

## CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL WORKSESSION

NOVEMBER 3, 2014

**CALL TO ORDER**

A Council worksession of the City of Saint Marys was called to order by Mayor Robert Howard on Monday, November 3, 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 October 30, 2014, posted at City Hall, and published in the Daily Press.

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

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

**VISITORS**

Visitors included: Todd Caltagarone, Tina Gradizzi, Warren Stewart, Neal Lepovetsky, Richard Sadley, Katie Weidenboerner, Colin Deppen, Ashley O'Dell, Bill Kraus, Mike Brock and Amy Cherry.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

October 20, 2014

Motion Passed

Gary Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes of October 20, 2014, seconded by Nedward Jacob and all were in favor.

**REPORT ON EXECUTIVE SESSIONS:**

Mayor Howard stated Executive Sessions were held on Monday, October 27, 2014 and immediately prior to tonight's meeting regarding personnel matters. No decisions were made.

**ADDITIONAL TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:**

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

Under Topics For Discussion:

Lou Radkowski requested:

B. Filling the vacant Emergency Management Agency Director position

Bob Mohr requested:

C. Depot Street

Nedward Jacob requested:

D. Fall Leaf Collection

E. Street Lights

F. Budget talks

G. Board and Commission Appointments

Gregory Gebauer requested:

H. Act 13 Funding

Motion Passed

A motion was made by Sally Geyer to add the above listed agenda items, seconded by Gary Anderson and all were in favor.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA TOPICS**

There were no citizen comments on agenda topics.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:**

Request for free parking from the St. Marys Chamber

Ashley O'Dell, Community Outreach Coordinator of the St. Marys Area Chamber of Commerce presented the annual request for free parking during the Holiday season.

Motion

Sally Geyer made a motion to approve the request for Light-Up night on Friday, November 21 from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. and again beginning on Friday, November 28, 2014 through Wednesday, December 24, 2014, seconded by Gregory Gebauer.



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retiring December 1, 2014 and will be moving back to the area and is eager to become involved in the Community. His work history and education was provided. The appointment will be placed on Council's November 17<sup>th</sup> agenda for their consideration.

Depot Street (added to agenda)

Bob Mohr stated he was concerned with water on Depot Street near the location of the new hotel that was not draining off the roadway and believed it may cause ice issues this winter.

Manager Greene responded the storm drains are along the opposite side of the roadway. He would check with the City Engineer and provide a recommendation to Council.

Leaf Collection (added to agenda)

Nedward Jacob stated he observed the City crew picking up leaves and were raking leaves from residents' yards and driveways to move them towards the chute of the leaf truck. He believed this was too time consuming and suggested a better way be determined to collect the leaves. He also believed it was costly for the leaf collection truck to take leaves to residents' homes. He believed the previous Borough practice of distributing leaf bags was not efficient either.

Manager Greene responded there is a set schedule for collection of leaves. The collection process is very labor intensive whether it is loose or bagged leaves. Under Act 101 DEP mandates the City to provide curbside leaf collection to all residents within the recycling routes and to also provide a compost site. The residents receive leaves directly from the City because once leaves are taken to the Compost site residents cannot obtain them.

Street Lights (added to agenda)

Nedward Jacob stated there were numerous street lights out in the Neubert Street area. Chief Caltagarone responded the police officers report any outages and will survey the situation.

Budget Talks (added to agenda)

Nedward Jacob requested the General Fund budget be discussed at the first budget workshop, WWTP on the second budget workshop and any remaining funds at the third workshop.

Boards and Commissions  
Appointments (added to agenda)

Nedward Jacob questioned if Council could interview candidates before appointing to the City's Authorities, Boards or Commissions.

Gary Anderson commented the Novak Group recently pointed out how important the appointments are to any Board that has guaranteed debt by the City.

Sally Geyer and Gregory Gebauer were both concerned the interview process would deter individuals from submitting letters of interest.

