

## CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL WORKSESSION

March 7, 2005

**CALL TO ORDER** A Council worksession of the City of St. Marys was called to order by Mayor David Meier on Monday, March 7, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the Council Room of City Hall, 808 South Michael Street. Notice of this meeting was sent to Council on March 3, 2005 and posted at City Hall. Notice of this meeting was also published in the Daily Press.

**ROLL CALL** Present: Mayor David Meier, Robert Roberts, Mark Kopp, Gelindo Bonfardine, Steven Skok, and David Greene, City Manager

Absent: Dennis Nero and Thomas Farley (both excused)

**VISITORS** Visitors included: Tina Gnan, Joe Stefanelli, Bob Makufka, Andy Swasta, Sally Geyer, Jerry Sorg, Warren Stewart, Richard Sadley, and Erica Hayes

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 21 and 28,  
2005** Robert Roberts made a motion to approve the minutes of February 21 and 28, 2005, seconded by Steven Skok, and all were in favor.

**REPORT ON EXECUTIVE  
SESSION** An Executive Session was held following the meeting of February 21, 2005 regarding legal issues concerning Gary Eckert Civil Action No. 2004-171 and property acquisition on Brusselles Street. No decisions were made.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS ON  
AGENDA TOPICS** Tina Gnan, representing the Recycling Task Force Committee, updated Council on a Compost Agreement to move the City's compost site from Graphite Road to Wilson Road. The agreement states that Woodbed Company will accept leaves, grass and brush/trees from St. Marys residents and agrees to monitor and pull any foreign materials from the yard waste. The City will agree to the following: provide a small container for the disposal of foreign materials; pay for the expense of disposing the foreign materials on an as-needed basis; provide tub-grinding services no less than twice a year and no more than three times per year; and will provide proper signage for the site, educational material, and be responsible for advertising.

Tina Gnan re:  
Compost Agreement

Robert Roberts made a motion to authorize the signing of the Compost Agreement, seconded by Mark Kopp, and all were in favor.

Erica Hayes Mayor Meier introduced Erica Hayes, the newly appointed Executive Director of the Marienstadt Corporation.

Jerry Sorg Jerry Sorg requested to speak later on outdoor furnaces.

## CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL WORKSESSION

March 7, 2005

**ITEMS THAT NEED ACTION**

Opening of Bids re:  
Sale of City Hall  
Property

Mayor Meier opened the following two bids for the sale of the present City Hall property, 808 South Michael Street:

Louis A. Coppa, DuBois	\$200,000.
G.T. Belsole, St. Marys	\$139,000.

The bids will be forwarded to City staff for their review and recommendation.

2005 Minimum  
Municipal Obligation  
for Pension Funds

Mayor Meier read a memo received from Carol Yost, Finance Director, regarding the revision of the 2005 Minimum Municipal Obligation for pension funds. On September 15, 2004, Council was presented the M.M.O.'s for the year 2005. At that time, the Police Officers were contributing 2.87% of their wages toward pension benefits. With the decrease in market value and an increase of what the City needs to contribute to the fund, the City has increased the Police contributions to 5%. This was done on December 20, 2004 by Resolution No. 04-20. The Police Pension contract states that employees could contribute up to 5% of their wages to the plan to meet benefit levels. This data was furnished to City Council for their information.

Agreement with St.  
Marys Firemen's  
Relief Association  
re: 2004 KME Rescue  
Truck

An agreement with the St. Marys Firemen's Relief Association was presented. The association has contributed \$150,000. toward the purchase of a 2004 KME rescue truck. The total price of the vehicle is \$447,290. The association has agreed to transfer all ownership rights of the apparatus to the City. In the event the apparatus is ever sold, the pro-rated share of the proceeds from the sale would revert to the Relief Association.

Steven Skok made a motion to approve the St. Marys Firemen's Relief Association's Agreement, seconded by Gelindo Bonfardine, and all were in favor.

Subdivision Application  
James L. & Linda. L  
Fritz, 276 South  
Michael Street Circle

Mark Kopp made a motion to approve the Subdivision Application for James L. and Linda L. Fritz, seconded by Gelindo Bonfardine, and all were in favor.

This is a minor subdivision splitting the lot nearly in half. The Elk County Planning Commission's concerns have been addressed by the surveyor.

CDBG Reduction

Mayor Meier stated that the President's 2006 Budget proposal, if adopted, is scheduled to eliminate the CDBG Program as it currently exists. The program would move under the Department of Housing and Urban Development combined with 17 other programs.

## CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL WORKSESSION

March 7, 2005

Mayor Meier felt that support letters should be written to oppose the CDBG reduction proposed by the President's budget. Letters should be sent to Senator Specter, Senator Santorum, and Representative Peterson. All Council Members should sign the letters.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committee Reports.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION  
Outdoor Furnaces

Mayor Meier read a memo from Matt Young, City Inspector, regarding the City's Outdoor Furnace Ordinance. Mr. Young has listed the following items that need to be discussed and added to the City's present Ordinance: Installation must follow all manufacturer's recommendations; Property lot size should be limited to at least 40,000 square feet; the outdoor furnace should be located within a certain distance (i.e. 20 ft.) of the structure it serves and should also meet the setback requirements for the particular zone in which it is located; and the type of fuel. Mr. Young also felt the following should be removed from the current Ordinance: Section 104.6 pertaining to stack height; and Section 104.7 pertaining to draft-induced blower.

