

CITY OF ST. JOHNS

CITY COMMISSION MINUTES

FEBRUARY 5, 2024

The special meeting of the St. Johns City Commission was called to order by Mayor Dzurka at 5:00 p.m. at the Clinton County Courthouse, 100 East State Street, 2nd Floor, Suite #2200, St. Johns, Michigan.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Eric Hufnagel, Brad Gurski, Scott Dzurka, Chris Hyzer

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Jean Ruestman

STAFF PRESENT: Chad Gamble, City Manager; Kristina Kinde, City Treasurer; Mindy J. Seavey, City Clerk; Justin Smith, Director of Public Services; David Kirk, Police Chief; Bill Schafer, Recreation Director; Jeremy Ritter, DPW Supervisor; Jordan Whitford, Fire Chief & Wastewater Supervisor; Calvin Galecka, Water Supervisor

Agenda

Mayor Dzurka asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda.

Motion by Commissioner Hyzer seconded by Commissioner Hufnagel that the city commission approve the agenda as presented.

YEA: Hufnagel, Gurski, Dzurka, Hyzer

NAY: None

Motion carried.

Public Comments

Mayor Dzurka asked if there were any public comments.

There were none.

Welcome, Meeting Overview

City Manager Gamble said this meeting would be best in September/October before our next budget process. He said we will be referring to the strategic plan.

Brief Review of 2020 City Master Plan & 2023/2024 City Action Plan

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City Manager Gamble said this is the next step in a multi-step process. He discussed 2020 Master Plan; 23/24 City Action Plan; and went through the status of the action plan items.

Mayor Dzurka said he appreciated the strategic plan update and flow. We have so many assets, what do we need to do. He discussed the strategic plan.

Presentation of FY 24/25 Draft Department Strategic Purchase Objectives

a. Police Department – Chief David Kirk

Chief Kirk discussed core priority; most valuable assets of staff/employees; community engagement; facility, work in progress; locker room update; parking enhancements; evidence storage; security – doors; parking lot re-painting; additional parking; and mural additions to lobby.

b. Parks and Recreation Supervisor – Bill Schafer

Director Schafer discussed city master plan and parks and recreation master plan; performance shell; park house; depot floor improvements; doors/windows of the depot; ADA drinking fountains in the park; ground spray features in the spray park; and adding irrigation to the softball field.

c. Public Services Department – Supervisor Jeremy Ritter

Supervisor Ritter discussed replacement of dump truck #81; hoist power unit; replacement of dump truck #78; mapping and televising of storm water system; and public works building design.

d. Wastewater Division – Supervisor Jordan Whitford

Supervisor Whitford discussed RBC train #1 replacement; cured in place lining of sanitary sewer; truck #147 replacement; overhead door replacement; replacement of two RBC pillow blocks; sludge transfer pump replacement; boiler and blower building roof replacement; SCADA system improvements; lift station PLC improvements; Townsend Road service area flow monitoring; and pump building heat pump replacement.

e. Fire Department – Chief Jordan Whitford

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Fire Chief Whitford discussed new SCBA's (self-contained breathing apparatus); and new cascade bottles.

f. Water Division – Supervisor Calvin Galecka

Supervisor Galecka discussed new main power pole and meters at the water plant; replace driveways at wells #2, #7 & #8; new service truck; installation of new 8" water main on Cass Street; installation of AMR, AMI meter readers; upgrades to the SCADA system; water main installation CIS Trail to Searles Estate; and lead and copper service line replacement.

Director Smith discussed lead and copper lines; 4" water main replacement and EGLE.

Presentation of Proposed Strategic Opportunities and Targets in FY 24/25

City Manager Gamble commended the team. He discussed strategic considerations: downtown investment, Brush Street; Fantasy Forest 2.0; cash funding of as many projects as we can; investment in our most valuable assets – our employees; strategic considerations FY 25/26 through FY 29/30; RBC; succession planning; DPW facility; M-21 reconstruction project; Inflow & infiltration removal plan; and street millage.

Breakout Sessions of Commissioners with Individual Department and Divisions

4 breakout sessions were set for commissioners to go from table to table for more details with the individual departments.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Hufnagel said this was a great set up for us. He said he loved the opportunity to engage one-on-one. He said it was very helpful and he appreciated the format. He said the information presented was very helpful and there was good dialog.

Commissioner Hyzer said it was nice to get to talk to those that he doesn't see and get to hear what they go through on a daily basis.

Commissioner Gurski said he appreciated the interaction and candid conversations with staff.

Mayor Dzurka said he appreciated the round robin atmosphere; the forethought you brought; culture and environment. Kudos to the team, great format.

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Wrap Up and Next Steps

City Manager Gamble thanked everyone. He gave a reminder of the next steps: February 15th Personnel Advisory Committee; joint Planning Commission/City Commission public hearing February 26th at 4 pm; April 9th Finance Advisory Committee; April 22nd formal presentation; and May 20th public hearing and adoption.

Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Hyzer seconded by Commissioner Gurski that the meeting be adjourned.

YEA: Hufnagel, Gurski, Dzurka, Hyzer

NAY: None

Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m.