Council discussed the current process of appointments and how to recruit applicants.

Solicitor Wagner responded he would check if the interviews could be handled in a Council Executive Session.

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- Speakers for Council Room      Nedward Jacob commented he wanted a speaker system for all board meetings held in the Council room to help those attending to hear what is being said.
- Leaf Collection      Dick Sadley commented because he regularly attends the Council meetings, he requested a better sound system be in place.
- Act 13 Funding (added to agenda)      Mr. Sadley also suggested Council talk to State College for a good example of a leaf collection system.
- Act 13 Funding (added to agenda)      Gregory Gebauer stated he recently researched the Act 13 funding process and how it was awarded by the County. He suggested the City submit as many eligible projects as possible.
- Act 13 Funding (added to agenda)      Tina Gradizzi responded the City had submitted three applications for the first round of Act 13 funding and all three were not approved for funding. The Eberl Street Bridge wing wall project was pushed into a different funding source at North Central. Memorial Park retaining wall and the Police Department vest applications were also submitted in the first round. The Police Department vest application was resubmitted for the second round of funding with a deadline of October 31, 2014.
- Act 13 Funding (added to agenda)      Nedward Jacob commented there has been negative comments towards the Commissioners and he suggested those comments be stopped to assist the City in obtaining funding.
- Act 13 Funding (added to agenda)      Gregory Gebauer commented Wilcox received funds towards a new fire truck.
- Act 13 Funding (added to agenda)      There was a brief discussion regarding the Act 13 funding process.
- CITIZEN COMMENTS ON  
NON-AGENDA TOPICS**
- Warren Stewart      Warren Stewart questioned if the Manager received a response from PennDOT on the Arch Street turning radius.
- Councilman Anderson      Councilman Anderson questioned if the Manager received a response from PennDOT regarding the faulty catch basins.
- Manager Greene      Manager Greene responded no to both questions. He stated some work was done to the State Street basin, but no work had occurred on the Arch Street basin. He was working with PennDOT on numerous issues.
- Councilman Gebauer      Councilman Gebauer questioned the status on the road around the Diamond and Manager Greene responded blacktop patching was recently applied by PennDOT. It was still being determined if the storm water line that is broken under the roadway belonged to the State or the City. The Manager was waiting for a response from PennDOT.
- Neal Lepovetsky      Neal Lepovetsky provided detailed information on a proposed Memorial Dog Park within the City. Mr. Lepovetsky was willing to incur all the costs to initiate the  
Memorial Dog Park

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park, including the purchasing of the property and then would donate it to the City. He questioned if Council was willing to take over the park.

Council discussed the offer and it was determined Council would need to discuss the matter with the Recreation Board first.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilman Anderson  
Novak Group

Councilman Anderson commented the recent meeting held with the Novak Group provided interesting ideas and showed real promise

Councilman Radkowski  
Election Day

Councilman Radkowski suggested residents go out and vote and also wanted to thank the Veterans.

Councilwoman Geyer

Councilwoman Geyer also suggested everyone get out and vote.

Councilman Gebauer  
Voting at City Hall

Councilman Gebauer commented anyone voting at City Hall would be provided a voucher in case they receive a parking ticket while voting.

Mayor Howard  
Apology to the Ray Nero family

Mayor Howard stated he apologized to the Ray Nero family for everything that had recently occurred. What happened was not the fault of the Mayor or Council and it can now be put behind us.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

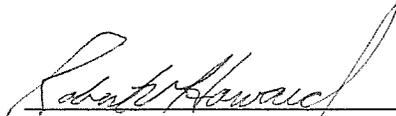
Mayor Howard made the following announcements:

- The next Council meeting will be Monday, November 17, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.
- Budget Workshops - Thursday, November 6, Monday November 10<sup>th</sup> and if needed, Thursday November 13<sup>th</sup> - 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at City Hall

**ADJOURNMENT**

Bob Mohr made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

  
Recording Secretary

  
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Mayor