

MAY 18, 2015

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 18, 2015 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 14, 2015, posted at City Hall and published in the Daily Press.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor Robert Howard, Sally Geyer, Nedward Jacob, Gregory Gebauer, Lou Radkowski, Bob Mohr, Solicitor Thomas Wagner, Acting Managers, Todd Caltagarone and Tim Brennan. Gary Anderson was excused.

VISITORS

Visitors included: Amy Cherry, Richard Sadley, Warren Stewart, Robert Sorg, Katie Weidenboerner, Colin Deppen, Tina Gradizzi, David Johe, Mason Catalone and Jeremy Thaxter.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 4, 2015

Motion Passed

Sally Geyer made a motion to approve the minutes of May 4, 2015, seconded by Nedward Jacob and all were in favor.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

Penn Highlands Elk, re: Transition to critical access designation

A Special Presentation was given by Rose Campbell, President of Penn Highlands Elk, regarding the transition to a critical access designation. She explained the following:

Critical Access Hospital designation came around in the early 1980's. It was established at the same time the Medicare payment methodology changed from cost based reimbursement to diagnosis payment or a lump sum payment for patients under a certain diagnosis code.

Critical Access Hospitals provide essential services to a community and are reimbursed by Medicare and Medicaid on a reasonable cost basis. There are 1,326 certified critical access hospitals (CAH's) located throughout the United States and thirteen are located in Pennsylvania which includes Brookville (in 2006), Charles Cole Memorial (in 2007) and Titusville (in 2014) hospitals.

The benefit of the Critical Access Hospital (CAH) provides cost based reimbursement from Medicare and Medicaid which has the potential to increase revenues. It also provides focus on the community needs, capital improvement costs included in allowable costs for determining Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement as well as access to Flex Program grant money.

The (CAH) transition is not a downgrade for the hospital; it is a change in provider designation and the hospital will continue to operate providing the same care. (CAH's) must maintain an annual average length of stay of 96 hours (four days) or less for their acute care patients. Swing bed patients have no length of stay limit. (CAH's) must provide 24 hour emergency services. Penn Highlands will maintain its current 75 bed license and may have a maximum of 25 acute care inpatient beds. A plan of action is being developed for times when the 25 bed limit is

CITY OF SAINT MARYS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

MAY 18, 2015

approaching. The plan includes three options: transfer swing beds patients to Pinecrest Manor, create a distinct observation unit, and transfer high-acuity patients requiring sub-specialty support.

The aging population does not necessarily mean more inpatient admission due to a projected decline in admissions and an increase in outpatient care.

Penn Highlands Elk has had financial losses in four of the past five years but with the change to a (CAH) the hospital could potentially receive two million dollars in additional reimbursement per year.

Penn Highlands Elk has plans to:

- Recruit additional physicians and advanced practice providers,
- Reconfigure service lines to ensure convenient access to primary and community based health care,
- Improve patient experience and timely service at the Emergency Department,
- Recommitment to the communities of Johnsonburg and Emporium by securing primary care physicians

In summary, converting to a Critical Access Hospital begins to bring financial stability in a challenging environment and the financial stability allows Penn Highlands Elk to continue and even enhance its mission to the communities it serves.

Council and the audience had numerous questions and stated their concerns with the change in the hospital's designation to a (CAH).

Ray Graeca, CEO of Penn Highlands, provided information on the Penn Highlands Board of Directors and the Penn Highlands Elk debt refinance.

Mayor Howard thanked them both for the presentation.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA TOPICS

There were no citizen comments on agenda topics.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Howard provided the following report:

- Attended the National Day of Payer event
- Attended a meeting of the Elk County underwater recovery team
- Attended the Mayor's Association meeting

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Wagner stated he should have an update regarding the Zito Media franchise agreement within the next couple of weeks.

He further stated, by request of Councilman Mohr, he provided information to the Planning Commission regarding the Oil & Gas proposed ordinance and the Planning Commission was now asking for direction from Council. He was also reviewing the Ridgway Township consultant's information regarding their Oil & Gas activities.

