

CITY OF ST. MARYS, GEORGIA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
February 25, 2008
6:00 P.M.

AGENDA

- I. **CALL TO ORDER**
- II. **INVOCATION:** *Councilmember Deborah Hase*
- III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- IV. **ROLL CALL** **QUORUM: YES** ___ **NO** ___
- V. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** *February 11, 2008 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes*
February 11, 2008 Water/Sewer Committee Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2008 Property Committee Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2008 Public Safety-Police Committee Meeting Minutes

PRESENTATION:

The Haskell Company

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

- VI. **GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC:**
- VII. **OLD BUSINESS:** *None*
- VIII. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - A. **BUDGET ORDINANCE:** *Legislative Laptops (Postponed from 2/11/08)..TAB "A"*
 - B. **ORDINANCE AMENDMENT:** *Construction Fees.....TAB "B"*
 - C. **IMMIGRATION COMPLIANCE ACT:**.....TAB "C"
Department of Homeland Security M.O.U.
 - D. **LANDMAR M.O.U:** *Railroad Building Discussion*
 - E. **RESOLUTION:** *Employee Suggestion Program.....TAB "D"*
 - F. **CABLE FRANCHISE FEE:** *Finance Committee Review.....TAB "E"*
 - G. **ORDINANCE:** *Fats, Oil and Grease.....TAB "F"*
 - H. **PT. PETER WWTP 4.0 MGD EXPANSION PROJECT:**.....TAB "G"
Contractor Selection
 - I. **PROJECT RESOLUTION:** *St. Marys Public Works Equipment Shed.....TAB "H"*
- IX. **REPORT OF AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES:**
 - A. **APPOINTMENTS**
 - 1. **Camden County Board of Education Sex Education Instructional Materials Review Committee: Two seats**

2. **Senior Department Advisory Committee:**.....TAB "I"
Five seats plus one Council seat

3. **Library Board:** One seat.....TAB "J"

4. **Tree Board:** One seat.....TAB "K"

B. PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT

1. Downtown Multi-Media Center

C. PUBLIC SAFETY-POLICE COMMITTEE REPORT

1. Towing Ordinance Amendment:.....TAB "L"

X. REPORT OF MAYOR:

XI REPORT OF CITY MANAGER:

XII. GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION: *Personnel & Legal*

XIV. ADJOURNMENT:

Minutes

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
February 11, 2008
6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

The Mayor and City Council for the City of St. Marys, Georgia met for its regular City Council session on Monday, February 11, 2008 in the Council Chamber at City Hall.

PRESENT WERE: Mayor Rowland Eskridge
Councilmember Greg Bird
Councilmember William DeLoughy
Councilmember Deborah Hase
Councilmember Larry Johnson
Councilmember Chuck Trader
Councilmember Gull Weaver

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT: William Shanahan, City Manager
Max Tinsley, Asst. City Manager
Amanda Blackledge, City Attorney
Roger Weaver, Planning Director
Wiley King, Building Director
Tim Hatch, Police Chief
Bobby Marr, Public Works Director
Robby Horton, Fire Chief
Jennifer Brown, Finance Director
Kim Dockery, Jr. Accountant
Janet Brinko, Tourism Director
Jane Drake, Aquatic Center Director
Gene Rudy, IT Director
Lt. Roger Wooten, Sergeant-At-Arms

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Eskridge called the City Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Assistant City Manager Max Tinsley gave the invocation. Mayor Eskridge led the audience in the pledge of allegiance. Council roll call indicated a quorum of council members present for the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

January 14, 2008 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2008 City Council Organizational Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2008 First Quarter Town Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2008 Newly Elected Officials' Oath of Office

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Councilmember Hase noted a correction on page 12 of the City Council meeting minutes by changing the word '*county to country*'. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

January 14, 2008 Alcohol License Public Hearing Minutes

Councilmember DeLoughy made a motion to approve the Alcohol License Public Hearing minutes as presented. Councilmember Weaver seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

January 31, 2008 Property Committee Meeting Minutes

Councilmember DeLoughy made a motion to approve the Property Committee meeting minutes as presented. Councilmember Bird seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

January 31, 2008 Public Safety-Police Committee Meeting Minutes

Councilmember DeLoughy made a motion to approve the Public Safety-Police Committee meeting minutes as presented. Councilmember Weaver seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

PRESENTATION:

AUDITOR'S REPORT

Meredith Lipson, Mauldin & Jenkins Certified Public Accountants, LLC

Ms. Lipson commended the finance staff for an exceptional job during the June 30, 2007 audit and for not having any reportable conditions or findings. She stated that the financial statements are the responsibility of management and the Management Discussion Analysis is the most important section to read because it gives a summary of the year and explains how the financial statements work. She further stated that the General Fund has the majority of revenues with a surplus of \$6,500,000 from June 30 through the end of the year and monthly outlays totaling approximately \$907,000 making the City strong financially.

