

## MEETING MINUTES OF ST. MARYS CITY COUNCIL

PRESIDING OFFICER:  
James J. Harris  
Council President

May 23, 2022  
6:30 p.m.  
Council Chambers

**ROLL CALL:** Bubp, Christman, Willoughby, Fitzgerald, Uhlenhake, Fleagle  
*Absent:* Randolph

Moved by Mr. Bubp, seconded by Mr. Fleagle, to accept the Minutes of the May 9, 2022, meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

### **PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:**

Mayor McGowan announced the unveiling of the proposed new City Municipal Building. A rendering of the North Façade of the building was shown. The building will look similar to the old Palm Hotel building as promised. He noted there would be a few minor changes. The building will be a little over 25,000 square feet. He said there is concern about getting the materials for construction to begin this year. Mr. Foxhoven added that we were slow to release this, as we wanted it to be complete as far as the brick and the color, etc. We also want the year 2023 to be somewhere on the building as does the other downtown buildings. It is hoped the building will be completed by the end of next year. The City Seal needs to be over sized from what is shown, or we talked about maybe a bronze plaque identifying this as our bicentennial building. These are small details, but we wanted to get this out to the public. Mayor McGowan said the building would be built on what he calls pylons, so if the river does flood it would flow underneath and the water can move faster through the river corridor. He also commented awnings are shown above the lower windows like the Palm building had.

Ms. Willoughby asked if everyone would be in the new building. Mr. Foxhoven said that Tax and Utility would stay where they are. The first floor will be the same offices as on the first floor now, the second floor will be used for rentable space for non-profits such as the Chamber, Community Foundation, Cancer Society, etc., and the third floor will be Engineering, IT, and Economic Development. He said it is easier to go up than it is to go out and it is cheaper to do it now rather than later. We want to have room for growth. The building will be about the height of the current Fort Barbee Hotel. Mayor McGowan said the second floor will give us a lot of options for the future. We wanted the new building to look like it has always been here and that it looks like it belongs.

Mr. Foxhoven said we will bid the project in July, award it in August, and hopefully construction will start in September or October. Our goal is to have it open for tours during our bicentennial so people can walk through it and see what it looks like at whatever state it is in. Materials are a concern, which also drives the cost as well.

Council members indicated they liked the building. Mr. Foxhoven said we feel that we did what we said we were going to do and that it strongly resembles the Palm Hotel. Mr. Uhlenhake commented it is a good idea to build with growth in mind. Mayor McGowan stated this is an investment in our downtown with the theater as well. Mr. Bubp commented that there will be two big anchors.

### **REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS COMMITTEES ETC.:**

The Auditor's Report was presented.

The Treasurer's Report was presented.

The Director of Public Service and Safety's Report was presented

Mr. Foxhoven added that the City building and Wastewater Treatment Plant phone service was out during the day today if anyone tried to call. He also stated that the pool, splash pad, and putter golf were on track to open Memorial Day weekend. He said the staffing for the pool looks good right now that we have about 40 people. It seems others are struggling with this. He noted we are having a staffing issue for the putter golf for Memorial Day. At this time, we cannot find anyone available to work it. We will keep working on this and hopeful to have all three facilities open for Memorial Day weekend.

Mr. Foxhoven also noted that Memorial Day is a fitting time to have the groundbreaking ceremony for the monument that we are going to build for the National Guard Unit. The ceremony will be held at 11:30 in Memorial Park after the Memorial Day parade and ceremony at the cemetery and invited all to attend.

Mr. Foxhoven added that the Webb Street area has not been completed yet. Our contractor had an issue with their asphalt contractor. A local asphalt company has been hired and they assure us they will get it done in the next few days.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mr. Fitzgerald presented the Finance Committee report. The committee met on May 16<sup>th</sup> to go over 22 supplementals for consideration. An ordinance for these appropriations is on the night's Agenda for review and approval.