CITY OF SAINT MARYS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

MAY 18, 2015

After a brief discussion, it was determined to have the Planning Commission prepare a summary for the Solicitor and the Solicitor would present the summary to the Oil & Gas Committee.

**APPROVAL OF
EXPENDITURES**
Motion

Sally Geyer made a motion to approve the Expenditures from April 19, 2015 until May 17, 2015, seconded by Nedward Jacob.

Questions

Acting Manager Tim Brennan responded to questions from Council regarding the expenditures.

Motion Passed

All were in favor to approve the Expenditures.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mayor Howard gave the following Treasurer's Report for April 30, 2015:

As of the end of April the City has collected 16 percent of the current Real Estate Tax Revenue, down from last year of 19 percent and from 2013 at 20 percent. Earned Income tax collected as of April 30, 2015 was at \$454,505 up from last year at \$442,213 and in 2013 was at \$485,511. As of May 7th, 2015 the City collected \$3,261,891 in current Real Estate taxes and last year it was \$3,266,825. Total outstanding as of May 7th, 2015, was \$685,166 and as of May 7th, 2014, was \$714,955. The Sewage Treatment fund cash on hand as of April 30, 2015 was \$1,111,252 and as of April 30, 2014, was \$725,840 and as of April 30, 2013 was \$757,232. Fund balance for the Sewage Treatment fund as of April of 2015, was \$2,928,893 and for 2014 was \$1,912,708 and in 2013 was \$1,854,451.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION:
Request from Elk County Cruisers
Car Club

The Elk County Cruiser Car Club was requesting to close the Bruxelles Street municipal parking lot on Sunday, June 28th, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Barricades will be needed.

Motion Passed

Sally Geyer made a motion to approve the above request, seconded by Bob Mohr and all were in favor.

Approval of Quitclaim Deed for
Adams Road turnaround

Solicitor Wagner explained a request was received from Jude Weis, (JLP Realty, LLC) property owner on Adams Road for the City to release a turnaround that was set aside in the original subdivision plan. The road was never developed that far so the request was to convey the proposed turn around back to the original property owner.

Motion Passed

Bob Mohr made a motion to approve the Quitclaim Deed to Jude Weis (JLP Realty, LLC), seconded by Sally Gayer and all were in favor.

Subdivision Applications:
John & Marsha Cotter, 184 Wilson
Road

A subdivision application was presented from John and Marsha Cotter for property located at 184 Wilson Road. The subdivision proposed to create three lots from a parcel. Lot 1 is a proposed building lot with public water and an approved percolation test. Lot 2 is a proposed building lot with public water and an approved percolation test. Parcel A is to be consolidated with an adjacent parcel

CITY OF SAINT MARYS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

MAY 18, 2015

owned by St. Marys Carbon Company Inc. as a side lot addition. The residual parcel contains a single family dwelling with public water and private sewage service. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the subdivision with no comments.

Motion Passed

Sally Geyer made a motion to approve the Cotter subdivision, seconded by Gregory Gebauer and all were in favor.

Partition and Lot Consolidation Plan for David J. & Jody M. Mayer and Linda Johnson, 118 E. Eschbach Road and 325 Forestview Road

A subdivision application for partition and lot consolidation plan was submitted by David J. and Jody M. Meyer and Linda Johnson for property located at 1118 E. Eschbach Road and 325 Forestview Road. The subdivision proposed to divide a 1.29 acre Lot A from a 4.94 acre parcel as a side lot addition to an adjoining parcel (Meyer) and also to divide a 1.29 acre Lot B from a 3.01 acre parcel as a side lot addition to an adjoining property owner (Johnson). No new lots will be created as a result of this subdivision. All parcels have single family dwellings with public utilities. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the subdivision with the condition that the revisions be made to the plats.

Motion Passed

Lou Radkowski made a motion to approve the Meyer/Johnson subdivision application with the condition as noted by the Planning Commission, seconded by Sally Geyer and all were in favor.

