

CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL WORKSESSION

May 2, 2005

CALL TO ORDER

A Council worksession of the City of St. Marys was called to order by Mayor David Meier on Monday, May 2, 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 April 28, 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, Thomas Farley, Gelindo Bonfardine, Steven Skok, and David Greene, City Manager

Absent: Dennis Nero (excused)

VISITORS

Visitors included: Daniel Hasselman, Ned Jacob, Andy Swasta, Roger Annis, Joann Struble, Mike Annis, Todd Annis, and Mike Frank

APPROVAL OF MINUTES  
APRIL 18, 2005

Mark Kopp made a motion to approve the minutes of April 18, 2005, seconded by Gelindo Bonfardine, and all were in favor.

REPORT ON EXECUTIVE  
SESSIONS

An Executive Session was held on April 18, 2005 to discuss the Gary Eckert Court Case and the City vs. Carrie Benjamin. No decisions were made.

An Executive Session was held on Friday, April 22, 2005 at 12:00 noon to discuss the Gary Eckert vs. City court case. No decisions were made.

REMOVED FROM AGENDA

Guests Victor Straub, Chairman of the St. Marys Area Airport Authority, and member George Terbovich were unable to attend tonight's meeting.

CITIZEN COMMENTS  
ON AGENDA ITEMS  
Daniel Hasselman

Daniel Hasselman questioned if property owners are not assessed, will the City be taking out loans every year to pave roads?

Mayor Meier stated the City's General Fund, under the category of Road/Street Construction, would be used instead of taking out loans.

Ned Jacob

Ned Jacob felt paving without assessing the property owners would set a precedent binding future Council. He felt everyone should be assessed as was done in the past.

ITEMS THAT NEED ACTION  
Opening of Bids re:  
Plate Arch

Mayor Meier opened the following two bids for a plate arch:

Lane Enterprises, Inc.  
Pulaski, PA.....\$58,000.

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Contech Construction Products  
Middletown, OH.....\$34,100.  
Unit price with delivery.\$35,100.

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

**Award of Bids**  
Paving Program

Mayor Meier stated the following bids for the Paving Program were opened during the meeting of April 18, 2005:

New Enterprise Stone & Lime  
New Enterprise, PA.....\$1,489,205.60  
  
HRI, State College, Pa.....\$1,436,061.00

Michael Mullaney, Public Works Director, recommended that the Paving Bid for unimproved roads be awarded to HRI Inc. for the total sum of \$1,013,748. He stated that the following roads were prioritized, and will be paved according to various factors such as mobilization, traffic volume, population, base and drainage conditions, current maintenance costs, etc.:

1. Benzinger Road..... .\$113,719.
2. West Eschbach Road..... .\$113,024.
3. West Theresia Road..... .\$371,715.  
(255 to Thunder)
4. West Theresia Road..... .\$271,736.  
(Thunder to Fox Twp. Line)
5. Thunder Road..... .\$ 81,248.
6. Baumer Road..... .\$ 37,345.
7. Sumar Road..... .\$ 24,961.

Two roads were deleted from the project; Rosely Road and South Michael, which will be considered later, due to the construction of a large water main in this area.

Steven Skok made a motion to award the paving bid to HRI, per recommendation. The motion was seconded by Robert Roberts.

Mayor Meier asked that money be earmarked for Rosely Road or that Rosely Road be added to the bid. Council discussed this and determined that with the work the Water Authority is planning on doing, the City should not include Rosely Road.

Ned Jacob

Ned Jacob suggested that the City only pave two roads each year by assessing property owners and not going into debt.

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Roger Annis

Roger Annis was against assessing property owners. He stated roads that were previously paved by assessment had sanitary sewers. West Theresia Road does not have sewers. He felt assessing people will cause some to lose their homes.

Special Improvement Districts

A discussion was held regarding assessing property owners and creating Special Improvement Districts for each of the roads being considered for paving. If Special Improvement Districts are utilized, it must be done by an ordinance.

Steven Skok withdrew his motion to award the paving bid and Robert Roberts withdrew his second to the motion.

Robert Roberts made a motion to create Special Improvement Districts for roads being considered for paving. The motion was seconded by Gelindo Bonfardine.

Robert Roberts stated he needs information on all the roads listed whether they qualify or don't qualify for a Special Improvement District, schedule a special meeting, and then only proceed to award the paving bid.

