

**CITY OF ST. CLAIR, MICHIGAN
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2020 - 6:15 P.M.**

Mayor Cedar convened the Special Meeting of the City Council to order in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building, 547 N Carney Drive at 6:15pm for discussion on charter amendments and a cell tower consultant agreement.

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

ABSENT: None

ADMINISTRATION: James T. Downey, Kane, Clemons, Joachim & Downey; Timothy Raker, Police Chief; Warren Rothe, City Superintendent; Annette Sturdy, City Clerk

AUDIENCE: There were 2 people in attendance

Charter Amendments- Budget approval- Superintendent Rothe summarized a request to change the timeline for budget approval to better match the fiscal year. Per discussion with other Departments, it is a standard practice to begin the annual budget approval process 4 months before the fiscal year end and approve the budget the month before fiscal year end. The current Charter states the fiscal year is October 1-September 30 and a draft budget presented to Council by May with approval by June 15. One suggested change would be to receive the budget in June for adoption in September. This change would allow administration more time for attention on current projects instead of focusing on the next year budget. This change can not be completed by Ordinance. It would have to be a proposal on a ballot.

Candidate requirements for Mayor and Council- Discussion occurred on candidate residency requirements for elected officials, vacancy and forfeiture scenarios. The Resolution presented to council December 7, 2020 as written states if a current councilmember moved within their term to another Ward, they would forfeit their term and cause a vacancy. Discussion occurred on the definition of resident and domicile. Per Attorney Downey, that question was resolved when the opinion was presented during a previous matter of Home Occupation. Clerk Sturdy suggested to include other proposals on the same ballot for fiscal efficiency and opportunity for voter education. Discussion occurred to change the ballot wording to include verbiage that allows a councilmember to stay in their seat if they moved within a certain timeline of term ie 3 months before the next election. Attorney Downey reiterated procedure for Resolution reconsideration per Roberts Rules of Order. If the Resolution is approved, there is time to make any changes before it is officially submitted to be printed on the November 2021 ballot.

No discussion occurred on the Cell Tower Consultant agreement.

Public comment included support of elected official ward residency.

No action was taken.

Adjourned 6:58pm

Annette Sturdy, City Clerk

Bill Cedar, Jr., Mayor