

## CITY OF SAINT MARYS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

MAY 16, 2016

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regular monthly Council meeting of the City of Saint Marys was called to order by Mayor Robert Howard on Monday, May 16, 2016 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 May 12, 2016, posted at City Hall and published in the Daily Press.

**PLEDGE TO THE FLAG****ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor Robert Howard, Gary Anderson, Andrew Mohney, Gregory Gebauer, Bob Mohr, Lou Radkowski, Manager Timothy Pearson and Solicitor Thomas Wagner. Nedward Jacob was excused.

**VISITORS**

Visitors included: Amy Cherry, Katie Weidenboerner, Mason Catalone, Richard Sadley, Warren Stewart and Lance Mohney.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

May 2, 2016  
Motion Passed

Gary Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes of May 2, 2016, seconded by Andrew Mohney and all were in favor.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA TOPICS**

There were no citizen comments on agenda topics.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Howard reported he attended the following:

- PA State Boroughs Association Meeting
- Mayor's Association meeting
- Arbor Day celebration
- National Day of Prayer event

Mayor Howard also reported he had a television interview with the local news Channel 10, regarding the St. Marys Airport.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

Manager Pearson provided the following report:

On June 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m., Priscilla Phillips and representatives from the Downtown Heritage Preservation Group will hold a picnic on the Diamond to show their appreciation for the volunteers who help plant and maintain the flowers throughout the downtown and to welcome any new volunteers who are interested in helping.

This event ties in with the future of the downtown which Manager Pearson explained he and City staff have been compiling a list of the active groups and contacting them to try to organize their efforts.

Manager Pearson also noted he does a monthly interview with the local radio station The River 98.9 called "City Beat". Last month focused on Downtown Economic Development, which aligns with the "Strong Towns" discussion later on the agenda

Manager Pearson also announced the Emergency Management Agency Coordinator position will be available soon and a request for letters of interest will be advertised, since this is a voluntary position.

Manager Pearson stated the City has received a letter of approval from PennDOT regarding various roadways to allow engine brake restrictions. Council had previously instructed

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the request be sent to PennDOT. Manager Pearson was requesting Council's direction on the issue and whether or not to move forward with a draft ordinance.

Council, the Manager and the Solicitor discussed the matter and it was determined the Manager would obtain an opinion from the new Chief of Police and also to place the matter on the next Council worksession agenda for discussion.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Solicitor Wagner explained Council was already aware of ongoing litigation with Seneca Resources Zoning Appeal. The Zoning Hearing Board held an appeal hearing and the hearing is continued to June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Manager Pearson gave the following Treasurer's Report for April 30, 2016:

As of the end of April the City had collected 20 percent of the current Real Estate Tax Revenue, up from last year at 16 percent and in 2014 at 19 percent., Earned Income tax collected as of April 30, 2016 was \$476,935, up from last year at \$454,505 and 2014 at \$442,213. As on May 9, 2016 the City collected \$3,298,487 in current Real Estate Taxes and last year it was \$3,261,891. Total outstanding as of May 9, 2016 is \$677,897 and May 7, 2015 was \$685,166. Sewage Treatment Fund cash on hand as of April 30, 2016 was \$1,103,069, on April 30, 2015 was \$1,111,252 and on April 30, 2014 was \$725,840. Fund balance for the Sewage Treatment Fund for April of 2016 was \$3,182,583, in 2015 \$2,928,893 and 2014 was \$1,912,708.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:**

Consider for adoption:  
Resolution No. 16-8, re: Elk  
County Liquid Fuels Allocation

Manager Pearson explained the Elk County Commissioner approved the disbursement of liquid fuels funds to the City in the amount of \$9,000. Council must approve a resolution to receive the allocation, which will reimburse the General Fund for the purchase of 1b limestone.

Motion Passed

Gary Anderson made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 16-8, seconded by Bob Mohr and all were in favor.

Approval of installation of two  
new fire hydrants (Bennett  
Road and Wilson Road)

Manager Pearson explained a request was received from the Crystal Fire Department for the installation of two new fire hydrants in the City: one on Bennett Road near 134 or 138 and one on Wilson Road near the driveway entrance to 229 and 241.

Motion

Bob Mohr made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Gary Anderson.

Gregory Gebauer noted currently there were no fire hydrants on Bennett Road.

Motion Passed

All were in favor to approve the request.

**TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:**  
"Strong Towns" advocacy  
group site visit in October

Lou Radkowski explained Strong Towns was started in 2008 and originated to share the responsible growth ideas to other communities. Their Mission is to support a model of development that allows America's cities, towns and neighborhoods to become financially strong and resilient. They also advocate that prosperity does not come from outside a community but is created by a town's citizens

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building incremental investment. The group will be touring Pennsylvania in October of this year and it presents a unique opportunity for the City to host the team for a day. The team would provide a large scale lecture for the community detailing philosophy and how citizens can actively participate. There would also be small meetings with City staff and other supporting organizations. Walking tours of the town would be held to help tie together ideas from our current City plan. The team is not another consultant that will sell us another service or plan. The event is an educational event to get citizens and the City staff together to share information, understand issues, identify resolutions and collaborate on any potential projects that the "City" begins.

A commitment to host the team for a day will provide the following:

The team will market their event nationally on their website and through their media channels

The team will provide material to the City to engage citizens and market the event locally

Cost - \$4,500 (It is suggested to use the Downtown Economic Development Fund to pay for the cost)

The event will partner the City with the citizens to improve the City and will help build citizen engagement.

Council discussed the matter and it was determined to place the matter on the next agenda for consideration.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA TOPICS**

There were no citizen comments on non-agenda topics.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilman Anderson commented the Treasurer's Report showed a significant increase in the earned income tax which he believed said a lot to the viability of the town.

Councilman Gebauer requested to have the issue with the signage on the Diamond and the Boulevard placed on the next Council agenda.

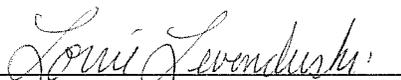
**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

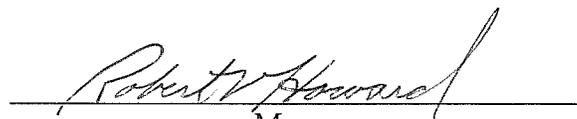
Mayor Howard made the following announcements:

- The next Council worksession will be held Monday, June 6, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

- Gary Anderson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

  
Recording Secretary

  
Mayor