

CITY OF SAINT MARYS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

OCTOBER 21, 2013

CALL TO ORDER

The regular monthly Council meeting of the City of Saint Marys was called to order by Mayor Sally Geyer on Monday, October 21, 2013 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 24, 2013, posted at City Hall and published in the Daily Press.

**PLEDGE TO THE FLAG
ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor Sally Geyer, Daniel Hepner, Gary Anderson, Richard Dornisch, Nedward Jacob, Gregory Gebauer, Bob Roberts, Manager David Greene and Solicitor Thomas Wagner.

VISITORS

Visitors included: Clythera Hornung, Kathy Herzing, Todd Hanes, John Schatz, Bob Howard, Grace Jesberger, Paul Jesberger, Tina Gradizzi, John Copelli, Todd Caltagarone, Ashley O'Dell, Amy Cherry, Richard Feldbauer, Richard Sadley, Katie Weidenboerner, Lou Radkowski, David Larkin, Warren Stewart and Darlene Lynch.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES
October 7, 2013**

Gary Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes of October 7, 2013, seconded by Nedward Jacob and all were in favor, except Gregory Gebauer who abstained.

**REPORT ON EXECUTIVE
SESSION:**

An Executive Session was held immediately prior to tonight's meeting regarding personnel matters. No decisions were made.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Chief
of Police recognized for FBI Academy
Graduation**

Mayor Geyer read the following statement:

On September 20, 2013 Police Chief Todd Caltagarone graduated from the 254th session of the FBI National Academy of Quantico, Virginia. 207 other officers from 49 states and 22 other nations graduated alongside Chief Caltagarone. FBI Director James Comey was the principal speaker at the ceremony.

Internationally known for its academic excellence, the National Academy Program offers 10 weeks of advanced investigative, management and fitness training for selected officers having proven records as professionals within their agencies.

Training for the program was provided by the FBI Academy instructional staff, Special Agents, and other staff members holding advanced degrees, many of whom are recognized internationally in their fields of expertise.

A total of 47,034 graduates now represent the FBI National Academy since it began in July of 1935. Of this number, approximately 29,521 are still active in law enforcement.

During his stay in Virginia, Chief Caltagarone was also awarded a "yellow brick" for completing a rigorous physical training program that concluded with a 6.1 mile run and an obstacle course.

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Chief Caltagarone approached and thanked Council for their support and the police officers for their efforts while he was away.

Council thanked him for his hard work and dedication and Chief Caltagarone was given a round of applause.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS ON
AGENDA TOPICS**

There were no citizen comments on agenda topics.

MANAGER'S REPORT

September 13- Representatives from PennDot and the Manager met with Tom Zampogna about a water runoff problem at his residence on Taft Road.

September 17- Manager attended a meeting at Representative Gabler's office to discuss various issues pertaining to the City.

September 18- Mayor Geyer, Councilman Hepner and the Manager met with representatives from DCED, toured Straub Brewery and the St. Marys Airport Industrial Park.

September 18- Manager attended the reception for Department of Community and Economic Development officials that was held at The Red Fern in Fox Township.

September 19- Manager attended an Economic Development seminar conducted by the Department of Community and Economic Development at the CEC building on Erie Ave.

September 26- Manager attended a Northern Tier Community Action Corporation Board of Directors meeting held in Coudersport PA.

October 2- Manager met with representatives from the PA League of Cities to discuss various legislative issues pertaining to the City.

October 7- Manager attended a meeting of the West Creek Rails to Trails Association held here in St. Marys.

October 9- Tina Gradizzi and the Manager met with a potential developer for the Hotel project in Downtown St. Marys.

October 16- Manager attended a meeting of the Elk County Earned Income Tax committee held at the Johnsonburg Borough offices.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Wagner commented he had previously sent Council members a memo regarding the sewer rates.

**APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES
Motion**

Daniel Hepner made a motion to approve the Expenditures from September 15, 2013 until October 12, 2013, seconded by Gary Anderson.

