

MEETING MINUTES OF ST. MARYS CITY COUNCIL

PRESIDING OFFICER:
James J. Harris
Council President

February 10, 2025
6:30 p.m.
Council Chambers

ROLL CALL: Bulp, Lunz, Childrey, Fitzgerald, Uhlenhake, Aquaro
Absent: Christman

Moved by Mr. Uhlenhake, seconded by Mr. Aquaro, to amend the Minutes of the January 27, 2025, meeting correcting the spelling of Mr. Bulp's name. By show of hands, motion passed unanimously.

Moved by Mr. Fitzgerald, seconded by Mr. Bulp, to accept the Minutes of the January 27, 2025, as amended. By show of hands, motion passed unanimously.

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:

Brenda McDermitt addressed Council about her concerns of the tearing down of the old municipal building. She said that it was the first community owned post office in the United States. It has a lot of historical value. She asked if St. Marys had a group of people that fixes up buildings. Mr. Harris suggested that she contact Kraig Noble. Brenda said the municipal building is more historical than the mill. She would really like to see it saved somehow. She asked how the money came about to put into the mill. Mr. Foxhoven responded the money was received through the revolving loan fund. We received a waiver through the State. We were contacted by the State to either use the money or it would be taken back. There were a lot of restrictions on how this money could be used. Basically, the mill was the only building that fell within the parameters where we could use it. John Burd agreed with Brenda stating the old municipal building was the only post office in the United States built with public funds. Brenda stated she tried reaching out to the Auglaize County Historical Society but was not able to reach anyone. Mr. Uhlenhake suggested that she try to reach out to Rachel Barber. She is very educated on these matters.

Tyler Speelman addressed Council asking about the status of the Hotel Fort Barbee foreclosure and anyone they could contact on this. Zach Ferrall responded that the City has a lien on the building and the foreclosure is pending. There was a hearing today. Unfortunately, nothing substantial happened; it was more procedural. A bank that has a loan on it is trying to assert their loan in it. They had already been defaulted out of the case and are now trying to get back in it. That will freeze things up for a while. The owner of the building passed away. Ultimately, we don't have a lot of control over what goes on because the owner of the building passed away, but we do have a lien on the building as a mortgage, so at some point down the line we will have some say. Tyler Speelman asked if the City is in first position. He was informed if the bank is successful, then we will be in first position. Tyler expressed interest in getting on a list as a potential buyer or to take it over. Mr. Foxhoven said he could take his contact information.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS COMMITTEES ETC.:

The Mayor's Report was presented.
The Tax Commissioner's Report was presented.
The Director of Public Service and Safety's Report was presented

Mr. Uhlenhake asked if all of McKinley Road would be resurfaced for the street program. Mr. Foxhoven said it would depend on the funding.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Corrected Council Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes were presented with Kyle Schmehl being removed from the Council members in attendance.

Mr. Harris noted that Kyle Schmehl was at the meeting but attended in the audience as he had already resigned.

Moved by Mr. Fitzgerald, seconded by Mr. Uhlenhake, to amend the meeting Minutes. By show of hands, motion passed unanimously.

Moved by Mr. Bulp, seconded by Mr. Lunz, to accept the Council Committee of the Whole Minutes as amended. By show of hands, motion passed unanimously.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS:

Ordinance No. 2025-07 was presented to Council for a second reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-07 – An Emergency Ordinance Establishing New Ambulance Rates

The ordinance will be back for a third reading.

Ordinance No. 2025-08 was presented to Council for a first reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-08 – An Emergency Ordinance Levying Special Assessments for Improvements of Curbs, Gutters, Sidewalks, and Drive Approaches for the East Spring Street Reconstruction Project Phase 3 as Reported to the Council of St. Marys, Ohio

Moved by Mr. Uhlenhake, seconded by Mr. Lunz, to read Ordinance No. 2025-08. By show of hands, motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Foxhoven explained this is annual legislation. This project was from Vine Street to the west of Pine Street. This affects 22 property owners. The amount is for \$11,441.14. Our Engineering Department sent out a tentative final invoice for the assessments on January 13th. They had until February 5th to review that and contact Engineering if they had any issues with it. The final expected invoices will be sent out and the property owners will be given 30 days to pay the invoice. Some will opt to have theirs sent to the County Auditor to be assessed to their property taxes over ten semi-annual payments. To move forward with the process, it was requested this be passed under suspension of the rules.

Mr. Uhlenhake asked about some of the property names listed who are no longer living. He was informed this information comes from the County Auditor's tax duplicate. They still have these names listed on the parcels. It needs to be updated to the County by the current owners.

Moved by Mr. Uhlenhake, seconded by Mr. Aquaro, to suspend the rules for Ordinance No. 2025-08. By show of hands, motion passed unanimously.

Moved by Mr. Lunz, seconded by Mr. Bubp, to pass Ordinance No. 2025-08 as an emergency. By show of hands, motion passed unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Moved by Mr. Bubp, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald, to excuse Mr. Christman. By show of hands, motion passed unanimously.

Request for Executive Session to discuss 1) Personnel; 2) Possible Litigation; and 3) Property Acquisition

Mr. Harris noted there would be no action taken afterward.

Moved by Mr. Lunz, seconded by Ms. Childrey to go into Executive Session. By show of hands, motion passed unanimously.

Council entered Executive Session at 6:49 p.m.

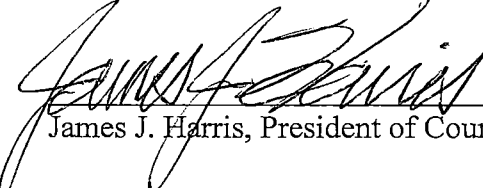
Moved by Mr. Lunz, seconded by Ms. Childrey to return to Regular Session. By show of hands, motion passed unanimously.

Returned to Regular Session at 7:26 p.m.

Moved by Mr. Bubp, seconded by Mr. Uhlenhake, to adjourn the meeting. By show of hands, motion passed unanimously.

Council adjourned at 7:27 p.m.


Debra Kable, Clerk of Council


James J. Harris, President of Council