### **ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS:**

Ordinance No. 2022-19 was presented to Council for a third reading.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2022-19** – An Ordinance Approving the Editing and Inclusion of Certain Ordinances as Parts of the Various Component Codes of the Codified Ordinances of the City of St. Marys

Moved by Mr. Christman, seconded by Ms. Willoughby, to pass Ordinance No. 2022-24. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 2022-12 was presented to Council for a third reading.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-12** – An Emergency Resolution Creating the Position of Temporary Resident Project Representative at a Rate of \$40.00 per Hour

Moved by Mr. Bubp, seconded by Mr. Uhlenhake, to pass Resolution No. 2022-12. Motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance No. 2022-24 was presented to Council for a first reading.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2022-24** – An Ordinance to Appropriate Monies for Deficiencies in the Original Amended Ordinance No. 2021-39 and Any Other Appropriation Ordinances for the Fiscal Year 2022, for the City of St. Marys, Ohio, and to Declare an Emergency

Moved by Ms. Willoughby, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald, to read Ordinance No. 2022-24. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Foxhoven said there were no changes to the requests since the Finance Committee meeting. The full request is for \$374,795.96 from various departments. Mr. Foxhoven offered to go over all 22 of the requests if Council so wished. Mr. Harris commented the reason for the Finance Committee meeting was to review the requests and not necessary at this time. Mr. Fitzgerald asked Mr. Foxhoven to go over the highlights of the supplemental requests. Mr. Foxhoven explained some of the bigger requests including \$3.5 million and \$18,954.76 reduction. These were originally budgeted in the general fund. In talking with our bond counsel Allison Binkley, it was suggested we pay this debt from the debt service fund. Therefore, we reduced the general fund by a little more than \$3.5 million. There is a net gain of zero. We are not increasing the budget with this. We are simply moving it from the general fund and adding it to the debt service fund. There is an additional \$2,100 for the audit. Anytime you see federal funding there are different auditing steps that have to take place, which takes longer, and the cost is higher. The City also worked with Brian Cooper and Allison Binkley on our note rollover for an additional \$20,000. Mr. Foxhoven also explained a new rule took effect in early February that individuals obtaining a CDL have to go through a federally sponsored and approved program for 5-6 weeks. The cost was \$23,000 for this CDL training coming from the different utility funds and street department fund. We were not aware of these costs when the budget was prepared. Three employees went to Apollo for the training.

Moved by Mr. Christman, seconded by Mr. Fleagle, to suspend the rules for Ordinance No. 2022-24. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved by Ms. Willoughby, seconded by Mr. Bubp, to pass Ordinance No. 2022-24 as an emergency. Motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance No. 2022-25 was presented to Council for a first reading.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2022-25** – An Emergency Ordinance Renaming Dormant Fund 325 (Sewer Bond Construction) to “Sewer Treatment Plant Project 2022”

Moved by Mr. Fitzgerald, seconded by Mr. Fleagle, to read Ordinance No. 2022-25. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Foxhoven said this would authorize our Auditor to rename/repurpose a dormant 325 fund. With the significant unfunded upgrades to our Wastewater Treatment Plant from the EPA to eliminate all sanitary sewer overflows, we are seeking a low interest loan from the Ohio EPA. They are meeting this Thursday and we are anticipating approval of the loan. The auditing firm of Julian and Grube and our bond counsel have suggested that when we receive the money that it be put into a separate account for tracking. We worked with them and they said we could use a dormant account. Mr. Foxhoven requested this be passed under suspension of the rules that we want to be prepared when the money comes through.

Mr. Fitzgerald asked for clarification of the dormant fund. It was noted it is a fund number we already have on the books that has been zeroed out.

Moved by Mr. Fleagle, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald, to suspend the rules for Ordinance No. 2022-25. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved by Mr. Bubp, seconded by Mr. Christman, to pass Ordinance No. 2022-25 as an emergency. Motion passed unanimously.

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:**

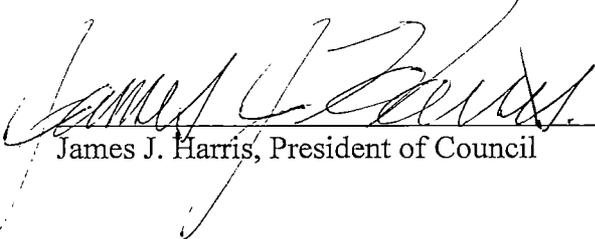
Moved by Ms. Willoughby, seconded by Mr. Bubp, to excuse Ms. Randolph. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor McGowan informed everyone that tonight is Mr. Fleagle’s last meeting on City Council. He said Todd has given a large portion of his life to the City of St. Marys and he has been a tremendous asset with his insight as an employee and Manager. Mayor McGowan and Council members thanked Todd stating he will be missed.

Moved by Mr. Bubp, seconded by Mr. Uhlenhake, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Council adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

  
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Debra Kable, Clerk of Council

  
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James J. Harris, President of Council