Jerry Sorg

Jerry Sorg explained that some outdoor furnaces are set-up to burn oil, gas, or wood pellets as back-up systems. He burns wood chips in his furnace and felt Council should not restrict what fuel can be used.

Roberts Roberts felt that a draft Ordinance should be prepared by the Solicitor stating that the manufacturer's recommendation regarding their furnace should be followed, a permit must be obtained, a time period should be set for current furnace owners to comply to the manufacturer's recommendations, and the type of fuel should also be per the manufacturer's recommendation.

Robert Roberts also suggested that the current City Ordinance No. 115 be repealed and that the Outdoor Furnace Ordinance be completely rewritten and returned to Council for their review.

Review of the 3rd  
Annual Economic  
Summit

Mayor Meier brought Council up-to-date regarding the recent 3rd Annual Economic Summit held on March 3, 2005. The format for the summit was broken into four sections: Review of Downtown Blueprint, 5-Year Project Timeline, Issues/Concerns and Strengths/Opportunities, and Short

## CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL WORKSESSION

March 7, 2005

Term Projects, such as: Commercial/Retail; Industrial; Professional; Tourism/Cultural; and Housing/Residential.

Parking Signage Improvements  
Mayor Meier inquired about the directional signs for the four parking lots. Does the City have a plan in place? If not, something should be done.

Update on Elm Street Program  
Tina Gnan stated The City applied for Elm Street funding on March 23, 2004 for the first year of planning funds in the amount of \$25,000. On January 23, 2005, the City was notified to submit additional information for the grant. No notification or communication has been received as of this date.

Update on HOME Program  
Tina Gnan informed Council that in October, 2004, the City received the executed contract for the HOME Program. The program is underway with 14 applications being approved and their homes were inspected by contractors.

Lead base paint testing has been completed on nine of the properties. The Risk Assessor will complete testing of the remaining five properties on March 7, 2005.

Forms for each property have been submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office which is a HOME Program requirement.

Once one-half of the HOME Program funds are expended, the City can reapply for another round of funds. A rough draft of the next application has been completed.

Ms. Gnan also stated that if anyone is interested in the HOME Program, they should contact Darlene Nortum at City Hall Ext. 224.

Crosswalks and Signalization Improvements  
Mayor Meier felt that crosswalks should be painted twice a year for pederstrian safety. At the key/high use intersections, something more than painting should be done. The City needs to work with the downtown merchants.

Public Transportation Fixed Route  
The Manager is to work with ATA regarding fixed routes in St. Marys. It is possible that CDBG funds could be used.

Jerry Sorg  
Jerry Sorg stated the City will be giving up parking spaces for bus stops.

Improvements Signalization Improvements  
Mayor Meier inquired about the status of the traffic light at Arch Street. He felt PennDOT should be contacted to help resolve the problem.

## CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL WORKSESSION

March 7, 2005

Elk County Humane  
Society

Members of the Elk County Humane Society approached Council to see about possibly utilizing the site formerly used by the City's compost site on Graphite Road to build their shelter.

Joe Stefanelli

Joe Stefanelli, of the Elk County Humane Society, stated there is money in reserve to build the shelter at last year's cost estimates. The Society is currently in the process of obtaining new cost estimates. He stated the Society is in need of a shelter and the Graphite Road site is ideal as all the utilities are in place.

Mr. Stefanelli addressed some of the complaints raised by residents in the area. He said there will be little to no odor as shelter cages are cleaned daily with chemicals and water, there will be no outside pens, and felt traffic should not be a problem because the shelter users will be using Graphite Road. There will be no incinerator.

Bob Makufka

Bob Makufka, a member of the Humane Society, stated the Society has visited 6-8 shelters and noise and odor issues are non-existent. He stated the facility will be a modern insulated structure.

Gelindo Bonfardine pointed out the industries located directly across the road from the proposed site have not voiced their opinion and felt someone should contact them.

Members of the Society will contact these industries and once again approach the nearby residents concerning the location of the shelter.

Robert Roberts suggested that the Humane Society shelter be placed on the March 21st Council agenda to get final approval before drawing up a new lease agreement.

Joe Stefanelli requested that Council prepare a letter of commitment, so the Society can proceed to apply for a variance from the St. Marys Zoning Hearing Board.

## COUNCIL COMMENTS

Robert Roberts was concerned about parked vehicles on roadways between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. hindering snow plowing. If all the signs are not in place, they should be as soon as possible so the ordinance can be enforced.

CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL WORKSESSION

411

March 7, 2005

Mayor Meier suggested that the Manager check into the traffic ordinance to see if it has been corrected. Some signs and the ordinance do not agree.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Meier made the following announcements:

- Next Council meeting will be held on March 21, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.
- The Chamber of Commerce EXPO will be held on March 12 and 13, 2005 at the SMAHS.
- Congratulations to ECCHS Boys Basketball District 9 Class A Champs, Clayton Bowers SMAHS District 6/9 Regional Diving Champ, and Dereck McCullough and A. J. Keebler SMAHS District 9 Class AAA Wrestling Champs, Brad Steinbach qualifying for the PIAA AAA wrestling tournament, and to all the Honor Roll Students.

ADJOURNMENT

Robert Roberts made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mark Kopp, and all were in favor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An Executive Session was held to discuss the possible acquiring of the Red Cross building at the corner of S. Michael and Brusselles Street for traffic enhancement.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

*Shirley Dicklas*  
Recording Secretary