

**MINUTES
ST. CLAIR SHORES CITY COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP
FEBRUARY 23, 2019**

City Council Workshop Meeting was held at the St. Clair Shores Country Club Golf Course, 22185 Masonic Blvd., St. Clair Shores, Michigan.

Present: Mayor Kip C. Walby, Council Members Peter Accica, John Caron, Ronald Frederick, Peter Rubino, Candice Rusie and Chris Vitale

Also Present: City Manager Michael Smith, Assistant City Manager William Gambill, City Clerk Mary Kotowski, Controller Laura Stowell, DPW Director Bryan Babcock, Parks & Recreation Director Henry Bowman, Executive Assistant Natalie Turner and City Attorney Robert Ihrle

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Walby called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m., and there was a quorum present.

2. PERSONNEL ISSUE

a. Treasurer

Mr. Smith noted his intent to promote from within for the Finance Director/Treasurer position and to place the Council appointment of City Treasurer on the June 3, 2019 agenda. He will begin the process of recruiting for a Deputy Finance Director/Controller/Deputy Treasurer.

b. City Manager Search Firm

The City received four Request for Proposals for the City Manager search, and the award of this contract will be on the March 18, 2019 Council meeting agenda. This will allow the search firm to facilitate City Council making a selection in early June which gives us 6 to 8 weeks before Mr. Smith retires.

Mr. Smith requested that questions from Council be directed to him via Ms. Turner to compile, and he will forward them to the search firm. The most important part of this process is the first 3 to 4 days when they will interview Council and stakeholders in order to get a direction of what type of new City Manager Council wants to hire.

3. MILLAGE ELECTIONS

a. Road Millage Discussion

Discussion on the Local Road Millage Renewal/Increase included whether we want the millage language wording to include patching/repair/replacements of City parking lots, to do just a millage renewal, a levy of 1.25, 1.5 or 1.75 and the scope of the work to be included.

A millage increase is needed to consider the other repairs to City parking lots. All of our parking lots have to be done to prevent further deterioration and/or failures. Our current millage rate 1.1960 generates \$1,795,516.

Council asked for the following additional information:

- Millage rate levy for the Streets millage used in the projected revenues for the millage election
- Graph with percentages of the Streets millage projects/usage, 2009 to now, including a breakdown of dollars spent on patching, street repair, crack sealing, street lighting, etc. How was Act 51 money used over the years? How much was received each year?
- HRC report on asphalt road components including does this material last as long/longer
- List of which parking lots are included in the Capital Budget. Can CDBG money be used for Brys Park parking lot? Which lots can be paid for with CDBG money?
- Research hot press repair, grinding and capping cost for parking lots
- Research grant opportunities for permeable pavement for City parking lots and research grants available to fund this project

Road Millage Discussion (Cont'd):

Points raised were that the parking lots should come out of the General Fund and in the Capital projects of those facilities. The Streets millage should be used just for streets as the street light expense is currently included in the millage.

There was not a consensus on the ballot language whether or not to include the City parking lots, nor on what millage rate for the ballot.

A language decision has to be adopted at the March 18th meeting to allow for the 30-day review time period for the Governor and Attorney General approval of the charter amendment language and placement on the August 6, 2019 City Primary Election Ballot.

Mr. Smith noted we cannot do more of the roads without an increase. Including verbiage in the millage gives us the tool to do this. If we do not include parking lot wording, we would not be able to use these millage funds the 5-year length of the millage.

Mayor Walby noted that it costs one million dollars per mile of road.

The City Attorney will draft Ballot Proposal Language for the March 18, 2019 agenda for the Streets millage with wording to include 3 millage rate options 1.25, 1.5 and 1.75 and to include/not include city parking lot repairs/replacements.

b. Police and Fire Millage Renewal

Mr. Smith noted he would obtain Letters of Understanding from the Police and Fire Department unions on the amount for staffing levels.

The City Attorney was directed to also prepare Ballot Proposal Language for the March 18, 2019 agenda for the Police and Fire Millage Renewal for placement on the August 6, 2019 City Primary Election Ballot.

4. PARKS AND RECREATION UPDATE

a. Kyte Monroe Irrigation

Mr. Gambill gave an update on the bids for this project which came in at \$132,000. This would automate irrigation and include ball fields 2 & 3. He asked for direction from Council on their desire to do this project.

The consensus was to proceed in April and provide answers to questions regarding the new system life expectancy, the warranty, is it pex line or black line and consideration of possibly funding part of this project from the remainder of the \$1 HUD program, or should those funds be used for the neighborhood playground replacement program.

b. Batting Cages

Mr. Bowman said he had reservations on this project as no one is building outdoor batting cages. Most are now indoor battling cages. In his talks with the baseball association, there is a commitment to use the cages a certain amount of time. They are not committing any money to this project but will encourage use of it. The cost estimate to replace the batting cages at Kyte Monroe Park is \$60,000.