Land Development Application: Accurate Sort, 366 South Grotzinger Road

A Land Development Application was submitted by Accurate Sort for property located at 366 Grotzinger Road. The application proposed to construct an 11,000 square foot industrial building with associated parking lot and loading area. The property contains an existing stormwater management pond that is under-utilized and will be used for stormwater management for this development. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the land development with no comments.

Motion Passed

Sally Geyer made a motion to approve the Accurate Sort Land Development application, seconded by Nedward Jacob and all were in favor.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:
Preparation of a separate ordinance for regulations of temporary signs

Solicitor Wagner stated based on the discussion regarding political signs at the last Council meeting he could draft a separate ordinance to regulate temporary signs.

Council, the Solicitor and the Acting Managers briefly discussed the matter and it was determined to have the Solicitor draft a reasonable ordinance and present it to Council for their consideration.

Oil and Chip Program

Acting Manager Caltagarone stated at a recent Council meeting former Councilman Tom Farley had commented on the Oil and Chip Program. Mr. Farley had suggested while he was on Council a certain amount of a millage increase in taxes had been designated for the Oil and Chip Program on an annual basis possibly in the 2002-2004 time frame. Acting Manager Caltagarone further stated after researching prior Council meeting minutes and legislative action there was no evidence of the designation

CITY OF SAINT MARYS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

MAY 18, 2015

of funds for the Oil and Chip Program. City staff had a recollection of a discussion, but no official action was ever taken.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS ON
NON-AGENDA TOPICS**

Steve Millsop
Shade Tree

Steve Millsop commented on his concerns with a Shade Tree on his mother's property on Center Street.

Dr. David Johe
Hospital

Dr. David Johe stated his concerns with the Penn Highlands Elk transition to a critical access facility designation.

Jeremy Thaxter
Laws

Jeremy Thaxter commented the policies and charters of businesses are subject to laws within the Commonwealth.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Mohr
S. Michael and Lecker Road

Councilman Mohr reminded residents to vote. He also commented on a concern with S. Michael Road and Lecker Road and needed accommodations for tractor trailers to turn around.

Councilman Radkowski
Hospital Board Member

Councilman Radkowski commented he was silent during the hospital presentation because he was currently a member of the hospital board. After the hospital's presentation last year he had questions regarding the status of the hospital and was then asked to become part of the board. He was trying to share information to others and be as transparent as possible with the strategic plan for the hospital and was glad Ms. Campbell and Mr. Graeca had attended. They had presented the same information that has been discussed at the hospital's board meetings. He reiterated and confirmed some of the information from the presentation. He encouraged Council and the public to continue to ask questions. He further commented the physician recruitment is a challenge for the hospital but believed some of the things that Council is doing could help to make the area more attractive to doctors and their families. He thanked everyone who participated in the presentation and discussion.

Update on Board, thank you to
Veterans and request for Executive
Session

Councilman Radkowski also provided an update to Council on the Rural Community College Board, thanked our Veterans due to the upcoming Memorial Day and requested and Executive Session immediately following the meeting regarding personnel matters.

Councilman Jacob
Decker's Chapel newspaper article

Councilman Jacob commented a recent article in the newspaper did not mention that the City's Community & Economic Development Coordinator, Tina Gradizzi had applied for the grant funding that was obtained for the Decker's Chapel repairs.

Gregory Gebauer
Decker's Chapel

Gregory Gebauer added the City also approved the other City services for the repairs.

Councilwoman Geyer
Right to vote

Councilwoman Geyer reminded residents to exercise their right to vote.

CITY OF SAINT MARYS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

MAY 18, 2015

Acting Manager Brennan
Summer workers

Acting Manager Tim Brennan commented the Street Department was still in need of summer workers and they could apply at City Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Howard made the following announcements:

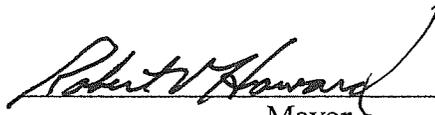
- The next Council worksession will be held Monday, June 1, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.
- Election Day is tomorrow, May 19th, 2015
- An Executive Session will be held following adjournment of this meeting regarding personnel matters.

ADJOURNMENT

Bob Mohr made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m.



Recording Secretary



Mayor