Councilmember DeLoughy commented that the fund balance should have at least 6-months cash on-hand.

ARBOR DAY PROCLAMATION

Mayor Eskridge read a proclamation to proclaim the fourth Friday in April as "*Arbor Day*" and urged St. Marys' citizens to plant trees to gladden the heart and well being of future generations.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Finance Director presented the 5th & 6th month report for the General, Water/Sewer and Solid Waste Funds. A copy of the report is attached as part of the minutes.

ST. MARYS SUBMARINE MUSEUM REPORT

Bill Carreira, President of the Board of Directors for the St. Marys Submarine Museum expressed his gratitude to the City for the continued use of the building. Mr. Carreira gave an overview of the museum's displays, WWII report collection and major shipboard equipment. To date the museum served approximately 125,000 visitors. In the past two years, since opening, they exceeded \$100,000 in income. The extra funds made it possible to hire an additional person to assist with cataloging artifacts. Last year, rack cards were placed in all of the Georgia State welcome centers. The museum also began advertising in various national and international tourist's publications, submarine veteran magazines and newsletters. A documentary was produced by Georgia Public Broadcasting that interviewed two local WWII submarine veterans along with five other museums in the State. The National Organization of WWII Submarine Veterans placed their organizations official records into the museum's permanent storage. The museum supports local Navy commands by hosting formal events, reenlistments, retirements, reunions, the annual WWII Submarine Veterans Memorial Service and the National Submarine Veterans District 4/6 meeting. St Marys Submarine Museum Manager John Crouse attends the WWII convention, southern regional meetings and other events in the country where he is successful in advertising the

MINUTES

City Council Mtg.

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museum and St. Marys. Mr. Carreira and Mr. Crouse addressed the continued flooding problem behind the museum, general maintenance of the building and not providing enough event coordinators at major events to handle problems, especially after the Mardi Gras when the museum entrance was blocked by trailers and animals.

Mayor Eskridge questioned whether a retaining wall could be installed to divert the water. The Public Works Director stated that since the museum is located in the interior of the block, there is not a place to send the water but it is in the City's Master Plan for a solution.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the amended agenda as presented. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC:

Tom Turner, resident thanked Council and Public Works Department for starting the installation of the Palmetto Street sidewalk.

Cookie Johnson, resident expressed her gratitude for the St. Marys Aquatic Center but was concerned about a rate increase and suggested no increase for St. Marys citizens with identification.

Candy DeLoughy, resident suggested activating the metal detector in the Council Chamber due to the shooting incident at a council meeting in Missouri.

Dave Schmitz, resident addressed Council regarding the new traffic lights, extra services through Comcast, another auto parts store coming to St. Marys instead of a restaurant or hotel and the new waste disposal company not measuring up to the City's service.

The City Manager stated that the light at Cisco's is up and will be flashing for three to four weeks until citizens get accustomed to its operation.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT: *City Attorney Expenses*

The City Manager recommended approval to transfer the required funds into the executive department's budget to cover the operational costs of the City Attorney. Since this year's budget was passed, the executive department has increased by two personnel, the City Attorney and the Legal Assistant. Transferring these funds into the executive budget will fund these positions for the remainder of this fiscal year.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the budget ordinance amendment for the City Attorney's expenses. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Councilmember's discussed the high costs of telephones, cell phones and/or blackberrys and getting the best deals on telephone packages. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. ST. MARYS AQUATIC CENTER: *Rate Changes*

The City Manager recommended approval of the rate changes to generate additional revenue for the minimum wages increases and the expiration of warranties on equipment will increase the cost of maintenance for repairs. There has been only one other rate increase in the past 6 years

(50 cents across the board for general admission in the 2004 season.) These fees increase the general admissions, swim lessons (to compensate for additional fees charged us by the American Red Cross) as well as group and multiple day passes. Birthday party rates will also be affected. A fee schedule will be posted on the City's website.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the St. Marys Aquatic Center rate changes as presented. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. The Mayor and Council Members discussed the increases, a discount for St. Marys' residents, facility users paying the extra costs opposed to tax payers, competition with the community pool and group rates for special groups. Following much discussion, Councilmember Bird amended the motion to approve the budget as is and provide for a discount for our citizens, to be determined. Councilmember Hase seconded the amended motion. Voting was recorded as follows:

