

**CITY OF ST CLAIR, MICHIGAN
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2020- 7:00 P.M.**

Meeting Called to Order at 7:00pm by Mayor Cedar in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 547 N. Carney Drive, St. Clair, Michigan, 48079.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited.

PRESENT: Mayor Cedar, Members Ellery, Kindsvater, Kuffa, LaPorte, McCartney, Watt

ABSENT: None

ADMINISTRATION: Ryan Fantuzzi, Kirk, Huth, Lange & Badalementi; Trice Hawkins, Recreation Director; Timothy Raker, Police Chief; Warren Rothe, City Superintendent; Annette Sturdy, City Clerk.

AUDIENCE: There were 8 people in attendance.

CONSENT AGENDA – LaPorte moved, Kuffa seconded, CARRIED, to approve Consent Agenda item A. as presented.

- A. City Council Minutes of September 21, 2020 Regular & Closed Meetings: Approved

REPORTS FROM ADMINISTRATION

City Superintendent – The water plant study is in progress & DPW cell tower discussion is ongoing. MDOT is updating the M29/Clinton traffic light. A proposal for additional lining of sewers will be brought to council soon. Third Street road project is complete. Cass Street and St Clair Highway will be paved by end of the week.

City Attorney- None

City Departments- Polls will be open 7am-8pm 11/3/20. Chief Raker stated the Department of Homeland Security received a grant to repair St. Clair County warning sirens. After that it will be the jurisdictions responsibility to maintain them at an approximately cost \$700 per year. Also, once the new No parking sign in on S. Riverside, there will be a short lenient period to adjust to the new law.

Authority, Board, Commission, Committee Chairman or Council Representative – None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Consideration of North Riverside Sewer Proposal- Ryan Kern, AEW, summarized the proposal. Discussion centered on a possible location closer to M-29 instead of near the river. He was requested to look into alternative locations and provide a quote. Points and questions discussed included where the township sewage ties into the city system, if the lines were located near M-29 would they accommodate both sides of the road, would the city or private residents maintain their own pumps and the possibility of eliminating one lift station. No action taken.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Proposal for Professional Services-Clinton Avenue Bike Path – Jim Bier, Trails Representative, Trice Hawkins, Recreation Director and Ryan Kern, AEW discussed this next step in the project. The grant already received by the community foundation will fund this proposal.

Mr. Kern summarized the commitment from the TAP grant/MDOT requires several steps to complete the award process and went over the timeline for the Fall 2021 project, including 2 public meetings. Discussion included to leave the new sidewalk by 5th street. The original intention of the stamped concrete area was not to be part of the path. To fill the critical gap, the bike path has to go all the way

to M29. The idea is to tie in the economic centers of the communities.

McCartney moved, Kuffa seconded, CARRIED, to approve the proposal from AEW as presented.
Ayes: Kuffa, LaPorte, McCartney, Watt, Cedar
Nays: Ellery, Kindsvater

Municipal Building parking lot lights- Superintendent Rothe received direction to look into light fixture upgrades and provide a quote to council.

Approve addition to special event permit for St. Clair Halloween Nights – Chief Raker summarized the request to extend the previously approved event to include Thursday, October 15, 2020.
Kindsvater moved, McCartney seconded, CARRIED, to approve additional date as requested.

St Clair Art Association Public Art project -Jason Stier, SCAA Public Art Committee, Riverview Highschool and the Diversity Initiative of St. Clair County are collaborating on this kick-off project to paint a portion of the Bridge to Bay trail in Greig Park. The #SCCBetterTogether hashtag would be painted on that portion of the bike path. Approval from the City Council of the project should be to publicly noted to deter unauthorized art.
Kindsvater moved, Kuffa seconded, CARRIED to approve the project as proposed.

FIT Website and Freighter Project Update- Trice Hawkins, Recreation Director, recognized members of the Community Leadership Team and summarized the grant process. In Spring of 2019, first time visitors came to St Clair. The presentation of their assessments was shared this time last year. Along with the FIT grant, the city received an additional grant from the Community Foundation. The CLT determined social media and branding would be the focus and specifically, would focus on redesigning the DDA website and hosting a ‘be a tourist in their own town” event.

CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS – September 24 & October 1, 2020

Check registers listing the bills for the period ending September 24, 2020 (check numbers 51036-51072) in the amount of \$580,901.58 and the period ending October 1, 2020 (check numbers 51073-51112) in the amount of \$107,952.12 were presented for Council review.

LaPorte moved, Kuffa seconded, CARRIED, to approve payments of September 24, 2020 & October 1, 2020 Claims and Accounts as presented.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS – Ed Weishler, Project Director for the Blue Water Area Fallen Heroes project, summarized their Banner program and stated the intention to display the banners before and after Memorial Day. The project is fully supported by council.

MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS – Mayor Cedar expressed sympathy to the family of Grace Mollan. Councilmember Kindsvater stated the Knights of Columbus pasty sale is happening now. Call 810-357-5527 for orders.

CLOSED SESSION - McCartney moved, Kuffa seconded, CARRIED, to grant request for Closed Session to Discuss Strategy Connected with the Negotiation of a Collective Bargaining Agreement with Employees Represented by AFSCME.

Ayes: Kindsvater, Kuffa, LaPorte, McCartney, Watt, Ellery, Cedar
Nays: None

At 7:55pm, Council recessed into closed session and resumed regular session at 8:08pm.

Kuffa moved, Ellery seconded, CARRIED, to approve ratification of the AFSCME tentative agreement as presented.

Ayes: Kuffa, LaPorte, McCartney, Watt, Ellery, Kindsvater, Cedar
Nays: None

ADJOURNMENT at 8:09pm

Annette Sturdy, City Clerk

Bill Cedar, Jr., Mayor