

**MINUTES**

**St. Clair Shores City Council Meeting  
Monday, December 5, 2011 7:00 p.m.**

City Hall 27600 Jefferson Circle Drive, St. Clair Shores MI 48081(586) 447-3303 [www.scsmi.net](http://www.scsmi.net)

Regular Meeting of the City Council held in the Council Chambers, located at 27600 Jefferson Circle Dr., St. Clair Shores, Michigan.

Present: Mayor Walby, Council Members Frederick, Rubino, Rusie, Tiseo and Vitale

Also Present: City Manager Hughes, City Clerk Kotowski, Directors Claeson, D'Herde, Haney, and City Attorney Ihrle

**1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Walby called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Kotowski, City Clerk, called the roll with a quorum present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

Mayor Walby announced Item #5, was removed and will be rescheduled.

**2. PRESENTATION BY EPA REPRESENTATIVES MOYNIHAN AND MCSEVENEY ON THE PCB ISSUE**

Mayor Walby announced that the EPA Representatives would give a short update on the PCB issue.

Colleen Moynihan, EPA Remedial Project Manager for the 10 Mile Drain Superfund Site, stated that there was an Open House scheduled for tomorrow, December 6<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. at the St. Clair Shores Public Library regarding the PCB issue. The open house will not be a formal presentation, but a time where they will be available to answer questions. The Michigan Department of Community Health will also be available for Q & A. They said they will continue to be accessible to the community regarding the 10 Mile Drain Superfund Site and will have a formal presentation early next year.

Megan McSeveney, EPA Community Development Coordinator, thanked the council for the invitation and said she is looking forward to working with them.

Mr. Hughes mentioned that post cards have been sent out and that this information is also on the web page, Facebook, scroll and cable TV. They have done their best to let residents know about the EPA Open House question and answer opportunity.

**3. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION ON AGENDA ITEMS (2 minute time limit)**

Ron Firchau, St. Clair Shores resident, on item 6. Mr. Firchau said that he feels that the candidate who came in fourth place during the November 8<sup>th</sup> election should fill the vacant council seat. He said that this will show no favoritism and show St. Clair Shores voters how valuable their vote is and said that City Council has the authority to do this.

Jim Goodfellow, St. Clair Shores resident, on items 6 and 8g. Mr. Goodfellow mentioned that he hopes that a background check will be conducted for anyone who has taken office for the last 3 - 5 years. In addition, they should take into account if they were late on the property tax payments, even if they were brought up-to-date. If they were late, points should be held against them. Council should also disclose if they have met candidates for the vacant council seat previously. In regards to item 8g, Mr. Goodfellow congratulated Bryan Babcock on his appointment as the Alternate Voting Delegate stating he is a good man and cares about the City.

Mayor Walby mentioned that Randy Pullin was going to speak in regards to Pearl Harbor and the St. Clair Shores Goodfellows.

Mr. Pullin thanked the generous citizens, businesses, Mayor and City Council for another successful Goodfellows newspaper sales. He mentioned that this will give a good Christmas to many people in St. Clair Shores.

**3. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION ON AGENDA ITEMS (2 minute time limit) (cont'd)**

Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. On December 7, 1941 at about 6 a.m., the Imperial Navy carried out a surprise strike at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii where 353 Japanese torpedo planes, fighters and bombers attacked Pearl Harbor which lasted about two hours. He said 2,402 Americans were killed, and 1,282 were wounded. Perpetrated by the Japanese government to prevent the U.S. Fleet from interfering on military action that Japan was planning in southeast Asia against territories of the Netherlands and United Kingdom, this attack was a blow to Americans and the entry into WWII. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt said that December 7, 1941 is a day that lives in infamy.

Thus began the deadliest military conflict in the world. Sixty million people were killed worldwide which equaled 2.5% of the world population at that time. Japan surrendered on September 5, 1945 and left 416,000 U.S. service men and women and over 418,500 Americans killed. On December 7, 2011 we remember Pearl Harbor Day and the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary attack as the greatest generation that won the great war. He asked that everyone remember Pearl Harbor and remember our heroes, and God Bless America.

Mayor Walby said we should never forget and mentioned that his father fought in WWII and that it is a dying generation. He also thanked those who worked hard to ensure the Goodfellows give a good Christmas to children.

**4. PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL AUDIT AND COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2011**

Mr. David Herrington, Plante Moran, said that the audit this year is 151 pages and the City, again, received an unqualified best opinion from their auditing firm. He indicated that the information in the audit is excellent and accurate and can be relied upon for council decision. The report is for the 17<sup>th</sup> year and the last 16 years the city has completed and submitted it to a governmental agency who reviews the report to see if it qualifies for the Certificate of Excellence. The City has received for those past 16 years a Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting and will qualify for the 17<sup>th</sup> year. He indicated that the narrative for the last 10 years may be dry, but has excellent history and used to go to the city's bonding agencies.

Ms. Lisa Manetta, Plante Moran, indicated that the focus was on the General Fund, which is the most significant operating fund of the City. She said Slide 1 shows a 3-year history of revenue in the General Fund broken down by various categories. Revenue of the City is constrained by reduction of taxable values. She indicated that the revenue decreased by 2% from 2009 – 2010 and 9% from 2010 – 2011. The main driver by far is Property Tax Revenue which decreased by 13.7% from the previous year, making up one half of the revenue into the General Fund. The remaining sources of revenue were consistent with previous years. State sources revenue, another significant source of revenue that's been challenged for many years, has remained flat.

