

MEETING MINUTES OF ST. MARYS CITY COUNCIL

PRESIDING OFFICER:
James J. Harris
Council President

January 11, 2021
6:30 p.m.
Council Chambers
Via Zoom/Teleconference

ROLL CALL: Fleagle, Uhlenhake, Fitzgerald, Willoughby, Christman, Koverman, Bubp

Moved by Ms. Willoughby, seconded by Mr. Christman, to accept the Minutes of the December 30, 2020, meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:

Mr. Harris read a Notice of CDBG Public Hearing. The first of two public hearings will be held on Monday, January 25, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building Council Chambers, 101 E. Spring Street, St. Marys, Ohio, to provide citizens with pertinent information regarding the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Small Cities Program, including an explanation of eligible activities and program requirements. The CDBG Program can fund a broad range of activities and programs, including economic development projects, street, water supply, drainage and sanitary sewer improvements, park acquisition and improvements, demolition of unsafe structures, rehabilitation of housing, and neighborhood facilities. The activities must be designed to primarily benefit low-to-moderate income persons, aid in the prevention of and elimination of slums and blight, or meet an urgent need of the community.

Mr. Harris also read a Legal Notice for Council Public Hearing. Notice is hereby given that the City of St. Marys Council will hold a public hearing at 6:15 p.m. on Monday, January 25, 2021, in the Municipal Building Council Chambers, 101 E. Spring Street, St. Marys, Ohio, to hear comments regarding a request to rezone 1.507 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 R-3 (Single Family Residential) zone. Said area being more particularly described as being all of lots 1- 9 of the Felix Sweigart's Subdivision of Outlot No. 91 to the City of St. Marys, Auglaize Co., Ohio including part of a north-south 12 foot alley between lots 3-6, the north half of an east-west vacated 12 foot alley which is adjacent to lots 6-9, the south half of Oliver Street right-of-way which is adjacent to lots 7-9, the south half of a vacated portion of Oliver Street 33 foot right-of-way which is adjacent to lots 5 and 6, and the west half of Wayne Street 66 foot right-of way which is adjacent to lots 1-5. Said area to be rezoned lies west of Wayne St. and south of Oliver St. and known as 601, 607, 617 and 623 S. Wayne Street.

A Liquor Permit Transfer request was received from the Ohio Bureau of Liquor Control from P & R Investments to RJM Stores LLC, 202 W. South Street. There were no issues noted. The request will be returned to the Ohio Bureau of Liquor Control for processing.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS, COMMITTEES, ETC.:

The Mayor's Report monthly was presented.

The Tax Commissioner's Report was presented.

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

Mr. Uhlenhake commented on a water main break on Indiana Avenue on Saturday night. He noted personnel did a fine job of taking care of the break and placing salt down for the icy road.

Mayor McGowan presented his required 2020 year-end annual report. He highlighted the goals for the year. He said continuous improvement is a big thing. The biggest project over the last 50-60 years was the construction of a new Water Treatment Plant. He also commended all of the Department Heads for their good financial management over the year. He noted that revenue was down about eleven and a half percent across the board. He then highlighted major events in each of the City departments.

Mayor McGowan commented on the 2021 budget stating we put things in the budget, but that doesn't necessarily mean they will all happen.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee meetings to report.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS:

Amended Ordinance No. 2020-38 was presented to Council for a third reading.

AMENDED ORDINANCE 2020-38 – An Emergency Ordinance to Make Appropriation for Current Expenses and Expenditures of the City of St. Marys, State of Ohio, During the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2021

Moved by Mr. Bubp, seconded by Mr. Koverman, to Amend Ordinance No. 2020-38. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Fleagle asked if the proposed pay increase for the Director of Public Service and Safety was included in the budget. He was informed it is.

Mr. Foxhoven reviewed two final changes made in the budget. The current amount for the spending budget is \$41,807,054.43. There was an increase of \$103,940 for wages, benefits, and operational costs. When we closed out the books at the end of the year we were not comfortable we had adequately funded some of the accounts totaling \$38,940. The balance of \$65,000 is capital improvement for CMI software upgrade. He said they have been discussing this and feel it is time to move forward to help with the payroll, purchase orders, and finance reports. He also noted there is a decrease of \$725,000 from the 308 capital improvement fund. We are a little concerned about some of the expenses in this fund. The auditor is comfortable where the numbers are now. We feel this is appropriately conservative based on the fact we are still in a pandemic, and we don't know how things will shake out in the near future.

It was also asked about the increase noted in the Mayor's wage section of the budget. Mr. Foxhoven said the increase is due to the fact that when the Mayor performs a wedding it needs to be passed through the City books.