There was consensus to direct staff to bid out this replacement project.

c. Arena Rates

Mr. Bowman indicated that currently we are not filling all of our time slots. He has just started working on filling these slots with birthday parties, Knocker ball leagues and other events. His recommendation is to hold off on a rate increase until we can make more improvements to the arenas.

He is working on marketing Parks & Recreation and what there is to do within our City such as programs like Fish with First Responder.

d. DNR Grant Project Brys Park Restrooms

Mr. Gambill spoke regarding grant applications that we would be submitting again for Bris Park which we did not receive last year. The Land and Water Grant has a 50% match noting it is less competitive due to the amount of the City match.

At the March 4th Council meeting, we will be asking City Council to set a public hearing at the March 18, 2019 Council meeting for the Land and Water Conservation Grant applications.

Council consensus was to apply for both DNR Grant opportunities for this project.

e. Playground Equipment at Neighborhood City Parks

Mr. Bowman showed equipment replacement options. It was noted Welch Park and Frederick Park need to be done immediately.

The City Attorney was directed to review the Frederick Park South Lake School Agreement regarding this replacement equipment prior to this item being on the April 15th Council Meeting.

Mr. Bowman will obtain playground replacement equipment vendor confirmation on the availability of replacement/repair parts for a number of years as the recommendation is for themed equipment at the parks.

f. Water Tower at Golf Course

This item bid specifications will include two options, to paint and to tear down.

5. MATERIAL STORAGE BUILDING FOR DPW

Mr. Babcock provided salt storage tonnage comparables. All surveyed have six more times the storage capabilities of St. Clair Shores. We cannot salt residential streets without more salt storage on hand.

Mr. Babcock noted eliminating the door and shorting part of the driveway would bring the cost down to \$500,000. The new trucks are keeping the roads clear. Prior to this, we had 7 plows and 2 salt trucks, and we did gang plowing and salting. Now we are out there addressing the roads during the storms. We could do a better job with more salt storage capacity.

There was consensus that we need to have more salt available so the residential streets and intersections can be addressed, but they were not happy with the amount of this proposal.

Discussion included using a temporary structure with a plastic roofing (which is not allowed by ordinance), building lease options, a building double the capacity of storage currently, salt delivery contract enforcement, reorganization of the DPW yard to use existing bays for salt over that season and a less expensive building.

Direction was given to provide Council with follow-up options in this fiscal year for the Material Storage Building to include: a) Cost to build another dome the same size as our current one, b) New plan with building cost to range from \$250,000 - \$375,000, c) Rearrange the DPW yard and use existing soil bins with plastic roof, and d) Leasing salt dome options within the city/neighborhood community. Also, draft a salt dome ordinance to allow a plastic roof on the salt dome that does not back up to residential homes to allow temporary salt domes.

6. 9 MACK GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT – SOGL GRANT

Mr. Gambill noted that we have been invited back to submit a proposal. The City match would be 50%. This item will be placed on the April 1, 2019 agenda.

Council asked for additional information on the estimated cost savings projections, who received a grant last year in the metro Detroit area, and if we do this project, can we correct the brick paver issues with the current special assessment district.

7. VAPING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

Mr. Smith noted we received letters of support from all three school districts. The City Attorney was directed to draft ordinance language.

8. TIFA UPDATE – BATH HOUSE

This item is out for bid by TIFA. The project site plan approval will be on the Planning Commission agenda and City Council agenda within the month. HRC is working on the permits with Army Corp and DEQ Coast Guard for all the work so the permits are in hand when the project is ready to proceed.

9. BUILDING MATERIALS AND COLOR

Direction was given to the Committee on Building Materials and Color to come to Council with recommendations regarding what colors, is a permit required, who makes the decision and is there an appeal process, if so to what body.

10. MURAL DISTRICT ORDINANCE

Mr. Smith said that we provided three different ordinances including San Francisco, Oshkosh and Miami.

Discussion included would we allow advertising on the mural, removal artist panes and how many would be allowed in the City. It was noted that we cannot regulate the contents.

City Council members will review the Mural District Ordinance samples and provide the City Manager with feedback within 30 days. Feedback should include if they are in favor of a mural ordinance, and if YES, what should and should not be included in ordinance language? Ex. 15% advertising allowed, lottery, certain materials only.

11. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (5 MINUTE TIME LIMIT)

Erin Stahl asked for equal time to inform residents regarding the Police and Fire Millage ballot proposal and reminded the City not to violate election laws by talking about the millage.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Council Member Frederick, supported by Council Member Caron to adjourn at 11:33 a.m.

Ayes: All – 7

KIP C. WALBY, MAYOR

MARY A. KOTOWSKI, CITY CLERK

(THE PRECEDING MINUTES ARE A SYNOPSIS OF A CITY COUNCIL MEETING AND DO NOT REPRESENT A VERBATIM RECORD).