

CITY OF SAINT MARYS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 20, 2014

CALL TO ORDER

The regular monthly Council meeting of the City of Saint Marys was called to order by Mayor Robert Howard on Monday, January 20, 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 January 16, 2014, posted at City Hall and published in the Daily Press.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**ROLL CALL**

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

VISITORS

Visitors included: Todd Hanes, Grace Jesberger, Tina Gradizzi, John Copelli, Colin Deppen, John Schatz, Amy Cherry, Richard Sadley, Warren Stewart and Mason Catalone.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 6, 2014

Nedward Jacob made a motion to approve the minutes of January 6, 2014, seconded by Gary Anderson and all were in favor.

REPORT ON EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Howard stated an Executive Session was held immediately prior to tonight's meeting regarding personnel matters. No decisions were made.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA TOPICS

There were no citizen comments on agenda topics.

MANAGER'S REPORT

January 8- Manager attended a retirement dinner for City employee Darlene Thomas that was held at Gunner's Restaurant.

January 9- Manager met with Eric Petrazio from ABM Building Solutions about Energy Savings for City buildings, street lights and traffic signals. After reviewing what we have already accomplished in energy savings, he suggested reviewing our street lighting program with West Penn Power.

January 13- Manager attended the St. Marys Municipal Authority meeting held at City Hall.

January 15- Mayor Howard, Councilperson Geyer and the Manager attended the Ribbon cutting for the Grand Opening of Zelt and Geyer Tax Preparation and Consulting Services located at 806 South Michael Road.

January 15- Manager attended the Elk County Earned Income Tax Collection Committee meeting held at the Johnsonburg High School.

January 16- Carol Muhitch and the Manager met with Frank Marks from Otis Elevator about the elevator service contract. They are working on one contract for all three buildings. There will be a savings to the City by combining all three buildings.

CITY OF SAINT MARYS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 20, 2014

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Wagner commented he would look into the small games of chance matter and due to a recent court decision regarding Act 13, he would also review the City's Oil and Gas Ordinance.

APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES

Motion

Sally Geyer made a motion to approve the Expenditures from December 15, 2013 until January 18, 2014, seconded by Gary Anderson.

Questions

Manager Greene 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 as of December 31, 2013:

As for now the total Revenue for the General Fund was \$6,229,424 or 104 percent of budget and the Expenditures to date were \$5,532,756 or 93 percent of budget. All other funds were well within their budgets with some carryovers to next year with the exception of the Sewage Treatment Fund which had a deficit fund balance of \$77,410.75. Last year's deficit was \$342,993.

Total current Real Estate Tax Revenue received in 2013 was \$3,811,789. Total outstanding for 2013 was \$178,935. Total Earned Income collected was \$1,475,022. Pension Plans had increased from last year. As of now the City has not received the 4th quarter delinquent Real Estate Tax Revenue from Elk County, so figures for the end of the year will change and be adjusted. Final financial reports will be available along with the audit in May of 2014. The City's total outstanding debt as of December 31, 2013 was \$5,887,562 and did not include loans with guaranty agreements with the City.

Nedward Jacob requested the transfer of parking funds in the amount of \$20,000 into the Capital Reserve fund as was previously voted on at a prior Council meeting.

Nedward Jacob also requested a spreadsheet listing the principle and interest on the loans with guaranty agreements with the City.

Gary Anderson commented on the amount of Earned Income tax for previous years.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION: Consider for adoption, Resolution No. 14-2, re: Fair Housing Notice

Resolution No. 14-2 was presented for adoption stating the City's dedication to further Fair Housing practices to comply with the Federal Fair Housing Law and Pennsylvania Human Act.

Motion Passed

Sally Geyer made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 14-2, seconded by Nedward Jacob and all were in favor.