Moved by Ms. Willoughby, seconded by Mr. Uhlenhake, to pass Amended Ordinance No. 2020-38 as an emergency. Motion passed unanimously.

Amended Ordinance No. 2020-39 was presented to Council for a third reading.

AMENDED ORDINANCE 2020-39 – An Emergency Ordinance Authorizing the Purchase of Various Materials, Equipment, and Services for the Departments for the City of St. Marys, Ohio

Mr. Foxhoven noted there are no changes in this ordinance from the second reading.

Moved by Mr. Uhlenhake, seconded by Mr. Fleagle, to pass Amended Ordinance No. 2020-39 as an emergency. Motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Mr. Fitzgerald, seconded by Mr. Christman to bring Resolution 2020-25 back from the Table. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 2020-25 was presented to Council for a second reading.

RESOLUTION 2020-25 – An Emergency Resolution Specifying May 4, 2021, as the Date for Submitting to the Electors of the City of St. Marys (Auglaize County), Ohio, for Their Approval the Levying of an Additional Tax on Income at the Rate of One-Half of One Percent in Addition to the One Percent Currently Being Levied and Collected; and Directing the Board of Elections of Auglaize County, Ohio, to Conduct the Election

Mr. Harris noted this is to replace the ten-year voted tax renewal to become permanent.

The ordinance will be back for a third reading.

Ordinance No. 2021-01 was presented to Council for a first reading.

ORDINANCE 2021-01 – An Emergency Ordinance Adjusting the Salary of the Director of Public Service and Safety

Moved by Mr. Koverman, seconded by Mr. Uhlenhake to read Ordinance No. 2020-01. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor McGowan noted this increase is in line with other City employee pay increases. It was requested this be passed under suspension of the rules.

Mr. Fleagle asked if this increase is just for the year 2021. Mayor McGowan responded yes, this is an annual ordinance.

Moved by Mr. Fitzgerald, seconded by Mr. Fleagle to suspend the rules for Ordinance No. 2021-01. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved by Mr. Bulp, seconded by Mr. Christman to pass Ordinance No. 2020-01 as an emergency. Motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance No. 2021-02 was presented to Council for a first reading.

ORDINANCE 2021-02 – An Ordinance Rezoning 1.507 Acres of Land Located in Felix Sweigart's Subdivision of Outlot 91 to the City of St. Marys

Moved by Mr. Fleagle, seconded by Mr. Uhlenhake to read Ordinance No. 2021-02. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Foxhoven commented this is supported by the Planning Commission who met on December 29th. They were approached by the property owners of four homes - 601, 607, 617, and 623. Their houses are currently zoned industrial. They would like to have it rezoned to R-3 Single Family Residential. This was brought to their attention due to a potential sale. All four homeowners have requested this. There are no issues from abutting property owners.

The ordinance will be back for a second reading.

Ordinance No. 2021-03 was presented to Council for a first reading.

ORDINANCE 2021-03 – An Emergency Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 2018-27 and Ordinance No. 2019-38 Regarding Wages and Benefits for the City of St. Marys Supervisory Personnel and Non-Represented Employees

Moved by Ms. Willoughby, seconded by Mr. Christman, to read Ordinance No. 2021-03. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Foxhoven explained this ordinance covers the supervisors and non-bargaining or non-represented employees. There are 23 total. He said they would like to move forward with giving a two and a half percent raise, which is consistent with the union and the area around us. We would like to make sure they get the raise they deserve. He requested this be passed under suspension of the rules and stated it has been reflected in the budget effective January 4th.

Moved by Mr. Fitzgerald, seconded by Mr. Uhlenhake to suspend the rules for Ordinance No. 2021-03. Motion passed unanimously.

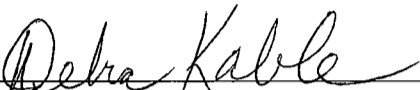
Moved by Mr. Bulp, seconded by Mr. Christman to pass Ordinance No. 2021-03 as an emergency. Motion passed unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

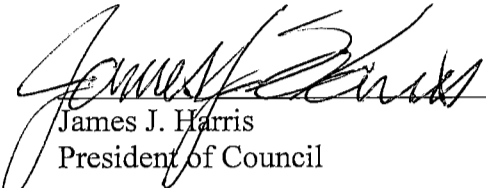
Mr. Harris reminded Elected Officials that Ethics Reports are due. Mr. Bulp commented for anyone running, February 3rd at 4:00 p.m. is the deadline to have their information turned in.

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

Council adjourned at 7:05 p.m.



Debra Kable, Clerk of Council



James J. Harris
President of Council