in favor.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mayor Geyer presented the following Treasurer's Report as of October 31, 2011:

The General Fund has collected 86.91 percent of its budgeted revenue and spent 74.75 percent of the budgeted amount. Last year at this time revenue collected was at 83.27 percent and expenditures were at 74.24 percent of budget. In 2009 budgeted revenue collected was at 76 percent and expenses were at 70 percent of budget. Benchmark figures would be at 83 percent. Pension funds increased this month and are greater than what they were last year at this time.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Consider for publication:

Ordinance No. 271 was presented amending various portions of Chapter 15, Parts 4, 6 and 7 of the St. Marys City Code, pertaining to permitted parking, metered and unmetered parking lots. (Amending Ordinance 267, re: Parking Regulations)

The following were the two proposed changes:
 24 Hour parking in Public Parking Lots
 Deletion of "There is no fee for handicapped spaces"

Motion Passed

Richard Dornisch made a motion to publish Ordinance No. 271, seconded by Bob Roberts, and all were in favor.

Award of Bids: re: Sale of Used Equipment

The following bids were duly advertised, received and opened for the Sale of Used Equipment at a public meeting held on November 9, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Items	1994 Cub Cadet	1985 Trailer	1990 GMC	1995 Ford w/lift	1977 Sewer Truck	1985 Paver
John Straub		\$502				
Dick Sadley					\$500	
Ted Garner	\$25			\$225	\$3,275	
Ray Sarginger		\$700		\$700		
Steve Agosti	\$126					

The following recommendations were made:

- 1994 Cub Cadet- Steve Agosti- \$126
- 1985 Trailer- Ray Sarginger- \$700
- 1995 Ford w/lift-Ray Sarginger-\$700
- 1977 Sewer Truck-Ted Garner- \$3,275

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Motion Passed

Dennis Nero made a motion to approve the awards per the above recommendation, seconded by Richard Gabler, Jr., and all were in favor.

Manager Greene commented the remaining items could possibly be sold thru an auction process.

LERTA Application -Metco Industries

Metco Industries has submitted an application to the City in regards to the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Act (LERTA) Program for a 360 sq ft addition to an existing industrial building at 1259 Bruxelles Street. The Projected cost of the improvement is \$23,300. Copies of the request will be forwarded to the other taxing bodies and the County Assessment Office.

Motion Passed

Dennis Nero made a motion to approve the LERTA Application for Metco Industries, seconded by Daniel Hepner, and all were in favor.

Dennis Nero questioned if it was a qualified application and Manager Greene responded yes.

LERTA Application- Advanced Heat Treating

Advanced Heat Treating has submitted an application to the City in regards to the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Act (LERTA) Program for a 3,850 sq ft addition to an existing industrial building at 1059 Trout Run Road. The projected cost of the improvement is \$300,000. Copies of the request will be forwarded to the other taxing bodies and the County Assessment Office.

Motion Passed

Bob Roberts made a motion to approve the LERTA Application for Advanced Heat Treating, seconded by Steven Skok, and all were in favor.

Dennis Nero again questioned if it was a qualified application and Manager Greene responded yes.

Metaldyne Assessment Appeal

Manager Greene stated he was informed the Elk County Assessment had been served with petitions from Metaldyne Sinterforged Products, LLC appealing their assessments for all of their properties located in the City of St. Marys and all of their properties located in Ridgway Township. These petitions will be scheduled for a hearing before Judge Masson at some time in the future. These Appeals will apply to all taxes for the year 2012 and thereafter.

At the hearings before the Board of Assessment Appeals on October 4, Metaldyne presented appraisals which called for a more than 50% reduction in taxes. The Board of Assessment Appeals denied all of the requests.

These appeals represent a substantial financial threat to the municipalities involved. In order to successfully defend against these appeals, or even to properly evaluate the appraisals which have been provided by Metaldyne, it was recommended that independent appraisals of each of the properties be obtained.

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Council's approval was needed for the City to participate with the St. Marys Area School District and the County of Elk to defend against the petitions.

Motion Passed

Bob Roberts made a motion the City participate with the above mentioned procedure, seconded by Richard Dornisch, and all were in favor.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

There were no topics for discussion.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS
ON NON-AGENDA TOPICS**

Elizabeth Friedl expressed her concerns with the ability to enforce the recently enacted parking fines.

Mike Brock commented the HB 1950 that was previously discussed had now removed the language that would supersede any restrictions placed on Oil and Gas Development by a municipality. Unfortunately, the language was still included in the Senate version of the bill (SB 1100). Mr. Brock recommended Council send a letter of opposition to SB 1100 and provided sample letters for their consideration.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Dornisch gave a tribute regarding the former Mayor Jim Auman's life, highlighting his loyalty and dedication to St. Marys and its people through his many years of service to the Community.

Councilman Roberts congratulated all those involved with "Light-Up" Night.

Mayor Geyer expressed her sympathy to the Auman family.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Geyer made the following announcements:

- The next Council meeting will be held Monday, December 5, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.
- Signing of Proclamation declaring November 2011, as National Home Care and Hospice Month

The Proclamation was presented to Rebecca Nelson President and CEO of the Community Nurses.

Motion to send letter of Opposition

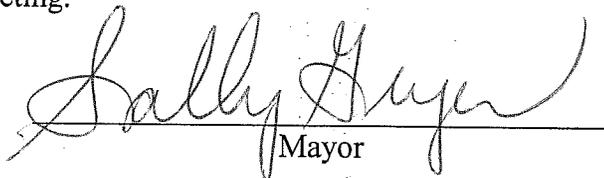
Bob Roberts made a motion to send a letter to the appropriate governmental representatives stating the City's opposition to the proposed restrictions to local municipalities regarding Oil and Gas Development, seconded by Richard Gabler, Jr., and all were in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

Richard Dornisch made a motion to adjourn the meeting.



Recording Secretary



Mayor