

MEETING MINUTES OF ST. MARYS CITY COUNCIL

PRESIDING OFFICER:
James J. Harris
Council President

February 22, 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 February 8, 2021, meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS:

There were no petitions or communications.

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 he has talked with the Superintendent of Solid Waste and they are trying to coordinate the spring cleanup. He said it might end up being a fall cleanup. The contractor we use to help with this does not have any time available until the fall. Mr. Foxhoven said as long as we can offer this service once a year it is still a good service to have. It was postponed last year due to the COVID pandemic. We are in negotiations with the contractor; we cannot do it without them.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Bubp presented the Parks and Playgrounds Committee meeting report. Ashley Randolph approached the City about installing an All Abilities Park. The park would not be just for the handicapped, but for those with learning disabilities as well. Something similar to what New Bremen and Celina have. The location they are looking at is the north side of Mill Park. He said Ashley was looking at different features. Ashley will also be trying to raise money to buy the equipment for the park.

Ms. Willoughby asked Ashley if she has been in contact with people from the different industries and Mr. Makley yet. Ashley responded that she has a meeting the first week of March to set up a fund under the St. Marys Community Foundation. Once the fund is set up, she can approach businesses for donations. She said she wanted the fund to be set up first so any checks could be made out to the fund directly. Mr. Harris stated it could be several months for a Rotary National Grant and suggested to Ashley that she go ahead and approach the Rotary as soon as possible to start the process.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS:

Ordinance No. 2021-04 was presented to Council for a first reading.

ORDINANCE 2021-04 – An Emergency Ordinance Authorizing the Purchase of Real Estate

Moved by Mr. Fitzgerald, seconded by Mr. Uhlenhake to read Ordinance No. 2021-04. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Foxhoven explained this ordinance concerns the Doseck property. It consists of a little over 147 acres of land. He said the property is located north and east of the high school football field. It consists of approximately 71 acres north of Shipman Road, and 76 acres on the south side of Shipman Road. The Board of Education and School Superintendent have interest in all of the property that lies to the south of Shipman Road although it is his understanding there is not an immediate need for the property. He said he believes the interest is for long term strategic planning, which we think is a very wise move on their part. We have interest in the 71 acres on the northern side for housing development. We are not in the business of developing housing, but we would like to get it in the hands of a developer. The price agreed upon is \$2,486,258.00 with negotiations over a 4-week period with the Doseck family. They were very amicable. We hope to close on the property the first week of April pending Council's approval. Mr. Foxhoven briefly talked about the earnest money. He said we came to an agreement with the Doseck family late on Friday evening through their real estate agent. That agreement included \$50,000 of earnest money. The City offices were closed on Monday due to President's Day, and our Deputy Auditor was stranded in Florida at the time; therefore, we did not have access to get the money. He said the City runs checks

once a week. There was no way we could get this done internally. Mr. Foxhoven said he met with Mike Burkholder and asked if the C.I.C. had the resources available and verified with the Law Director it would be legal to do this. At the C.I.C. meeting Tuesday night, Mr. Foxhoven asked them if they could pay the \$50,000 earnest money on our behalf at this time. We could just not work through our internal process fast enough. We wanted to honor our agreement of the \$50,000 earnest money with the Doseck family. The C.I.C. approved the request and issued a check the next day to Mr. Eiting on behalf of the Doseck family. Once we close on the property, that money will go back to the C.I.C. Mr. Foxhoven said this is not typically how we do things. It was unusual circumstances.

Mr. Bubp asked if this would be read three times. Mr. Foxhoven said we would like to have this passed tonight under suspension of the rules to be able to have the closing on April 1st. We have to go through the process. There will be legislation coming to Council concerning the financing. Mr. Harris asked if it is the City's intention to bring that property into the City. Mr. Foxhoven said that once the closing is finished we would start the annexation process. That will take several months. There are other properties on Shipman Road that are not involved in this transaction. We will offer annexation to those property owners. Our utilities are already there. We have electric and water on the south side of Shipman Road and we have sewer on the north side of Shipman Road so the utilities could be extended fairly easy.

Moved by Mr. Bubp, seconded by Mr. Fleagle to suspend the rules for Ordinance No. 2021-04. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved by Mr. Christman, seconded by Mr. Koverman, to pass Ordinance No. 2021-04 as an emergency. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 2021-04 was presented to Council for a first reading.

