

**CITY OF ST CLAIR, MICHIGAN
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2023- 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 as led by Cub Scout Troop #261.

PRESENT: Mayor Cedar, Members Gottler, Kuffa, LaPorte, Paul, Volz, Watt

ABSENT: None

ADMINISTRATION: Quentin Bishop, City Superintendent; James T. Downey, Kane, Clemons, Joachim and Downey; Trice Hawkins, Recreation Director; Timothy Raker, Police Chief; Annette Sturdy, City Clerk.

AUDIENCE: There were people in attendance.

CONSENT AGENDA – Kuffa moved, Volz seconded, CARRIED, to approve Consent Agenda items A. and B. as presented.

- A. City Council Minutes of January 16, 2023 Special & Regular Meetings: Approved
- B. Planning Commission Minutes of December 14, 2022 Meeting: Received
- C. Zoning Board of Appeals January 18, 2023 Meeting: Received

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Resolution (23-05) Annual Policy and guidelines for poverty exemptions -A RESOLUTION FOR THE ANNUAL ADOPTION OF GUIDELINES FOR POVERTY EXEMPTIONS WHEREAS, the adoption of guidelines for poverty exemptions is required of the City Council; and WHEREAS, the principal residence of persons, who the Board of Review determines by reason of poverty to be unable to contribute to the public charge, is eligible for exemption in whole or part from taxation under Public Act 390 of 1994 (MCL 211.7u); and WHEREAS, pursuant to PA 390 of 1994, the City of St. Clair, St. Clair County, adopts the following guidelines for the Board of Review to implement. The guidelines shall include but not be limited to the specific income and asset levels of the claimant and all persons residing in the household, including any property tax credit returns, filed in the current or immediately preceding year; To be eligible, a person shall do all the following on an annual basis: To be eligible, a person shall do all the following on an annual basis: 1.Be an owner of and occupy as a principal residence the property for which an exemption is requested. 2. File a claim with the Assessor or Board of Review, accompanied by federal and state income tax returns for all persons residing in the principal residence, including any property tax credit returns filed in the immediately preceding year or in the current year or a signed State Tax Commission Form 4988, *Poverty Exemption Affidavit*. 3.Produce a valid driver's license or other form of identification if requested. 4.Produce, if requested, a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is requested. 5.Meet the federal poverty income guidelines as defined and determined annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services or alternative guidelines adopted by the governing body providing the alternative guidelines do not provide eligibility requirements less than the federal guidelines. 6. The application for an exemption shall be filed after January 1, but one day prior to the last day of the December Board of Review. The filing of this claim constitutes an appearance before the Board of Review for the purpose of preserving the right of appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal. 7. The Board of Review shall follow the guidelines of the local assessing unit in granting or denying an exemption. 8.Persons applying for a hardship exemption will be encouraged

to meet in person with the Board of Review in order to answer any questions relative to their application. Applicants or their authorized agents may have to answer questions regarding such subjects as financial affairs, health and/or the status of people living in their home at a meeting that is open to the public.9.A person who files for a hardship exemption is not prohibited from also filing an appeal on the assessment and/or taxable value.10.The applicant must also meet the Asset Guidelines in accordance with PA 390 of 1994 as adopted by the City of St Clair (which are attached).NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Assessor and the Board of Review shall follow the above stated policy and federal guidelines in granting or denying an exemption, unless the Board of Review determines there are substantial and compelling reasons why there should be a deviation from the policy and federal guidelines and these reasons are communicated in writing to the claimant.

LaPorte moved, Kuffa seconded, CARRIED, to adopt Resolution (23-05) as presented.

Ayes: Watt, Gottler, Kuffa, LaPorte, Paul, Volz, Cedar

Nays: None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED

REPORTS FROM ADMINISTRATION

City Superintendent – Updates reported on the DPW 2023 road project plan including funding mechanisms, creation of a 10 year road plan to include funding opportunities and maintenance, clarification of a 2/14/23 LDFFA meeting and grants in progress.

City Attorney- None

City Departments- Chief Raker presented the Life Saving Award presented to Officer Clees. Corporal Ennis presented information on a speed radar detector. The device will be used for a 45 day trial then results will be brought back to Council for review.

Authority, Board, Commission, Committee Chairman or Council Representative

Library Commission-Volunteer Recognition-Harriet Stocki was recognized for 45 years of service to the community. Mike McCartan, Julie Alef and Allison Arnold spoke on her behalf.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS -None

NEW BUSINESS

Authorize approval of Consent Agreement First amendment-MEVS (Magna)-

Updates the deadline of the consent agreement from January 21, 2023 to April 30, 2023 and expanded the list of Inspections as listed on Schedule B.

Volz moved, Paul seconded, CARRIED, to approve the amendment to the contract.

St. Clair Art Association “Art Wave” project- Jason Stier, St. Clair Art Association, shared the idea of the public art project, ART WAVE. The goal is 500 hand painted flags centered on “Our Connection to Water”. They will hang for 2 weeks before and after Art Fair weekend in Palmer Park. The project will begin in early March.

Approve special event application: Safety Town community event- Council received a memorandum from Police Chief Raker requesting that Council approve a special event permit from the St. Clair Police Foundation, in partnership with St. Clair Recreation Department and St. Clair Police Department to conduct their annual Safety Town Community event on Saturday, June 17, 2023 10am-2pm. Ninth Street will be closed between Vine and Orchard. The applicant has complied with the necessary requirements of the Special Events Ordinance and issuance of the permit is respectfully recommended.

Paul moved, Volz seconded, CARRIED, to approve the special event permit as recommended.

Approve Authorities, Boards and Commissions appointments-Mayor Cedar reported recommendations for appointments of residents to various city authorities, boards, and

commissions as follows: **Dangerous Building Commission-** Reappoint Matthew Griffor to a two-year term to expire December 31, 2024. **Electrical Board-** Reappoint Ken Klieman to a three-year term to expire December 31, 2025. **Library Commission-** Appoint Robert Stocki to a three-year term to expire December 31, 2025. Kuffa moved, Paul seconded, CARRIED, to approve appointments as recommended.

CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS – January 19, 26 & February 2, 2023

Check register listing the bills for the period ending January 19, 2023 (check numbers 56139-56165) in the amount of \$143,653.85, for the period ending January 26, 2023 (check numbers 56166-56201) in the amount of \$173,020.93 and for the period ending February 2, 2023 (check numbers 56202-56244) in the amount of \$242,807.96 and credit card registers was presented for Council review.

LaPorte moved, Kuffa seconded, CARRIED, to approve payment of January 19, January 26 & February 2, 2023 Claims and Accounts as presented.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS – None

MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS – Mayor Cedar extended sympathy to the families of Sam Pizzo, Denny White and Ann Alley. Thank you to Cub Scout Troop #261 for joining us today.

ADJOURNMENT at 7:31pm.

Annette Sturdy, City Clerk

Bill Cedar, Jr., Mayor