

CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL WORKSESSION

JULY 7, 2014

CALL TO ORDER

A Council worksession of the City of Saint Marys was called to order by Mayor Robert Howard on Monday, July 7, 2014 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 July 3, 2014, posted at City Hall, and published in the Daily Press.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor Robert Howard, Nedward Jacob, Gary Anderson, Gregory Gebauer, Sally Geyer, Robert Mohr, Manager David Greene and Solicitor Thomas Wagner. Lou Radkowski was excused.

VISITORS

Visitors included: Warren Stewart, Robert Goetz, Bette Decker, Michelle Casey, Mary Busch, Amy Cherry, Cliff Clark, Richard Sadley, Tina Gradizzi, John Copelli, Katie Weidenboerner, Colin Deppen, Jon Carr and Dean Ball.

Kathy Herzing and Cly Hornung did not sign in.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June 16, 2014

Motion Passed

Gary Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes of June 16, 2014, seconded by Nedward Jacob and all were in favor.

REPORT ON EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Howard stated an Executive Session was held following adjournment of Council's June 16th meeting regarding personnel matters. No decisions were made.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

Dean Ball, from PennDOT, re: Update on S. St. Marys Street Project

Dean Ball, Design Project Manager from PennDOT, was present to provide Council with an update on the S. St. Marys Street project. Jon Carr, second shift Design Project Manager, was also present. Mr. Ball explained concerns had been brought to his attention regarding the bio-filtration basins for storm water at the Arch Street and State Street intersections. Because of an increase in storm water volume D.E.P. required the basins.

Council and residents of the affected areas stated their concerns with the basins.

Mr. Ball stated a change in slope would be performed on the Arch Street basin and the installation of a fence could be considered and may address some of the concerns.

There was a discussion regarding a variety of other concerns regarding the project.

Mr. Ball stated because of liability issues there were no plans to replant trees that were removed due to the construction but there are certain trees that are allowed to be planted in the right-of-way. If the property owners wanted they could apply for a permit to plant a tree. The permit process would require permission from adjoining property owners.

Mr. Ball stated the utility relocation and drainage installation were nearly completed, along with the reconstruction of southbound lanes. Work has started in the center lane area but was taking longer than was anticipated. The Route 120 intersection is currently closed with a re-open date of possibly July 18th.

CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL WORKSESSION

JULY 7, 2014

Mr. Ball would return to the October Council meeting to provide another update, since the project would be near completion at that time.

Council thanked Mr. Ball for the update.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

Mayor Howard requested any additional topics of discussion for the agenda.

Robert Mohr requested:

D. Act 13

Gregory Gebauer requested:

E. Update on Emergency Management Committee meeting

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA TOPICS

There were no citizen comments on agenda topics.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION:

There were no legislative action items on the agenda.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

Shade Tree Commission

Mayor Howard asked members of the Shade Tree Commission to present information regarding the replacement of trees that were removed for the S. St. Marys Street project.

Kathy Herzing, Chairperson and Cly Hornung, Secretary/Treasurer from the Shade Tree Commission explained they have been diligently pursuing numerous options to replace the trees. Grant applications were researched and local charities were contacted for possible funding sources. Private property releases had been drafted due to the right-of-way constraints and communication with PennDOT was ongoing. They were very concerned because the replanting of any trees would be in a very limited area. They believed the issue was now at an impasse. They wanted Council and the public to be aware of the situation and welcomed any advice and/or options.

Council briefly discussed the matter.

Tina Gradizzi, Community and Economic Development Coordinator, commented she could look into applying for an Elm Street Program Grant to help with revitalizing homes in the area.

West Creek Rails to Trails

Cliff Clark, President of West Creek Recreational Trails Association, provided a brief history of the association and explained Phase One of the West Creek Recreational Trail Project is nearing completion and said they were working on securing funding for Phase Two, which will start in St. Marys and run 6.9 miles to Rathbun. Keystone Trail funds require a municipal sponsor. If Council agreed, the application would be revised and agreements between the Association and the City stating site control requirements for the City and the Association's responsibility for maintenance would be drafted.

Motion

Sally Geyer made a motion that the City sponsor the application for the Keystone Trails Grant seconded by Gregory Gebauer.

CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL WORKSESSION

JULY 7, 2014

Council, Mr. Clark, Ms. Gradizzi and the Solicitor discussed the grant requirements, City and Association responsibilities and the details of the agreement.

Once the agreement was drafted it would be presented to Council along with a Resolution for their consideration at a later date.

Motion Passed

All were in favor to have the City sponsor the application for the Keystone Trails Grant.

Stackpole Complex flooding

Manager Greene explained due to the recent flooding within the Stackpole Complex he wanted to update Council on the work that was already performed and to set up a meeting with the business owners within the Complex regarding cleaning out the channel that runs through the complex that is on private property.

Council agreed to have the Manager set up the meeting with the businesses.

Lighting within Elk County
Industrial Park

Manager Greene explained previously a letter was sent to the Elk County Industrial Development Authority regarding the replacement of signage for the Industrial Park but had no response. The Authority now has sent a letter notifying the City they are turning over the street lights and lighting for the entrance sign to the City. The letter stated it was their understanding this normally occurs when the road is turned over to the City which had already occurred some years ago.

Motion

Nedward Jacob made a motion to take over only the (street) lights at the Elk County Industrial Park, seconded by Sally Geyer.

Gary Anderson suggested the lighting be inspected first and stated his concerns regarding cost and liability with the transfer of ownership.

Amended Motion

Nedward Jacob amended his motion to include the suggested inspection, Sally Geyer amended her second.

Discussion

Robert Mohr questioned if the City's budget can accommodate the additional lights and Manager Greene responded an adjustment will need to be made for next year.

Gary Anderson questioned if West Penn could take the lights over, since the duplicate street lights, due to the S. St. Marys Street project, could be removed.

Motion to table

Nedward Jacob made a motion to table the motion until more information is received.

Manager Greene stated he would obtain more information.

Motion Tabled

Mayor Howard stated the motion was tabled until a future meeting.

CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL WORKSESSION

JULY 7, 2014

Act 13 (added to agenda)

Robert Mohr stated the Planning Commission had requested an update from the Solicitor regarding Act 13 to determine if modifications were needed to the City's Zoning Ordinance.

Solicitor Wagner stated he would review the recent court rulings and try to provide an update by the Planning Commissions next meeting.

Update on recent Emergency Management Committee Meeting (added to agenda)

Gregory Gebauer stated the Emergency Management Committee, consisting of the Mayor, Councilman Radkowski and himself, recently met with representatives from the Fire Department, Police Department, Ambulance Service and Elkland Search and Rescue.

The following goals were discussed: appointing an active EMA coordinator, updating the City's EMA Plan, emergency backup radio system and creating a line item in the City's budget for funding.

The next meeting would be held July 30th at 7:00 p.m.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS ON
NON-AGENDA TOPICS**

Warren Stewart questioned when the Parking Garage painting would occur and Manager Greene responded it should be done by the end of July.

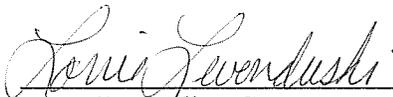
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Howard made the following announcements:

- The next Council meeting will be Monday, July 21, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

Gary Anderson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.


Recording Secretary


Mayor