

6 March 2023 City Council Meeting Minutes

The St. Charles City Council met at City Hall on Monday, 3/6/2023, for a regular meeting. Mayor Dennis Smith called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

Council members Tom Blomme, Dan Kozak, Whitney Hutton, and Lois Stanley were present along with 11 guests. Council Member Megan Allison was absent.

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Lois Stanley/Tom Blomme to approve the agenda. Voice vote passed unanimously.

Amara Huffine Madison County Chamber of Commerce: Tori Willis and Amara Huffine updated the City Council on the previous year's Welcome Center usage and expectations for this coming year. The Chamber will feature local items in the Welcome Center. Those that would like to have their crafts featured in the Welcome Center can contact the Madison County Chamber of Commerce. A reduced fee is offered to craft vendors.

Diane Fitch Madison County Supervisor: Diane was unable to attend the meeting and will reschedule at a later date.

Approval of Minutes for Council Meeting from 2/6/2022: Motion made by Whitney Hutton/Lois Stanley to approve the minutes. Voice vote passed unanimously.

Approval of February Treasurer and Budget Reports: Motion made by Tom Blomme/Dan Kozak to approve the treasurer and budget reports for February. Voice vote passed unanimously.

Approval of March Bills: Motion made by Dan Kozak/Whitney Hutton to approve the March bills. Voice vote passed unanimously.

Sheriff's Report: During February there were 37.31 patrol hours, 5 calls, and 5 traffic stops in St. Charles.

Sonia Hutton, Road Improvements on North Cross: Sonia would like to have North Cross Street considered for future asphaltting. The Council agreed that more work needs to happen on North Cross Street and plans to purchase equipment and gravel to remove potholes. The road will continue to be assessed and if funds should become available, asphaltting may be considered.

City Boards/Committees:

- Fire/Rescue Department: Rick Schaffer was present to present the February minutes.
- Library Board: Margaret Blair presented minutes from February. The Library is looking toward summer and the reading program.
- Welcome Center: Motion by Tom Blomme/Lois Stanley to approve Margaret Blair, Marcia Thompson, and Mary Seibert to the Tourism Board to oversee the Welcome Center. Voice vote was unanimous. The Tourism Board's goals are to preserve the Welcome Center, support the Chamber of Commerce, and to have the Welcome Center fit into the needs of the community. A rental agreement was presented and will be sent to the City's Attorney. There will be a clean-up day planned for April 29th at the Welcome Center with the Lions furnishing a meal for the volunteers.

- Old Settlers: Mary Seibert gave an update on the planning of the 2023 Old Settlers Festival. Cooking Up Some Fun will be held on July 14th and 15th. With a Street Dance to take place on July 15th. A fundraising breakfast will be held at the St. Charles Parish Hall on March 18th.
- Sewer Report: A report was submitted for February.
- Maintenance Report: A blade had been rented to maintain gravel roads. Butch Evans let the Council know the blade used is for sale. Motion by Dan Kozak/Tom Blomme to purchase the blade to maintain gravel roads for \$3750. Voice vote was unanimous. The City is considering sending items to be auctioned. An old overhead door, possible water pumps, and vehicle tire chains are being considered to clean out shop buildings.
- Emergency Management: February report was submitted.
- Clerk's Report: The new trash and recycling rates were given to the Council. The new rates reflect the yearly 3.5% increase stated in the contract with WM. Possible future vacation dates were given to the Council.

Public Hearing For Published Budget FY24: Motion by Dan Kozak to move into a Public Hearing at 8:13 PM. No public wished to speak. Public Hearing was closed at 8:16 PM. With the passing of SF181, property taxes valuations are expected to decrease. Final budget numbers will be presented to the City Council on April 3rd. Since there will be a decrease in the budget, there will not be another publication of the budget but the budget can be viewed at City Hall.

Resolutions 3A-2023, 3B-2023, and 3C-2023, Property Tax Abatements: Motion by Tom Blomme/Whitney Hutton to approve Tax Abatements for 407 W Council Dr., 2493 Bevington Park Rd., and 110 E Clanton St. in St. Charles. RC vote was unanimous.

Opportunity Forms: A request was made to have local businesses listed at the Imes Bridge. The City will have a sign made to advertise the St. Charles Website, where local businesses are listed and updated.

Planned Street Projects: Line painting bids were submitted. Motion by Tom Blomme/Lois Stanley to accept a bid from Spec for center line painting and Main Street parking painting along with 4 handicapped spots for \$7500.00 A voice vote was unanimous.

Public Forum: No public asked to speak.

Old Business: No old business

New Business: No new business

Motion made by Whitney Hutton to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 pm.

The next City Council meeting will be on April 3, 2023, at City Hall.

Dennis Smith, Mayor

Attest: Tracy Kozak, City Clerk

Posted at: City Hall, Post Office, Montross, and Library