

CITY OF ST. JOHNS
CITY COMMISSION MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
DECEMBER 9, 2024

The special meeting of the St. Johns City Commission was called to order by Mayor Dzurka at 4:34 p.m. at the Clinton County Courthouse, 100 East State Street, 2nd Floor, Suite #2200, St. Johns, Michigan.

CITY COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Eric Hufnagel (arrived at 4:35), Brad Gurski, Scott Dzurka, Chris Hyzer, Chris DeLiso
CITY COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None
STAFF PRESENT: Chad Gamble, City Manager; Mindy J. Seavey, City Clerk; Kristina Kinde, City Treasurer; Justin Smith, Director of Public Services; David Kirk, Police Chief

Motion by Commissioner Hyzer seconded by Commissioner Gurski to approve the agenda as presented.

YEA: Hufnagel, Gurski, Dzurka, Hyzer, DeLiso

NAY: None

Motion carried.

Presentation, Discussion and Adoption of Draft FY 25/26 Strategic Roadmap to Action Plan

City Manager Gamble discussed the draft Roadmap to Action Plan.

There was a discussion of:

- **Capital Budgeting and Strategic Planning**

The discussion focused on the approach to capital budgeting, differentiating between maintenance-based and capacity-based improvements. The importance of integrating these into the strategic plan or budget process was debated, with emphasis on the need for a clear roadmap and prioritization of objectives.

- **Funding and Financial Strategy**

The conversation addressed potential funding strategies, including the impact of millage failures and the need for long-term financial planning. The discussion

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highlighted the importance of understanding the financial base and potential costs associated with opportunities.

- **Prioritization of Needs vs. Wants**

Participants discussed the challenge of distinguishing between needs and wants in capital projects. The need for a clear understanding of current capital costs and potential worst-case scenarios was emphasized to guide prioritization.

- **Opportunities and Cost Assessment**

The meeting explored the idea of assessing opportunities based on potential costs and benefits. The importance of considering grants and developer interest in projects was noted, along with the need for a strategic approach to prioritization.

- **Quality Core Service Definition**

The discussion touched on the need to define quality core services, especially when adding new assets or services. The potential ripple effects on existing services and departments were considered, emphasizing the need for sustainable budgeting.

- **Master Planning and Budgeting**

The discussion focused on the importance of smart investments and sustainable planning, emphasizing the need for a master plan rather than just a roadmap to action. The conversation highlighted the necessity of defining quality core services and the challenges of creating a cohesive city vision.

- **Intergovernmental Partnerships**

The meeting addressed the need to prioritize partnerships with various townships and agencies, including fire service agreements and other intergovernmental relationships. The discussion also considered broadening the focus to include multiple units of government.

- **Budgeting and Financial Planning**

The conversation covered the importance of planning for ongoing expenses and maintenance costs when making new investments. The need for a financial strategy to ensure long-term sustainability was emphasized.

- **Pension and Liability Costs**

There was a discussion about understanding pension liabilities and the interest associated with them. The need to clarify the financial implications of these liabilities was highlighted.

Motion by Commissioner Gurski seconded by Commissioner DeLiso that the city commission adopt the 2025/26 Roadmap to Action as amended.

YEA: Hufnagel, Gurski, Dzurka, Hyzer, DeLiso

NAY: None

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Motion carried.

Public Comments

Mayor Dzurka asked if there were any public comments.

There were none.

Adjournment

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

YEA: Hufnagel, Gurski, Dzurka, Hyzer, DeLiso

NAY: None

Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:23 p.m.