

MEETING MINUTES OF ST. MARYS CITY COUNCIL

PRESIDING OFFICER:
James J. Harris
Council President

September 8, 2025
6:30 p.m.
Council Chambers

ROLL CALL: Bubp, Lunz, Christman, Childrey, Fitzgerald, Uhlenhake, Aquaro

Moved by Mr. Bubp, seconded by Mr. Christman, to accept the Minutes of the August 25, 2025, meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Hurlburt presented the Oath of Office to Chief of Police, Lucas Turpin and the Oath of Office to the newest Police Sergeant, Scott Buschur.

Resolution No. 2025-14 was presented to Council for a first reading.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-14 – A Resolution in Support to Find, Identify, and Return the Remains of 1st Lieutenant Gene Alton Dennis

Moved by Ms. Childrey, seconded by Mr. Lunz, to read Resolution No. 2025-14. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Kim Reiher thanked the City and Council for supporting their efforts in getting Mr. Dennis home. He is the only person from St. Marys still listed as missing in action. He said they are wanting to get our representatives and the Department of Defense to take more action and urged everyone to sign the petition to send to our government representatives.

Moved by Mr. Aquaro, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald, to pass Resolution No. 2025-14. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Harris read Notice of Public Hearing that the City of St. Marys Council will hold a public hearing at 6:15 p.m. on September 22, 2025, to hear comments regarding a request to rezone 3.714 acres of land more or less. The entire area is presently zoned I-1 (Industrial) and it is proposed to rezone the entire area to C-2 (General Commercial) zone. Said area to be rezoned lies west of the R.J. Corman Railroad and south of McKinley Road and known as 1213 and 1301 McKinley Road.

Denise Cassidy addressed Council about the cost to turn water off. She said she was billed \$75 and believed the employee was receiving triple pay. She explained her emergency situation that took three minutes to turn off the water. She said residents cannot afford that kind of cost and asked for consideration in pro-rating these costs for the future.

Mr. Foxhoven responded that there is no City employee that receives triple time, regardless of when it is. The \$75 is what is charged per call for wages and use of truck/equipment. Employees receive time and a half. The Supervisor of the Utility Office, Angie Youngs, affirmed the \$75 cost is not per hour. The charge is per call no matter how long it takes.

Kateland Keene addressed Council. She said she wanted to bring an issue to the attention of Council about a property she owns on Columbia Street. This will have an effect on residents currently living on the property. Kateland said she purchased the property that has two separate living spaces, including separate kitchens, separate bathrooms, and separate meters including gas and electric. The City Utility Office also showed two separate meters. Based on all of this, she had every reason to believe the property use as a duplex was legitimate. She found out otherwise after the property was occupied when she attempted to add an extra water meter. She was advised to apply for a zoning variance, which has been denied. She has documentation to support her case and is asking for this to be approved by the grandfather clause. These families will be displaced if not approved. She said this is a zoning technicality and could make others not want to invest in the community.

Mr. Foxhoven said they are looking into this. The zoning variance was denied because area residents were concerned about additional parking as well as some other aspects of the variance that did not set comfortable with them. He, the Mayor, Mr. Ferrall, and Mr. Moeller are looking into it, but there are no guarantees that it will change. Mr. Uhlenhake commented that he can firsthand say that the property was a duplex in the 1960s and '70s.

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.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee meetings to report.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS:

Ordinance No. 2025-17 was presented to Council for a third reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-17 – To Approve the Form and Authorize the Execution of 2027 Waste Heat Energy Schedule With American Municipal Power, Inc. and Taking of Other Actions in Connection Therewith and to Declare an Emergency

Moved by Mr. Aquaro, seconded by Mr. Uhlenhake, to pass Ordinance No. 2025-17 as an emergency. Motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance No. 2025-18 was presented to Council for a second reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-18 – An Ordinance Rezoning 3.714 Acres of Land West of R.J. Corman Railroad and South of McKinley Road and Known as 1213 and 1301 McKinley Road in the City of St. Marys

The ordinance will be back for a third reading.

Ordinance No. 2025-19 was presented to Council for a second reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-19 – An Ordinance Vacating a Certain 16.5 Foot Wide Alley Between Pear and Vine Street, and Canal Street and the Railroad in the East Addition in the City of St. Marys

The ordinance will be back for a third reading.

Resolution No. 2025-13 was presented to Council for a second reading.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-13 – A Resolution Accepting the Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying Them to the County Auditor

The ordinance will be back for a third reading.

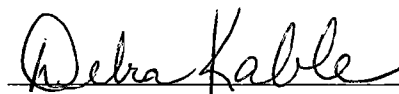
MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Mr. Harris reminded everyone that a Solid Waste Committee meeting is scheduled for September 15th at 5:15 p.m. followed by a Streets and Sidewalks Committee meeting at 5:45 p.m.

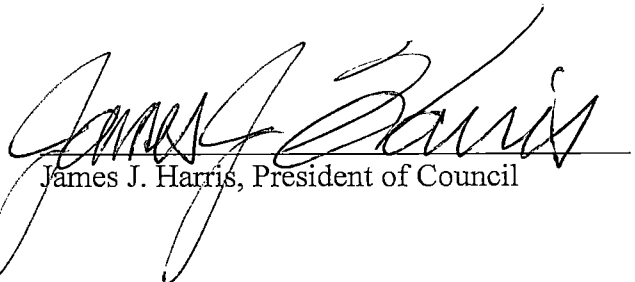
Mr. Ferrall asked members of the Streets and Sidewalks Committee to have some general ideas on what they believe or would like the committee to recommend as far as rules for electric bicycles and scooters to discuss such things as helmets, age, and where they should be ridden.

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

Council adjourned at 6:54 p.m.



Debra Kable, Clerk of Council



James J. Harris, President of Council