

MEETING MINUTES OF ST. MARYS CITY COUNCIL

PRESIDING OFFICER:
James J. Harris
Council President

October 27, 2025
6:30 p.m.
Council Chambers

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

Moved by Mr. Lunz, seconded by Mr. Aquaro, to accept the Minutes of the October 14, 2025, meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:

A liquor permit request was received for the Dolgen Midwest LLC Dollar General Store on Indiana Avenue. There were no objections to the permit request. The permit will be submitted to the Ohio Division of Liquor Control for processing.

Mr. Valentine addressed Council about a couple of concerns he had. First, he wanted to know how it is justified to have a quorum with four members of Council on the Streets and Sidewalks Committee. Mr. Ferrall commented when any other Council members attend committee meetings, they are there as the public and can give their comments and feedback. Mr. Harris said the Streets and Sidewalks Committee consists of three members of Council. Other Council members are encouraged to attend committee meetings so they can stay up to date on the discussions. They do not vote. A quorum of the Streets and Sidewalks Committee can be had at two. Mr. Valentine corrected Mr. Harris that there are four members on the Streets and Sidewalks Committee. One from each ward. Mr. Harris said he stands corrected. Mr. Valentine then asked how that can be done. That is a quorum of Council. Mr. Harris responded it is a public meeting that was published. Mr. Valentine said when you have a quorum of Council speaking at a committee meeting it is illegal and anything that is done or discussed after is moot according to the law. Mr. Harris deferred to the Law Director to further investigate the matter. Mr. Valentine commented that when a Council member speaks at a committee meeting it is unlawful and needs to be corrected. Mr. Valentine agreed that it is important for Council members to attend the committee meetings as it is important for them to hear what the committees discussions are so they can better understand when they are asked to vote at the Council meeting. But, they should not speak and they should not sit at the dais. They need to sit in the audience as members of the public. He further explained for those who sit on a dais are generally people with positions of authority, special guests, or honorees with the specific individuals varying significantly by context. A dais is a raised platform in a hall or room used to give prominence to the individuals seated on it.

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 Rotary Halloween Parade will be tomorrow night at 6 p.m. followed by the SMART HallowNeon Night where there will be trick or treating downtown.

Mr. Foxhoven also noted on Thursday at noon sealed bids would be opened for the seven lots on Weston Street.

The second round of the Fall Cleanup was held today. Next Monday will be the third and final round.

Mr. Foxhoven also commented on the City wide school lockdown. He has talked with the Police Chief and Fire Chief, and has had conversation with the School Superintendent, Mr. Ruane, as well as some teachers. They were all very pleased with the response. Law Enforcement response was dead on. We received mutual aid from the County and Highway Patrol as well. It is nice to know that all of the practicing and training paid off. The feedback has been wonderful.

Police Chief, Luke Turpin, said that he is proud of the way our officer's responded. He said we train for the worst. We train for this kind of thing. Our training paid off on how quickly we reacted. The best thing is that nothing happened. He was asked if they were able to identify the individual. Chief Turpin said they were not. They used a VPN. We immediately called Homeland Security and with one of our officers being a part of the task force, we made quick contact with the FBI. They immediately jumped on it as well. A fusion center identified a phone number and it was tracked to Europe.

Mr. Bubp asked about well #2 discussions and asked if the well was dry. Mr. Foxhoven said he would ask further about the discussion, but the well is not dry. Our wells produce enough water for us.

Mr. Foxhoven noted that members of Efficiency Smart were zoomed into the meeting to answer any questions during upcoming legislation.

Mr. Lunz asked about the status of the wrecked automated truck. Mr. Foxhoven said we worked with the insurance company and decided to keep the truck and get it fixed. Each one of our trucks need a backup. Our automated truck needs a backup, our recycling truck needs a backup, and our rear load commercial truck needs a backup. For the damage that was done and what we got out of it, it made sense to fix it and use it for our backup truck.

Mr. Fitzgerald asked about work being done for the Grist Mill and if it was for the amount of the grant. Mr. Foxhoven responded it is work being done for the \$750,000 grant.

Ms. Childrey asked Chief Turpin if they had received any reports of any other strange events in the area after the school lockdown. The Chief responded they did not.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Bubp presented the Electric Committee meeting report of October 20, 2025. Ordinance 2025-24 pertaining to the meeting is on the agenda for the night's meeting. We have had the Efficiency Smart program since 2011 and we want to continue that.

Mr. Uhlenhake presented the Finance Committee meeting report of October 20, 2025. As always, this time of year supplemental requests come in and will again at the end of the year. Things need funded and replenished just like a household or business. The supplemental requests total \$901,588.59. Mr. Foxhoven went through and explained each request at the committee meeting and he and Mr. Bubp approve and recommend to Council.

