

**CITY OF ST CLAIR, MICHIGAN
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 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.

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

ABSENT: Member Kuffa (excused)

ADMINISTRATION: Quentin Bishop, City Superintendent; James T. Downey, Joachim, Clemons, Kane & Downey; Trice Hawkins, Recreation Director; Annette Sturdy; City Clerk

AUDIENCE: There were 10 people in attendance.

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

- A. City Council Minutes of September 5, 2023 Special & Regular meetings: Approved
- B. Cemetery Board of Trustees Minutes of August 1, 2023 Meeting: Received

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Resolution (23-33) FY 23 Budget Amendments-The sale of the Industrial park property is included in the General fund. Revenue exceeded expenses by \$1,590,189.00 for the most part because of the unspent budgeted expense of the Clinton Ave bikepath (\$950,000) and an increase in revenue of about \$550,000. **RESOLUTION AMENDING 2022-23 ANNUAL BUDGET BE IT RESOLVED**, that the revised list of expenditures for the 2022-2023 budget, attached as "Exhibit A" to this Resolution, be approved effective immediately.

LaPorte moved, Volz seconded, CARRIED, to adopt Resolution (23-33) as presented.

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

Nays: None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

REPORTS FROM ADMINISTRATION

City Superintendent – The Clinton Ave bikepath project has begun with the notice being delivered to all residents and businesses along the route. At no time will Clinton Ave be closed to traffic. Temporary sidewalks will be considered. The MDOT project of asphaltting M-29 from Clinton to Jay is complete. Grants have been submitted for 2024 road projects including Adams (3rd to railroad), Oakwood and Glendale and a TAP grant submitted for Cox Road. The WTP project is on schedule with Weiss to begin soon.

City Attorney- None

City Departments- Report heard on attendance to MAMC Member education day & Clerks Association of St. Clair County quarterly meeting about Early Voting implementation. Cemetery fees will increase as of 10/1/23 per annual budget approval.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS -None

NEW BUSINESS –

Approve special event permit for St. Clair Chamber St. Clair Halloween Nights-

Council received a memorandum from Police Chief Raker requesting that Council approve a special event permit for the St. Clair Chamber of Commerce to conduct several events during October "Halloween Nights" including a Trick or Treat Trail in Greig Park on October 21. The applicant has complied with the necessary requirements of the Special Events Ordinance and issuance of the permit is respectfully recommended.

Volz moved, LaPorte seconded, CARRIED, to approve the special event application as recommended.

Approve J & J Lawn service and beautification contracts-

Gottler moved, Volz seconded, CARRIED, to approve contracts as presented for a term of one year.

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

Nays: None

Approve Property and Liability Insurance-

Per Council direction from the previous renewal for a request of proposals for coverage, the City conducted a request for proposals for Property and Liability insurance services. After careful analysis of each proposal, including coverages, services and cost, it is the recommendation to approve the renewal proposal provided by the Michigan Municipal League.

LaPorte moved, Paul seconded, CARRIED (voice vote), to approve MML renewal proposal in the amount of \$97,542.00 as recommended.

Approve extension of Waste Management contract-

Gottler moved, LaPorte seconded, CARRIED (voice vote), to approve a one-year extension at the same prices as 2022-23 contract.

Approve Boards and Commission appointment-

Volz moved, LaPorte seconded, CARRIED, to approve the continued appointment of Candace Nagel, with a residency waiver, to the Housing Commission as recommended by the Mayor and Housing Commission.

St. Clair Garden Club Palmer Park Arch relandscaping project-

Representative from the St. Clair Garden Club shared their vision for renovating the landscape around the Palmer Park arch. Renovations included raised planters that are seat high. This project will be funded by the Garden Club and private donations.

Paul moved, Gottler seconded, CARRIED, to support the project as presented.

Discussion on Carney Dr. culvert install-

Superintendent Bishop explained reasons to revisit the idea of installing culverts and filling in the ditch along Carney Drive in front of the Woodland Estates development. Bids were requested due to the project expected to be over \$10,000. Council discussed the possibility of filling the entire segment of Carney from Vine to Clinton and/or all current city-maintained ditches and how to approach it. There will be sidewalks on the west side of Carney as part of the Woodland Estates Development. Awareness was made that the Woodland Estate development sidewalk will end before reaching Vine. LaPorte made, Gottler seconded, CARRIED, to approve bid by Cortis Bros in the amount of \$45,825.00.

Public comment asked about the how, why and who completed filling in the ditch by Mashburn motors.

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

Nays: None

Administration directed to get cost for continuing filling in the ditch along the remaining side of Carney and cost to complete the sidewalk from Woodland Estates to Vine.

Discussion on ARPA allocation plan-

Superintendent Bishop reiterated that if the City designates usage of the current ARPA funds, there is a percentage incentive available by the State. Mayor

Cedar proposed all funds be allocated towards the Water Treatment Plant Improvement projects.

Administration directed to provide a list of eligible expenses and possible projects. No action taken.

CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS – September 7 & 14, 2023

Check register listing the bills for the period ending September 7, 2023 (check numbers 57598-57634) in the amount of \$1,173,477.29 and for the period ending September 14, 2023 (check numbers 57635-57687) in the amount of \$360,260.02 were presented for Council review. LaPorte moved, Paul seconded, CARRIED, to approve payments of September 7 & 14, 2023 Claims and Accounts as presented.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS – Comment heard thanking Council and Administration for completing N. and S. Delano and continued ongoing road repair.

MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS –Special events: Magna Community event Tires and Treads 9/23/23. Discussion occurred on the MDOT M-29 concrete patching and asphalt resurfacing projects and a request for curb repair in front of the Plaza. MDOT will be starting the next phase of the M-29 project south of the bridge on October 23.

ADJOURNMENT at 7:54pm.

Annette Sturdy, City Clerk

Bill Cedar, Jr., Mayor