

**CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL WORKSESSION**

**OCTOBER 5, 2009**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A Council worksession of the City of Saint Marys was called to order by Mayor Sally Geyer on Monday, October 5, 2009, 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 October 1, 2009, posted at City Hall, and published in the Daily Press.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor Sally Geyer, Dennis Nero, Thomas Farley, Steven Skok, Richard Gabler, Jr., Sean Gabler, Richard Dornisch, Manager David Greene and Solicitor Mark Jacob

**VISITORS**

Visitors included: Joe Penfield, Fred Haas, Sally Wilson, Dan Hepner, Warren Stewart, Benji Bennett, Bob DeLullo, Richard Sadley, Brad Harshbarger, Ken Young, Stephen Michuck, Yvonne Michuck and Matt Pfeufer.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

September 21, 2009

Sean Gabler made a motion to approve the minutes of September 21, 2009, seconded by Richard Dornisch, and all were in favor.

**REPORT ON EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Geyer stated an Executive Session was held prior to this meeting regarding personnel matters. No decisions were made.

**CITIZEN'S COMMENTS ON AGENDA TOPICS**

Sally Wilson, of the St. Marys Chamber of Commerce, spoke about the sign grant application and requested approval of the resolution. The proposed sign would be located in their parking lot and hopefully would have a removable board on the bottom of the sign so community events could be listed as they occur.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION**

**Award of Bid; Leaf Waste Program**

The following Bid was opened for the Leaf Waste Program during a public meeting on Tuesday, September 22, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Woodbed Corp. – For the year 2010; \$2,100 per month for a total of \$25,200.00 annually. With an annual increase of \$1,200.00.

Mayor Geyer requested Solicitor Jacob explain the details of the Leaf Waste Program Bid. Solicitor Jacob explained the revisions that were made to the original Bid from Woodbed Corporation of an annual increase

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of \$1,200.00 per year payable in monthly installments of \$100.00. After four years the annual increase would be negotiated to reflect inflation only.

**Discussion**

Richard Gabler and Thomas Farley expressed their concern of the set increase over the next four years.

Thomas Farley stated he would have preferred after the first year subsequent increases be based on the Consumer Price Index.

Sean Gabler commented it was a price protection for the City and the Bid could have been substantially higher.

Richard Dornisch expressed his concern because of the uncertain economy.

**Motion Passed**

Dennis Nero made a motion to award the bid to Woodbed Corp. with the current revisions, seconded by Steven Skok, and all were in favor, except Thomas Farley and Mayor Geyer.

**Resolution No. 09-21**

St. Marys Chamber of Commerce to PA Wilds re: Sign Grant

Resolution No. 09-21 was presented to authorize the application of the St. Marys Area Chamber of Commerce to the Pennsylvania Wilds Planning Team for a sign grant.

**Motion Passed**

Sean Gabler made a motion to approve Resolution No. 09-21, seconded by Richard Dornisch, and all were in favor.

**Resolution No. 09-22**

City of St. Marys to PA Wilds re: Sign Grant

Resolution No. 09-22 was presented to authorize the application of the City of St. Marys to the Pennsylvania Wilds Planning Team for a sign grant.

Manager Greene explained there are funds available for the City to also apply for this grant, however, if it was later determined that only one grant was available to each municipality, he requested that PA Wilds give the grant to the Chamber of Commerce.

**Motion Passed**

Richard Dornisch made a motion to approve Resolution No. 09-22, seconded by Steven Skok, and all were in favor.

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**Robert J. Dippold Subdivision  
Planning Module (recertification)**

Manager Greene read the following memo from Matthew Pfeufer, Zoning/Code Officer:

This application deals with the sewage disposal needs of the lots created as a result of a subdivision application back in August, 2009 by Robert Dippold on Wilson Road. The Department of Environmental Protection identified several deficiencies in the Planning Module application which need to be corrected before DEP will approve the module. The Planning Module Application has been revised according to DEP's comments, but the municipality has to re-certify the revised application. DEP's comment letter was attached along with the revised municipal approval section.

**Discussion**

Thomas Farley inquired where the corrected maps were for this subdivision.