A discussion was held on whether or not to create Special Improvement Districts. Mayor Meier stated Section 1702 requires more than 50% of the properties must have dwelling units on them for the road to qualify as a Special Improvement District.

Robert Roberts withdrew his motion to create Special Improvement Districts and seconded by Gelindo Bonfardine.

Council then directed the Manager to compile all the information on each of the nine roads to determine whether they qualify as a Special Improvement District. Once the information is available, a meeting will be scheduled to discuss the Special Improvement Districts and award the paving bid. Council agreed.

Steven Skok made a motion to table the paving bids, seconded by Mark Kopp, and all were in favor.

Sale of Truck

Mayor Meier stated the following bid was opened during the meeting of April 18, 2005 for the sale of a 1999 GMC 3500 small dump truck:

Hazleton Mt. Laurel Enterprise, Inc.  
Hazleton, PA.....\$3,791.00

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Staff recommended that the bid for the dump truck be rejected. The City will receive \$7,112. on a trade-in from WW Engine and Supply.

A motion was made by Gelindo Bonfardine to reject the bid for the 1999 GMC dump truck in the amount of \$3,791.00, seconded by Mark Kopp, and all were in favor.

**Consider for Adoption**  
Ordinance No. 200  
re: Sewage System  
Reserve Fund

Ordinance No. 200 was presented to amend Ordinance No. 163 Section 108 to create a Sewage System Reserve Fund.

Robert Roberts made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 200, seconded by Steven Skok, and all were in favor.

Appointment to  
Shade Tree Commission

A letter was received from the Shade Tree Commission recommending the appointment of Gretchen Meyer as a member of the Commission. Ms. Meyer will be filling the unexpired term of Jay Korman. Her term will expire January 1, 2007.

A motion was made by Gelindo Bonfardine to appoint Gretchen Meyer as a member of the Shade Tree Commission, seconded by Mark Kopp, and all were in favor.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

There were no Committee reports.

**TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION**  
Special Improvement  
Districts

Special Improvement Districts were discussed under Paving Bids.

Act 155 - Parking  
Meter Certification

The Mayor stated when he attended PLCM's Northwest Dinner, Act 155 was discussed. He stated the Pennsylvania State legislative passed Act 155 which requires all parking meters to be certified every three years.

The Manager stated the City is in the process of getting on the State's list to be certified. The Elk County Weights and Measures department does not do parking meters.

Impact of EMS Tax  
Changes

Mayor Meier updated Council on the possible impact of the EMS Tax amendment on the City's 2006 budget. If the exemption for the \$52.00 Tax is raised to \$12,000., the City's 2006 budget will be affected. Combined with the County changing their assessments, the City's 2006 General Fund will have a shortfall.

Update of Project List

An updated Project List was presented to Council for their review and comments.

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Status of 2005 Budget  
Review 1st Quarter

A Balance Sheet and a Revenues and Expenditures Compared to the Budget Report as of May 2, 2005 was presented to Council for their review and comments.

PLCM Spring Dinner

Mayor Meier stated the PLCM Spring Dinner was held on April 19, 2005 in Franklin, PA. The only major item that was discussed was Act 155, the certification of parking meters.

CDBG Update

A CDBG Update as of April 28, 2005 was presented to Council for their review and comments. The Mayor suggested that the City contact Congressman Peterson's office to make them aware of all the City's CDBG Projects.

**COUNCIL'S COMMENTS**  
Gelindo Bonfardine

Gelindo Bonfardine questioned the status of Act 72 "Property Tax Reduction". Mayor Meier informed him that our School District did not opt-in yet.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Meier made the following announcements:

- Next Council meeting will be held on May 16, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.
- City's Spring Clean-up day will be held on May 21, 2005 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The electronics recycling center will also be open during these hours.
- Encourage students at ECCHS and SMAHS to keep safe during their proms.
- National Day of Prayer - May 5, 2005  
Noon Services at Benzinger Park and at 7:00 p.m. at the Faith Baptist Church on West Creek Road.
- May 15, 2005 is Police Memorial Day. Services will be held at Pitt-Bradford on May 16th at 1:00 p.m. Police Week is May 15th thru May 21st.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned on a motion made by Thomas Farley, seconded by Steven Skok, and all were in favor.

*Shirley Dicklas*  
Recording Secretary

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Mayor