

**CITY OF SAINT MARYS COUNCIL
BUDGET WORKSHOP**

NOVEMBER 8, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

The scheduled Council Budget Workshop of the City of Saint Marys was called to order by Mayor Louis Radkowski on Thursday, November 8, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the Council Room of City Hall, 11 LaFayette Street. Notice of this meeting was sent to Council on November 5, 2018, posted at City Hall and published in the Daily Press.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Louis Radkowski, Deputy Mayor Gregory Gebauer, Andrew Mohny, Margie Brown, Bob Mohr, Manager Timothy Pearson and Recording Secretary Lorrie Levenduski.

Chris Pletcher and Nedward Jacob were excused.

City Staff: Chief of Police Tom Nicklas, Public Works Director Tim Brennan, Public Works Deputy Director Travis Skrzypek, Finance Director Carol Muhitch and Public Relations Officer Hannah Brock.

VISITORS

Visitors included: Warren Stewart.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

BUDGET DISCUSSIONS:

GENERAL FUND:

Community Transfers – Elk County Fair

Mayor Radkowski explained the approval for the Community Transfer to the Elk County Fair was tabled at the last budget workshop.

Warren Stewart representing the Elk County Fair, provided the following contribution information as requested:

Elk County - \$5,000
Johnsonburg Boro - \$342.45
Fox Township - \$500 plus in-kind services

He provided a list of events and rental options for the fairgrounds. The \$10,000 request for funds was for a bleacher replacement project that had a total estimate of \$30,000.

Bob Mohr made a motion to approve \$5,000 seconded by Andrew Mohny.

Margie Brown commented the amount was the same as the County's contribution.

Bob Mohr believed \$5,000 was a fair amount to contribute.

All were in favor of the motion.

**CAPITAL FUNDS:
General Government**

Manager Pearson explained the Capital Funds – General Government included computer equipment, improvements to City Hall on the second and third floor, and City Hall/Diamond improvements. He noted the 5-year plan was also included in the budget projections.

Code Enforcement

Manager Pearson explained the Capital Fund – Code Enforcement 5-year plan moved the 2018 budgeted amount for a new vehicle to 2020.

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Public Safety

Tom Nicklas, Chief of Police, explained Capital Funds - Public Safety included replacing an unmarked police vehicle within the normal scheduled rotation. It also included the purchase of body cameras and soft body armor.

Public Works

Tim Brennan, Public Works Director explained Capital Funds - Public Works included the replacement of a small truck, and the replacement of the loader.

Council suggested to consider keeping equipment that was in good shape instead of trading it in and Mr. Brennan responded he takes that into consideration based on the trade in value.

Mr. Brennan also noted under Infrastructure - Streets and Roads were also included as part of the 5-year mill and fill and paving plan.

Mr. Brennan explained Reserve - Streets and Reserve - Bridges were included to reserve funding for future road reconstruction and bridge (less than 20 feet) replacement.

Recreation

Manager Pearson noted the Capital Funds - Recreation included a tar and chip project in cooperation with the City's Public Works department. These are the remaining funds allocated from the donation by Dr. Lin.

Council did not propose any changes to the above Capital Funds.

BOND FUNDS

Manager Pearson explained a request for the remaining bond funds would be presented for Council's consideration at the November 19th Council meeting. The request was suggested by Councilman Jacob at the last budget workshop and also recommended by City staff to utilize the remaining bond funds to be used towards the Charles Street reconstruction project.

SEWER RATES

Manager Pearson explained this was a follow-up from questions regarding sewer rates at the last budget workshop.

There was a discussion on the sewer base rate and consumption charges. It was proposed to consider a flat sewer rate with a possible surcharge, due to declining consumption charges because of water conserving fixtures etc. It was proposed to consider a service address billing instead of the current practice of per water meter billing.

It was noted this review of rates was for residential only until commercial and industrial could also be reviewed.

Sanitary illegal connections

There was a discussion to consider placing a sewer bill surcharge on any resident with an illegal connection to the sanitary sewer until proven corrected. It was suggested a private contractor verify compliances as a follow-up to smoke testing results and for problem areas.

Wage increases and tax revenues

There was a discussion on wage increases, possible additional property tax revenue from ADT security systems and a formerly implemented mercantile tax.

Mayor final comments on budget

Mayor Radkowski provided his final comments on the budget and hoped Council would bring up any concerns with the budget before its final adoption in December.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Radkowski made the following announcements:


- Next Council regular meeting will be held on Monday, November 19, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

Andrew Mohney made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Margie Brown. Meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.



Recording Secretary



Mayor