RESOLUTION 2021-04 – An Emergency Resolution Authorizing the Director of Public Service and Safety to Apply to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for a Paddling Enhancement Grant

Moved by Ms. Willoughby, seconded by Mr. Christman to read Resolution No. 2021-04. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Burkholder explained the resolution would allow Greg Foxhoven to sign the application to apply for a grant for a potential paddle launch ramp in the canal. The application process requires Council's approval. It does not commit us to spend any money. We will not know until we would get the grant how much it would cost us. Mr. Foxhoven said there is a tight timeline on the grant and requested this be passed under suspension of the rules.

Moved by Mr. Fleagle, seconded by Mr. Koverman to suspend the rules for Resolution No. 2021-04. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved by Mr. Koverman, seconded by Ms. Willoughby to pass Resolution No. 2021-04 as an emergency. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 2021-05 was presented to Council for a first reading.

RESOLUTION 2021-05 – An Emergency Resolution Authorizing the Director of Public Service and Safety to Enter Into a Contract With Vance's Law Enforcement for the Purchase of New Handguns

Moved by Mr. Uhlenhake, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald to read Resolution No. 2021-05. Motion passed unanimously.

Police Chief Jake Sutton addressed Council to talk about the resolution. He said this is not new money. The purchase would be made from funds that have already been appropriated. The upgrading of their sites and firearms was discussed when preparing the budget, but it was cut out of the 346 fund. He said since then, the Lets Back the Blue Campaign gave us a grant for \$7,488.00 to buy red dots for our firearms, which will increase capabilities and safety. He discussed their upgrades with the Director of Public Service and Safety and they have two options. They can trade in their current firearms and get new ones or they have to retool their current firearms. With the

trade in value for new firearms, the end cost would be \$129. To retool or refit the red dots, the firearms would be anywhere from \$200-\$300 per gun. It doesn't make sense to retool them. They are just asking to be able to trade in their current firearms to update their lighting, sights, and their capabilities. Mr. Harris asked how old the current firearms were. Chief Sutton said they are currently 7 years old. He told Council this would allow them to keep their eyes on the target or threat as opposed to the front and back side of the firearm. It gives a totally different and better view for our officers when they are engaging suspects in dangerous situations where milliseconds count. This safety factor is really important. It is cutting-edge technology for the firearms as well as the lighting. The lumens will be three times as bright. Technology continually changes and we would like to stay up with that technology. Mr. Harris commented that some of them might be worn out. Chief Sutton responded that some are more worn than others are. We want to make sure we not getting to the point where we start to have failures. We want to get ahead of that.

Mr. Bubp asked once they sell police force guns to a gun company, if are they allowed to be sold to the public. Chief Sutton did not know the answer to that but said many times they will sell them back to officers. Mr. Koverman noted that as a former State Patrol Officer, they had the option to purchase their guns at the trade in value. Chief Sutton said the officers would have that option. He said the trade in value for each firearm is \$300 and the cost is \$429. The longer you wait to trade them in the value is much lower.

Mr. Uhlenhake asked what the difference was between the G17 and G19. Chief Sutton explained the 17 is a little smaller. Mr. Fleagle asked if the supplier of new guns would come in and train the officers in the weapons. Chief Sutton stated they are very fortunate to have great firearms instructors. Sgt. Kennedy has been to a lot of training all over the United States to learn about firearms and most recently the red dots. We send some of our people to training so they come back and teach everyone else.

Moved by Mr. Koverman, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald to suspend the rules for Resolution No. 2021-05. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved by Mr. Christman, seconded by Mr. Bubp to pass Resolution No. 2021-05 as an emergency. Motion passed unanimously.

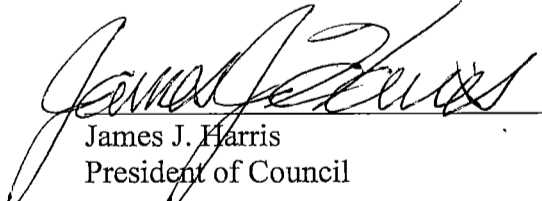
MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

There was no other miscellaneous business.

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

Council adjourned at 6:50 p.m.


Debra Kable, Clerk of Council


James J. Harris
President of Council