Mr. Harris commented for the audience that supplementals are not spending more money. It is moving money from one account to another.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS:

Ordinance No. 2025-21 was presented to Council for a second reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-21 – An Emergency Ordinance Authorizing the City to Adopt Special Purpose Flood Damage Reduction

The ordinance will be back for a third reading.

Ordinance No. 2025-22 was presented to Council for a second reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-22 – An Ordinance Enacting Sections 373.17 and 373.18 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of St. Marys to Require Helmets to be Worn by Individuals Under the Age of 18 While Operating or Riding on a Bicycle, Electric Bicycle, or Low-Speed Micromobility Device

The ordinance will be back for a third reading.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-14 – An Emergency Resolution Approving the Solid Waste Management Plan Update for the Auglaize County Solid Waste Management District

The ordinance will be back for a third reading.

Ordinance No. 2025-23 was presented to Council for a first reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-23 – An Emergency Ordinance Establishing Fees to be Charged in the Zoning and Subdivision Regulations of the City of St. Marys

Moved by Mr. Fitzgerald, seconded by Mr. Uhlenhake, to read Ordinance No. 2025-23. By show of hands motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Foxhoven explained this ordinance will allow us to increase the fees for various zoning permits and related items. In 1979 these fees were established and were updated in 1999. Zoning permits will be increased to \$10, Conditional Use permits will go from \$55 to \$75, Variance permits will go from \$55 to \$75, Home Occupation permits from \$55 to \$75, and Occupy Public Right of Way from \$30 to \$75. We are simply trying to recover our costs. When these requests are received we have to publish legal notices in the paper and those costs have gone up.

The ordinance will be back for a second reading.

Ordinance No. 2025-24 was presented to Council for a first reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-24 – An Ordinance to Appropriate Monies for Deficiencies in the Original Amended Ordinance No. 2024-27 and Any Other Appropriation Ordinances for the Fiscal Year 2025 for the City of St. Marys, Ohio, and to Declare an Emergency

Moved by Mr. Christman, seconded by Ms. Childrey, to read Ordinance No. 2025-24. By show of hands motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Foxhoven said there were no changes from what was presented at the Finance Committee meeting and requested this be passed under suspension of the rules.

Moved by Mr. Bubp, seconded by Mr. Christman, to suspend the rules for Ordinance No. 2025-24. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved by Mr. Fitzgerald, seconded by Mr. Uhlenhake, to pass Ordinance No. 2025-24 as an emergency. Motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance No. 2025-25 was presented to Council for a first reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-25 – To Approve the Execution of an Efficiency Smart Schedule With American Municipal Power, Inc. and to Declare an Emergency

Moved by Mr. Lunz, seconded by Mr. Bubp, to read Ordinance No. 2025-25. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Foxhoven said as Mr. Bubp explained earlier this ordinance will allow us to renew our contract with Efficiency Smart. We have been with them since 2011. Our current contract will expire at the end of the year. This program is very beneficial to our community and we would like to renew the program.

The ordinance will be back for a second reading.

Resolution No. 2025-15 was presented to Council for a first reading.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-15 – In the Matter of Documenting the Position of the City of St. Marys Regarding Naming of Addressing Authority Within the Jurisdiction of the City of St. Marys

Moved by Mr. Aquaro, seconded by Mr. Uhlenhake, to read Resolution No. 2025-15. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Foxhoven explained this involves Next Generation 911. It involves addressing and assigning those addresses. We don't have an issue inside the City limits, but townships do addressing different ways. We want to make sure first responders can get to these addresses quickly and in an efficient and effective way. The County Engineer as agreed to be the address authority and assign the addresses. We will still have a voice at the table. Primarily, we want to make sure the addressing is compatible with the new 911 system. This legislation supports us allowing the County Engineer to be the addressing authority regarding the Next Generation 911.

Mr. Harris asked if this is the advanced 911 and commented if it is it could be very beneficial for a lot of people.

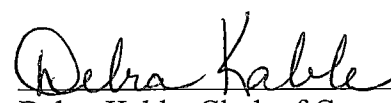
The resolution will be back for a second reading.

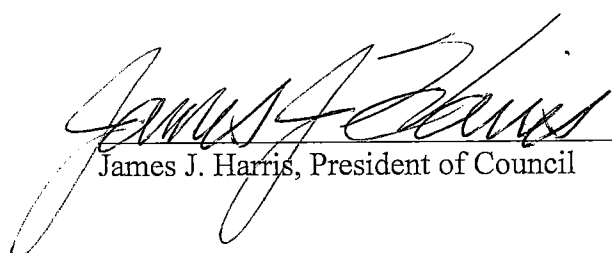
MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

There was no other miscellaneous business.

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

Council adjourned at 6:57 p.m.


Debra Kable, Clerk of Council


James J. Harris, President of Council