<u>YAY</u>	<u>NAY</u>
Councilmember Bird	Councilmember DeLoughy
Councilmember Hase	Councilmember Trader
Councilmember Johnson	Councilmember Weaver

Mayor Eskridge stated that he is not going to vote either way because the motion and amendment should be taken to a study committee. Councilmember Hase called a point of order and questioned the Parliamentarian (City Attorney) whether the Mayor had to vote or not. The City Attorney responded that the Mayor did not have to vote. Mayor Eskridge stated that he votes against the amendment. The City Attorney further stated that since it is a tied vote, an abstention means a yes vote or the Mayor could choose to vote no. Councilmember Hase stated that silence constitutes an affirmative vote not an abstention. The City Attorney stated that abstaining is considered an affirmative vote. Following much discussion, Mayor Eskridge stated that he will abstain, go ahead and pass it.

ABSTAIN
Mayor Eskridge

B. BUDGET ORDINANCE: *Legislative Laptops*

The City Manager recommended postponement to the next Council meeting due to the vendors back order.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to postpone the ordinance until the next meeting. Councilmember Hase seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

C. QUITCLAIM DEED: *Transfer Pt. Peter Substation to Georgia Transmission Corporation*

The City Manager stated that Council approval is needed to transfer and sign a quitclaim deed for the Pt. Peter Substation to the Georgia Transmission Corporation, which is Okefenokee. On October 22, 2007, Council approved a friendly condemnation proceeding pursuant to a condemnation action instituted by Georgia Transmission Corporation in the Superior Court of Camden County for land that has been commonly referred to as the Point Peter Substation property. A Special Master Hearing was held on December 17, 2007, and the Superior Court entered a Judgment vesting title in the property to the Georgia Transmission Corporation subject to payment of \$99,000. The funds are currently being held in trust by the Clerk of Camden County Superior Court. The City Manager recommended approval.

Councilmember Johnson made a motion to complete a quitclaim deed transfer of Pt. Peter Substation to Georgia Transmission Corporation. Councilmember Weaver seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

D. CORRECTIVE RESOLUTION: City Property to Paulk & Peterman Parties

The City Manager recommended approval to rescind a resolution that incorrectly conveyed an abandoned alleyway to Paulk & Peterman parties. On September 24, 2007, the City created a resolution to abandon an alleyway and a resolution to convey the property to abutting property owners Robert Paulk and James and Susan Peterman. The parties' names were not listed correctly. Although this alteration can be done by a simple motion by Council, a written resolution is preferred, as this deals with property rights.

Councilmember Hase made a motion to approve the corrective resolution for City property to the Paulk & Peterman parties. Councilmember Bird seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

E. BUDGET ORDINANCE: Police Department Vehicle

The City Manager recommended approval of a budget ordinance for the purchase of a new vehicle. This ordinance is a direct response to approval granted by the Mayor and Council at the last council meeting to move \$3,459.90 from small equipment in order to purchase another Ford Escape, to be assigned to a detective.

Councilmember Weaver made a motion to approve the budget ordinance for the police department vehicle. Councilmember DeLoughy seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

F. GIS AGREEMENT AMENDMENT: Valdosta State

The City Manager recommended approval to extend the Valdosta State GIS training contract completion date to permit more time between the course and a follow-up refresher meeting. The follow up refresher segment of the GIS course was to be held on January 11, 2008. Due to multiple requests by the participants that there was not enough 'homework' time between the completion of the course on December 14, 2007 and the January 11, 2008 GIS refresher due to the holidays, an extension was suggested. There is no additional cost to the City for the date extension.

Councilmember Johnson made a motion to approve the GIS Agreement amendment with Valdosta State. Councilmember Trader seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.

G. ST MARYS AQUATIC CENTER CONCESSION STAND EXPANSION PROJECT

The City Manager recommended approval of the project resolution for the Concession Stand Expansion Project at the St. Marys Aquatic Center. Currently, the existing concession stand is limited in space. With the expanding usage of the Aquatic Center it has become necessary to expand the concession stand area to better serve the patrons. This would give the City Manager permission to get the bids and put everything together for the Mayor and Council.

Councilmember DeLoughy made a motion to approve the St. Marys Aquatic Center Concession Stand Expansion Project. Councilmember Johnson seconded the motion. Council Members disagreed with the project resolution authorizing entering into a contract without numbers.