Matthew Pfeufer approached Council and verified the City did indeed have the correct maps.

Mr. Farley requested, in the future he preferred that Council receive any corrected maps.

**Motion Passed**

Sean Gabler made a motion to approve the revised application for the Robert J. Dippold Subdivision Planning Module, seconded by Richard Gabler, Jr., and all were in favor.

**Downtown Merchant's re: Request to  
close Erie Avenue for the Fall  
Festival Blow Out**

Manager Greene read the following request:

The Downtown Merchant's would like to request permission from Council to close Erie Avenue from City Hall to Diamond Street on October 10, 2009 for their Fall Festival Blow Out, if necessary.

**Discussion**

Dennis Nero inquired why a memo was not sent to the Chief of Police and Fire Chief before this request was made to Council.

Manager Greene explained Erie Avenue would be closed only if the Downtown Merchants felt it was necessary for safety issues. The festival had expanded greatly in the past week and the Merchants felt they should ask for approval just in case.

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Dennis Nero requested comments from both the Chief of Police and Fire Chief prior to any future requests for approval of a road closing out of respect for the Chief's and the importance of their opinions also; the closure of Erie Avenue is a special concern due to the largest water line in the City being located along Erie Avenue.

Richard Gabler, Jr., requested that nothing obstruct the street.

Richard Dornisch also acknowledged the importance of the Chief of Police and Fire Chief.

**Motion Passed**

Sean Gabler made a motion to approve the closing of Erie Avenue to Diamond Street for the Fall Festival Blow Out on October 10, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., seconded by Steven Skok, and all were in favor except Thomas Farley.

**TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION**

Tentative Schedule of City's 2010 Budget

Mayor Geyer requested Council to confirm dates for the Council budget workshops to be held after Council receives the Preliminary Budget on October 30.

After some discussion, it was determined that the following dates would be scheduled for budget workshops:

- **November 4, 2009**
- **November 5, 2009**
- **November 9, 2009**
- **November 12, 2009 (tentative)**

All budget workshops will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Council Room at City Hall.

Grant Street and Diamond Street Park

Thomas Farley discussed the problems with the traffic pattern around Diamond Street Park that were brought to his attention by a local resident. Mr. Farley requested if the City could convert Grant Street back to a two way street.

After some discussion of signage, enforcement of the current traffic pattern, whether or not to change the parking, and the height of the existing curb, it was requested that the Street Superintendent look into the situation.

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Catch Basins

Thomas Farley stated that a local resident contacted him about the subsiding of the road in front of and around the catch basins in the City. The resident suggested a grate to go around the current catch basins. Mr. Farley noted a particular problem at the corner of Church Street and Center Street.

Manger Greene stated he would look into it.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA TOPICS**

Joe Penfield

Joe Penfield again visited Council and stated he believed that Council was not interested in investigating his allegations. He also stated that he has been in contact with PennDot regarding the DUI program.

Mr. Farley stated he believed there was no wrong doing by the Police Department.

Dennis Nero restated the DUI records will not have the names available to Mr. Penfield and he would need to request those records from the Police Department.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Thomas Farley stated that he received an email from Cheryl Ruffner, the owner of the Street Sweeper that was hired to clean up after the Wing Fling. Ms. Ruffner wanted to address the issue of why it was not cleaned up in a timely manner. It mentioned numerous attempts by Ms. Ruffner's employee to run the street sweeper but the inability to sweep up the debris for various reasons that were not within anyone's control.

Richard Domisch stated the debris from the Wing Fling should have been cleaned up with a push broom, if necessary.

Solicitor Jacob responded to the Wing Fling debris problem by first stating the Chamber apologizes to the citizens and to the businesses in that area. The employee's of Gunners Restaurant were given credit for the actual cleaning up of the Wing Fling debris, and he thought it was a good showing of cooperation of entities. Those involved would make their best effort to make sure it does not happen again.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Geyer made the following announcements:

- The next Council meeting will be Monday, October 19, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall
- Trick or Treat night will be held Saturday, October 31, 2009, from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. by porch light invitation only.

## ADJOURNMENT

Sean Gabler made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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Mayor

  
Recording Secretary