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- Questions
- Mayor Geyer questioned a line item regarding grass cutting at the City parks and Manager Greene responded they would be finished soon.
- Nedward Jacob questioned a line item regarding an Industrial Appraisal and Manager Greene responded it was an annual requirement and was just an update of the City's appraisal for insurance purposes.
- Nedward Jacob questioned a line item regarding A&H Equipment and Manager Greene responded it was for repair of the "jetter" pump on a City truck.
- Motion Passed
- All were in favor to approve the Expenditures.
- TREASURER'S REPORT**
- Mayor Geyer gave the following Treasurer's Report as of September 30, 2013:
- Revenues collected for the General Fund were at 90 percent of budget, up from last year of 81 percent and in 2011 at 85 percent. General Fund Expenditures were at 65 percent of budget. Last year Expenditures were at 70 percent and in 2011 were 71 percent. Real Estate tax revenue was at 99 percent of budget and last year at this time was at 96 percent. Earned Income was at 93 percent of budget compared to last year of 66 percent of budget. Pension plans market values had increased in value since last year at this time.
- LEGISLATIVE ACTION:**
- Approval of new developer for the Downtown Hotel Project
- Mayor Geyer stated approval of a new developer for the Downtown Hotel Project was being presented.
- Todd Hanes from Creekside Investments, LLC approached and explained he was asking for Council's approval as the new developer in order to proceed with the project.
- Motion Passed
- Daniel Hepner made a motion to approve Creekside Investments as the new developer for the Downtown Hotel Project, seconded by Bob Roberts and all were in favor.
- Request from the Chamber of Commerce for free parking during the Holiday Season
- Ashley O'Dell from the Chamber of Commerce explained the request for free parking during the holidays was at Council's discretion.
- Motion
- Richard Dornisch made a motion to approve free parking beginning the day after Thanksgiving (November 29th) thru the end of business on Christmas Eve Day (December 24th, 2013), seconded by Nedward Jacob.
- Discussion
- Council had a brief discussion regarding concerns with free parking and the parking enforcement officer. It was noted free parking would also be needed for Light-Up night.
- Amended Motion
- Richard Dornisch amended his motion to include free parking for Light-Up night on Friday, November 22, 2013 from 5:00 until 8:00 p.m. and Nedward Jacob amended his second.

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- Amended Motion Passed All were in favor to approve free parking for Light-up night (5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.) and beginning again on the day after Thanksgiving (November 29th) until the close of business on Christmas Eve Day (December 24th, 2013.
- Redevelopment Authority Appointment Manager Greene explained Joseph Mallison relinquished his position on the Redevelopment Authority to become an Honorary Member of the Board. Mr. Mallison was a charter member of the Board since 1994 and Manager Greene thanked him for his years of service.
- The vacancy had been advertised, a letter of interest was received and a recommendation was made by the Authority to appoint Todd Hanes to fill the unexpired term of Joseph Mallison.
- Motion Passed Bob Roberts made a motion to appoint Todd Hanes to fill the unexpired portion of the five year term of Joseph Mallison for the vacancy on the Redevelopment Authority, seconded by Nedward Jacob and all were in favor.
- TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:**
Schedule Budget Workshops Mayor Geyer stated the budget workshops needed to be scheduled after receiving the budget on October 31, 2013.
- It was decided to schedule budget workshops at 7:00 p.m. for the following dates:
- Thursday, November 7th, 2013
Tuesday, November 12th, 2013
(if needed) Thursday, November 14th, 2013
- Changes to the Shade Tree Ordinance Bob Roberts explained he had met with the Shade Tree Commission to discuss changes to the Shade Tree Ordinance. It was suggested to form a committee to review the Ordinance.
- Shade Tree Committee formed Bob Roberts, Daniel Hepner and Nedward Jacob volunteered to be on the Committee.
- \$5.00 parking fine Mayor Geyer stated she disagreed with the five dollar parking ticket and asked Council to discuss repealing the amount of the ticket.
Council discussed the matter and had various viewpoints and concerns with the following:
- Hours of parking meter operation, the number of two hour meters, revenue generated, reasons for placement of certain meters, reasons to keep or remove meters and the parking fine increase.
- No action was taken.
- CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA TOPICS**
Warren Stewart Warren Stewart approached and commented on a problem with the traffic light on Ford Road, the sign on Haller Road and meters accepting quarters only.

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COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Dornisch
Post Office parking meters

Councilman Dornisch commented the parking meters around the Post Office only accept nickels.

Councilman Jacob
Metaldyne refund

Councilman Jacob questioned the additional refund to Metaldyne and Manager Greene responded the tax assessment appeal was for multiple years.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Geyer made the following announcements:

- The next Council meeting will be held Monday, November 4, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.
- Trick or Treat will be held on Thursday, October 31, 2013 from 5:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. by porch light invitation only.
- City Hall will be the host for 9th Ward polling on Tuesday, November 5th, 2013.

Certificate of Appreciation

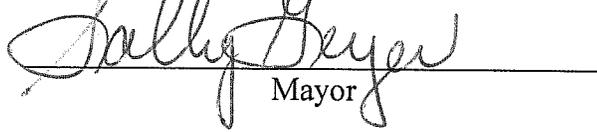
Mayor Geyer stated a Certificate of Appreciation would be given to Darlene Thomas for her 24 years of service as a City employee.

ADJOURNMENT

Gary Anderson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.



Recording Secretary



Mayor