CITY OF SAINT MARYS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 20, 2014

- Consider for publication: An Ordinance amending the Police Pension Plan to comply with I.R.S. requirements
- An Ordinance amending the City of St. Marys Police Pension Plan to clarify the application of certain provisions of the Plan to comply with I.R.S. requirements was presented for publication.
- Motion Passed
- Gary Anderson made a motion to publish the Ordinance, seconded by Sally Geyer and all were in favor.
- L.E.R.T.A. Application, Creekside Hospitality, Inc.
- Creekside Hospitality, Inc. submitted an application to the City of St. Marys in regards to the Local Economic Revitalization Tax (LERTA) Program for a 65 room hotel and parking lot on Depot Street. The request was approved by the other taxing bodies and the County Assessment Office.
- Motion
- Sally Geyer made a motion to approve the Creekside Hospitality, Inc. LERTA application, seconded by Nedward Jacob.
- Comments
- Sally Geyer commented she was glad things were moving forward.
- Nedward Jacob commented LERTA was a five year proration of taxes.
- Motion Passed
- All were in favor to approve the Creekside Hospitality, Inc. LERTA application.
- Appointments to Library Board
- The St. Marys Public Library requested the appointment of the following three members to the Library Board as the City of St. Marys representatives:
- Rick Gabler
 - Sylvia Feldbauer
 - Darcy Geci
- Motion Passed
- Nedward Jacob made a motion to appoint the above listed members to the St. Marys Library Board, seconded by Lou Radkowski and all were in favor.
- Workshop (worksession) meeting format
- Gregory Gebauer stated at Council's last meeting he had requested Council consider changing the format of the 1st meeting of the month to a true workshop meeting.
- Motion
- Gregory Gebauer made a motion to try to structure the workshop (worksession) meeting in a different format as discussed at the last meeting, seconded by Gary Anderson.
- Discussion
- Sally Geyer gave a brief history of how and why the worksession meetings transformed more towards a regular meeting.
- Gregory Gebauer stated Council was only required to hold one meeting per month.
- Lou Radkowski stated he believed no change was needed.

CITY OF SAINT MARYS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 20, 2014

Nedward Jacob stated he was in favor of a workshop format that wouldn't be televised.

Gary Anderson stated a workshop was an advantage for open discussions and the opportunity to debate the structure for the next meeting.

Robert Mohr stated the workshop format would let Council discuss items before having to act on it.

Manager Greene clarified that the new workshop (worksession) format would not be televised.

Roll Call Vote - Motion Passed

On a roll call vote Nedward Jacob, Gregory Gebauer, Gary Anderson, Robert Mohr and Mayor Howard voted in the positive and Lou Radkowski and Sally Geyer voted in the negative. Motion passed 5 to 2.

Solicitor Wagner commented the Sunshine Law would require the new format to provide for public participation.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

There were no topics for discussion.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA TOPICS

Grace Jesberger

Grace Jesberger commented the Welcome to St. Marys sign along Bucktail Road was in need of repair.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Mohr

Post Office intersection and Anthony Road area roadside trimming

Councilman Mohr commented if State funds become available the intersection along S. Michael Street by the Post Office should be opened up. He also requested the Anthony Road area be scheduled for needed trimming.

Councilman Anderson

Rt. 255/Foster's Stretch

Councilman Anderson requested if PennDOT would consider erecting a temporary or permanent snow fence along the "Foster's Stretch" portion of Rt. 255.

Hotel Tax

Councilman Anderson also questioned where the tourism/hotel tax went.

Manager Greene responded 50% went to PA Great Outdoors and 50% was for grants that promote local tourism.

Councilman Anderson requested that Tina Gradizzi work with the local golf courses to obtain grant monies to promote their summer activities.

Councilwoman Geyer

Fire Department

Councilwoman Geyer commended the Crystal Fire Department for their hard work at the recent house fire on Bruxelles Street.

Councilman Radkowski

Boulevard sign

Councilman Radkowski questioned if permission was given to place the Bavarian Hills sign on the Boulevard and Manager Greene responded yes.

Thank you to the Benedictine Sisters

Councilman Radkowski also wanted to thank the local Benedictine Sisters for their years of service to the community.

CITY OF SAINT MARYS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 20, 2014

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Howard made the following announcements:

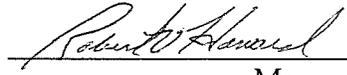
- The next Council worksession will be held Monday, February 3, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

Gary Anderson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.



Recording Secretary



Mayor