

March 5, 2024 Agenda

March Council Meeting

Call To Order

Roll Call

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

Copies of the minutes of the previous council meeting 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. Many thanks are extended to borough officials, borough employees, borough fire companies and the St. Clair Area School District for acting in unison to provide shelters for our residents during the electric power disruption caused by a snowstorm last month. Thankfully, the power was restored before nightfall, but the fact remains that our borough was ready to contend with a far more dangerous situation; had it occurred, thereby fulfilling our most basic responsibilities to our residents.

A special thank you is extended to Electric Light Department Superintendent Robert Petrozino and his crew for their diligence during the outage and for Bob's near constant communication with P.P. & L. reminding them of our position on the priority list for restoration of electricity.

2. I recommend that letters of thanks should be sent to the St. Clair Area School District, the West End Fire Company and the Phoenix Fire Company for providing potential shelters for our residents during the electric power outage.
3. This month marks the beginning of the third year of the illegal Russian war against Ukraine. Let us keep Ukraine and her people in our prayers as they sacrifice more than we can imagine to battle against the forces of authoritarian and totalitarian tyranny.

4. On behalf of myself, the Borough Council and the Borough Officials and employees, I take this opportunity to wish our residents a very Happy and Blessed Easter Season.

Historical Note

In 1829, the Mill Creek Railroad was built from Port Carbon to the southern limits of the Borough of St. Clair. In 1845, the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad extended their tracks through St. Clair.

It was evident in those early years that St. Clair was destined to become a great coal center for the Southern Anthracite Field of Pennsylvania.

In 1913, therefore, the largest classified coal yards in the world were built in the area of St. Clair on the site of a large swamp, the present-day St. Clair Industrial Complex on our southern border in East Norwegian Township. The St. Clair Coal Yards had a capacity in 1934 of 2,010 railroad cars and a track mileage of 46.26 miles. The coal yards contained 35 tracks for coal trains, 28 tracks for car repair work and 4 main line tracks.

St. Clair was also afforded service by the Pennsylvania Railroad starting in 1887.

Solicitor's Report

- Update on conservatorships.
- Request an executive session for proposed ordinances and pending litigation.

Engineer's Report

- Consider Potential Grant Opportunities

Departmental Reports

Street Department Report

Electric Light Department

Treasurer's Report

Police Department

Zoning Officer's Report

Fire Chief's Report

Code Official Report

COMMUNICATIONS

A letter was received by the Civil Service Commission reviewing its Biennial Organization meeting held on February 5, 2024. In summary:

6/10/22-Borough requests extension of eligibility list of 2/19/21.

7/1/22-Commission agrees.

10/5/22-Begin process to create new patrolman eligibility list.

1/30/23-Process completed.

5/3/23-Begin process to create new patrolman eligibility list.

8/1/23-Process completed.

Receipts:

4 Applications @\$75.00....\$300.00

Expenses:

Police Officer 2022

3 tests/Study Guide/Administration Guide	\$ 81.50
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Publication	\$ 764.24
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Postage	\$ 27.90
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Police Officer 2023

1 test/Administrative Guide	\$ 32.50
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Publication	\$1,380.64
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Postage	\$ 9.65
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Sergeant Exam 2023

1 Test/Study Guide/Administrative Guide/Shipping	\$ 142.00
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Publication	\$ 90.04
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Postage	\$ 8.56
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TOTAL	\$ 2,537.03
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February 10, 2024

Dear Mr. Price:

I would ask that the following letter be shared with the Borough Council during the next regular session.

On morning of 2/7/2024, the Saint Clair Department of Streets closed down Ann Street to repair potholes for approximately a two-hour window of time. During this period of time, traffic was prohibited from entering Ann Street from Route 61 or from the Fairlane

Village Mall, which completely blocked off access to my business. My employees were prevented from getting to work on time and customers were prevented from accessing my business. The entire street was also closed off from the Fairlane Village Mall Entrance and the Route 61 entrance when Auto Zone was under construction.

I was notified in advance that this work was being done, despite that fact that it was apparently planned, in advance. It is very challenging keep a retail business afloat with the pressures of the "big box" stores and online shopping and it disheartening that the Saint Clair Department of Streets fails to realize the impact their actions.

On the morning of 2/7/24, six borough employees were onsite performing this work. In the future, I respectfully request that Borough of Streets keep one lane open while performing work on Ann Street. If there are six employees on a crew and police support, there is absolutely no reason why two employees can't be posted at either entrance with stop signs to allow for single lane traffic. You would not have closed down the road leading in to Walmart. I ask that you give the same level of respect for my business that you would for a large corporation.

Sincerely,
Donna Boyd
Owner
Peace Frog Natural Foods
49 Ann Street
Pottsville, PA 17901

Dear Friends:

On Saturday, March, 30, 2024 the St. Clair Fish and Game will sponsor its 43rd Annual Easter Egg Hunt at 1:00 p.m.

Each year the major goal of our club is to make this event as exciting as possible for our children. To make this Saturday afternoon special, it takes manpower and monetary donations.

Since the origin of the egg hunt, in 1979, many businesses and organizations have joined our efforts to make this a fun-filled day for the youth of our community.

We would like to extend a special "thank you" to those who have donated in past years and ask that you join as again this year. If you haven't donated before, we ask that you consider becoming part of our team. Your donation will be a great help to us and the children of our area.

Kindly send your donation by March 16th to:

St. Clair Fish and Game
Easter Egg Hunt Committee
PO Box 125
St. Clair, PA 17970

Thank you for your participation and continued support.

Sincerely,

Richard M. Garland, Bill Johnson, James Tohill, Barb Conville, Gary Arner, Brittany Prutzman, Ray Gipe and Tony Petrozino

3/2/2024

Eleanor Jamosky submitted a letter for council's review. It is made part of the packet by reference.

March 1, 2024

I would like to take this opportunity to commend and thank the department of streets on getting the fallen trees cleared so quickly after the last snow storm. The trees had fallen on Ann Street were cleared by early morning.

I also appreciate how quickly the St. Clair Light Company had power restored to the town after the same storm. Power was restored to the borough almost a full 24 hours before most other municipalities.

Please extend my sincere appreciation to Mr. Kevin Dempsey and his crew as well as the crew of the Saint Clair Light Company.

I believe it is just as important to provide praise for a job well done as it is to criticize.

Sincerely,
Shannon Brennan
Owner
Trio Spa & Salon, LLC
49 Ann Street, Unit 2
Pottsville, PA 17901

Old Business

Accept a motion to authorize the purchase of a new envelope inserting machine from Postage Pros Plus for \$8,872.50.

Review business/heavy user garbage rates.

The Council's Committee Listing was updated. William Dempsey replaced Thomas Adamchick on Committee Listing.

Discuss garbage dumpster at Everything Bagel.

New Business

Accept a motion to authorize Sharon Stednitz to attend a Benecon conference on April 4 – April 5 in Lancaster. The cost would be for travel and lodging.

Accept a motion to authorize a donation to the St. Clair Fish and Game Association for their 43rd annual Easter Egg Hunt.

Accept a motion to authorize the Borough Secretary to write letters of thanks to the St. Clair Area School District, the West End Fire Company and the Phoenix Fire Company for providing potential shelters for our residents during the electric power outage.

Discuss cutting tree down on the property of 113 East Hancock Street.

****NOTE – The next Work Session will be Tuesday, March 26 due to the Easter holiday.**

Executive Session.

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

Accept a motion to adjourn.