

October 4, 2022 Agenda

October Council Meeting

Call To Order

Roll Call

(Mayor Tomko is absent due to being hospitalized.)

Please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and remain standing for the Council Prayer.

Copies of the minutes of the previous council meetings have been given to borough council members and Mayor Tomko, are there any errors or corrections? If not, they stand approved.

Public Comment

Mayor's Report

1. Motorists are urged to be extra careful on the streets of our borough on the evening of October 31st as that is when Halloweeners will be trick or treating.
2. Residents are advised that the "new" Covid 19 vaccine booster is available.
3. Residents are reminded to consider getting their yearly flu shot as many health authorities are predicting an active flu season.
4. As municipal budget preparation time nears, Borough Council is advised to view the process through the lens of long-term benefits to the people of St. Clair by creating a full time Code Enforcement Officer position in order to fully and timely implement the borough's Code Enforcement Ordinance. In doing so, the Council would take a major step to insure the long-term property values and quality of life for the citizens of St. Clair.

Historical Note – October 2022

The Eagle Colliery or later the Herbine was started in 1826 by Frederick Hass who operated it until 1832. Thomas and William Johns operated it from 1844 until 1867. They were succeeded by George W. Johns & Brother from 1867 until 1882. The operation was then taken over by the Pennsylvania and Reading Coal

and Iron Corporation from 1882 until 1889. From 1889 until 1954 it was leased to the St. Clair Coal Company which was owned and operated by various individuals during that time span. From 1826 until 1934 this operation produced approximately 12,000,000 tons of coal and employed up to 800 individuals at one time. This site is now the Coal Creek Commercial Center. The port of St. Clair known as John's Patch takes its name from the Johns family who owned the colliery from 1844 until 1882.

P R O C L A M A T I O N

By Mayor Richard E. Tomko

WHEREAS, In November 2022, the St. Michael Orthodox Church of St. Clair will celebrate the 125th anniversary of its founding; and

WHEREAS, The parishioners of St. Michael Orthodox Church have contributed to the religious, social, economic, and political development of the Borough of St. Clair for 125 years; and

WHEREAS, The sons and daughters of St. Michael Orthodox Church have served the United States of America with honor and bravery on battlefields throughout the world in our national struggles against evil and tyranny for 125 years; and

WHEREAS, The parishioners of St. Michael Church have perpetuated and shared with our community the noble history and heritage of their Eastern European ancestors thereby enriching our community for 125 years; and

WHEREAS, The Borough Council, Borough officials, and the people of the Borough of St. Clair wish to congratulate St. Michael Church on the occasion of its 125th anniversary and pay tribute to the thousands of parishioners who have contributed to the life of the Borough of St. Clair for 125 years;

NOW, Therefore, I do hereby proclaim, on this day the 1st day of October, 2022, that the month of November, 2022 be "St. Michael Orthodox Church Month" in the Borough of St. Clair.

On behalf of Mayor Tomko, copies of the Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) Pension fund obligations are being presented to Borough Council for preparation of the 2023 budget.

Solicitor's Report

Update on the Hinchey issue and the conservatorship properties.

Discuss proposed solar panel ordinance.

Update on Comcast project.

Request an executive session to discuss personnel and litigation issues.

Engineer's Report

Council will be adopting a resolution for the DCNR grant – due Oct 27

Benesch will be submitting a grant application for police equipment – due Oct 13

There is also COVID-19 ARPA funding available for storm water projects (as well as drinking water and sanitary sewer) – due Dec 21

Departmental Reports

Street Department Report

Electric Light Department

Treasurer's Report

Tax Collector's Report – Taxes collected up to August 31, 2022

Real Estate - \$1155.25

Per Capita - \$66.00

Occupational - \$18.48

TOTAL - \$1,239.73

Submitted by William Umbenhaur, Tax Collector

Police Department

Zoning Officer's Report

Fire Chief's Report

Code Official Report

COMMUNICATIONS

Dear Council Members,

On behalf of the St. Clair Women's Club and Rescue Hook and Ladder Fire Company, we are requesting the use of the Gazebo in Boone Park and the area on 4th Street behind the Municipal

Building for the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on Saturday, December 3 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. We would like to do something a little different this year with the conjunction of both organizations. This year it would be more of a Christmas Festival with food trucks and appearance of Santa Claus arriving on the Rescue Hook and Ladder – ladder truck. We had also requested the local schools to sing carols during the festival and other entertainment from various organizations.

Another thought, if approved by Council, would be a few burn barrels set on bricks with a grate over top that would be managed by a fireman at each barrel.

We are still waiting for replies from the various organizations to commit to the festivities, so we not have an accurate plan of the whole picture. The food trucks have committed and they include: macaroni & cheese, pulled pork, pizza, French fries, funnel cakes and hot chocolate. The girl scouts will run an Arts & Crafts stand for kids to do some sort of craft. And we are hoping to get either horse and buggy rides or a trolley with Santa to ride thru town, but that has not been finalized.

Finally, the Rescue Hook & Ladder Company will provide a certificate of insurance for the event.

Respectfully,

Mrs. Michele Price
St. Clair Women's Club

Old Business

New Business

Accept a motion to conditionally offer employment to Mary Weiser for the position of a substitute school crossing guard pending her passing all the necessary clearances.

Council President William Dempsey names himself, Tony Klazas, and Judy Stednitz-Julian, as representatives to the 2022 Fire Convention at a date to be announced.

Accept a motion to request the St. Clair Civil Service Commission to conduct testing to create an eligibility list.

Council President Dempsey would like to remind Council that Budget Work Sessions will be Tuesday, October 25 and Wednesday, October 26, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Executive Session.

Accept a motion to pay all Bills and Claims properly approved by council.

Accept a motion to adjourn.