

MEETING MINUTES OF ST. MARYS CITY COUNCIL

PRESIDING OFFICER:
James J. Harris
Council President

January 25, 2021
6:30 p.m.
Council Chambers
via Zoom/Teleconference

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

Moved by Mr. Bubp, seconded by Ms. Willoughby, to accept the Minutes of the January 12, 2021, meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:

Mr. Harris read a request to rezone a 0.764-acre parcel of land which contains the southern 50 feet of lot number 3 and the entire lot number 6 of the Freewalt Way Subdivision. The parcel is located south of Freewalt Way behind 315 and 310 Freewalt Way. The parcel is currently zoned R-MHP (Mobile Home Park). It is being requested this property be rezoned C-2 (General Commercial) zone, which would attach to the current C-2 zone to the north and west.

Moved by Mr. Uhlenhake, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald to refer the request to the Planning Commission.

Fire Chief Doug Ayers addressed Council regarding the preliminary Strategic Planning Survey done this past October. The survey was broken down by Fire Department, and Internal and External stakeholders. He stated there was overwhelming support from the community with some suggestions in a few areas they could work on. Chief Ayers said there were recommendations that the department continue working on training to make sure their skills are up to par. He also said the study showed questions or concerns regarding staffing and the condition and age of the public safety facility. He asked Council if they would consider putting together a committee or a study to review. He asked are we ready to increase or ready to do a major renovation or look at another facility? He noted over the past 40 years their run volume has tripled. It has increased dramatically. His question for Council was do we do what we can with what we have or do we put together a committee and start working on studies to see what we need to do in the future? Mr. Harris suggested a committee to work on putting together a strategic plan for the future. Mr. Uhlenhake stated there has been occasional talk about a safety building. In his opinion 53 years of the current building is pretty old for what it does. Mr. Harris said there has been concern over the age of the safety building and if the design is conducive to proper operations any more. Council members agreed it should be reviewed by the Safety Committee. A Safety Committee meeting was scheduled for March 1, 2021, at 5:15 p.m. Chief Ayers suggested that Police Chief Jake Sutton also be involved in the process. He said there are really two options 1) major renovation with what they have or 2) building new. He said he didn't think renovation was the route to go; however, they needed to be open minded. Mr. Harris commented his concern is while renovating they still have to provide the service. Chief Ayers agreed and said he has spoken with other Fire Chiefs that did major renovations and they said it was miserable and very difficult.

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. Harris commented on the hiring of a Records Custodian. Mr. Foxhoven responded that one of our full time Dispatchers was selected for the position. We are going through the hiring process for a Dispatcher and are testing the applicants. Once that process is complete, we will go through the interviewing process. After a selection is made and they start we are looking at 10-12 weeks of training.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee meetings to report.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS:

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

Moved by Mr. Bulp, seconded by Mr. Uhlenhake, to pass Resolution No. 2020-25 as an emergency. Motion passed unanimously.

It was noted the Agenda is Amended to reflect Ordinance No. 2021-02 as being a second reading instead of a third reading.

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

The ordinance will be back for a third reading.

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

RESOLUTION 2021-01 – An Emergency Resolution Authorizing Demolition Assessment

Moved by Ms. Willoughby, seconded by Mr. Koverman, to read Resolution No. 2021-01. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Foxhoven said this would allow the City to assess the cost of razing a detached garage at 236 Lynn Street. We served notice to the owner that it was a dangerous building and the repairs were not made. The owner was instructed we would raze the structure and that the cost would be assessed to his property tax. Our workforce razed the structure on October 29th of last year. The cost was \$1,067.20 for labor, equipment, dumpster fee, and disposal cost. Mr. Foxhoven said they would like to move forward with this and requested the resolution be passed under suspension of the rules.

Moved by Mr. Bulp, seconded by Mr. Christman to suspend the rules for Resolution No. 2021-01. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved by Ken Koverman, seconded by Mr. Christman to pass Resolution No. 2021-01 as an emergency. Motion passed unanimously.

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

RESOLUTION 2021-02 – An Emergency Resolution Authorizing the Mayor of the City of St. Marys to Enter Into a Revolving Loan Fund Administration Agreement for Certain Community Development Block Grant Program Funds With the Ohio Department of Development

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

Mike Burkholder explained that every three years we have to renew our agreement with the State for the Revolving Loan Fund. He asked this be passed under suspension of the rules.

Moved by Mr. Fleagle, seconded by Mr. Uhlenhake to suspend the rules for Resolution No. 2021-02. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved by Ms. Willoughby, seconded by Mr. Christman to pass Resolution No. 2021-02 as an emergency. Motion passed unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

An Executive Session was requested to discuss *Pending Litigation and Land Acquisition*.

Moved by Mr. Koverman, seconded by Mr. Christman to go into *Executive Session*. Motion passed unanimously. Council entered *Executive Session* at 6:51 p.m.

Moved by Mr. Bubb, seconded by Ms. Willoughby to return to regular session. Council returned to *Regular Session* at 7:47 p.m.

Moved by Mr. Bubb, seconded by Mr. Uhlenhake, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously. Council adjourned at 7:47 p.m.



Debra Kable, Clerk of Council



James J. Harris
President of Council