Ms. Manetta noted revenue is made up largely on Property Tax Revenue which concentrates on operating millages, excluding the millage for Police & Fire Pension and the Sanitation Trust. The Property Tax Revenue starting in 2009 at \$20.9M and taking into account the decreases of 2.8%, 12.1% and 10% for the next fiscal year, projecting out based on information from the Finance Department another 5% decrease and then leveling out in 2014. In total it will be approximately a 30% decline in Property Tax Revenue for the City. Property Tax Revenue would have increased, if asked five years ago, since it was the historical trend. She indicated that what they had done is project Property Tax Revenue. In 2014, Property Tax Revenue, had it continued to increase by its historical trend, would have been in excess of \$24M, but will only be \$16.4M instead.

Ms. Manetta indicated Council has taken action in decreasing expenditures to match revenue decreases that were seen coming. From 2009 – 2010 expenditures decreased about 4% and in 2011 they decreased by another 10%. The most significant decrease was in funding the Employee Retiree Health Care. She mentioned that in 2010 there was a one-time, non-recurring additional funding to Public Safety that did not occur in 2011. Ms. Manetta indicated that revenue exceeded expenditures in 2011 by about \$900,000.

Ms. Manetta mentioned Unrestricted Fund Balance in the General Fund. In 2011 it was about \$15.5M, but declines in property taxes are expected to have a significant impact on unrestricted fund balance between 2012 – 2014 based on forecasts by the Finance Department.

Ms. Rusie asked how St. Clair Shores compares in financial health with other communities?

**4. PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL AUDIT AND COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2011 (cont'd)**

Mr. Herrington indicated that most of the time they do not see fund balance maintaining its position or increasing – that it did strengthen is an excellent result. Revenues are down and because you have a certain millage limit that you can levy, without a vote of the people, the council is at the maximum they can go to so they have a special millage for Police and Fire and from an operating standpoint, you lived in your millage limit and revenues were constrained. He mentioned that as St. Clair Shores looks forward, they are not out of the woods on Property Tax reduction until fiscal 2014. He said it was harder to balance the budget in a more mature community.

Ms. Rusie asked how accurate the projections are and how they are calculated.

Mr. Herrington stated that this community has done 5-year projections for over fifteen years and are conservative for the most part. He also stated that St. Clair Shores has done far from nothing, especially with reduction in revenues.

Ms. Rusie said that she has seen in 2009 these projections and we have made projections to avoid this from happening.

Mr. Herrington stated that if we choose to say we are fine on how we spend our money, then there is a risk, but we don't see that happening based on the 15-year track record and St. Clair Shores is in a position of strategic decisions versus reactive decisions.

Mayor Walby stated that St. Clair Shores has been extremely conservative. He indicated that he thinks we projected a budget at a loss from what we audited and we flipped that over to a \$900,000 profit. He stated that we don't stop during budget, after it's all done, but we are working throughout the year we budgeted at a loss and flipped it around and we worked throughout the year to strengthen our balance sheets.

Mr. Rubino asked if our projections are similar to other cities.

Mr. Herrington stated, absolutely. He said that in cities north and south of Hall Road, we are seeing a taxable reduction of 20 – 35% depending on the location in the community. He stated that fiscal 2013 we are anticipating a smaller reduction and in 2014, we hope it turns, but at this point St. Clair Shores is treading like everyone else.

Mr. Rubino indicated that St. Clair Shores has a very aging population which is older than most. He said we may see a lot of housing open up. He asked if we should factor this into the projections and will excess housing bring down values more than our neighbors?

Mr. Herrington said he is hoping the recent financial woes of short sales and foreclosures have brought us down. We are close to the floor, but it is worth watching and we have seen a dramatic reduction. He stated that we have seen so many properties turn in the last 12 -18 months with many empty houses. What we are hearing from the county is that it is starting to settle.

Mr. Vitale stated that it will take a long time for the property values to climb again.

Mr. Herrington agreed with Mr. Vitale. He indicated that between 2021 – 2024 we will have the same property tax revenue we had three years ago.

Mr. Vitale stated that it was a crazy, far out number and stated that we don't like to make these cuts, but we have to make them.

Mayor Walby said that if you look at Slide 2, it shows 18.7 tax revenue down to 16.7 or down to 16.4. It tells us that we'll have to trim \$2M out of the budget. He said we have a lot of work to do in the years to come.

**Motion by Frederick, seconded by Rusie to receive and file the annual audit and comprehensive annual financial report for the year ended June 30, 2011.**

Ayes: All - 6

**5. ~~REQUEST FROM COUNCIL TO AMEND THE ANIMAL ORDINANCE TO ALLOW FOR THE OPERATION OF ANIMAL RESCUES/ANIMAL FOSTER FAMILIES IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS (TO BE RESCHEDULED)~~**

**6. PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION ON NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR THE VACANT COUNCIL SEAT**

Mayor Walby stated that Ms. Kotowski will conduct and administer the voting process for the vacant council seat. He thanked all the applicants and mentioned that a lot of applications were received. He said it was not an easy decision, but eventually it would be one person to fill the seat. He also said it was the City Council's job and responsibility to pick a qualified candidate.

The 31 candidates that filed were Karla L. Anderson, Judith B. Bayer, Patrick Biange, John D. Burtch, John D. Caron, Enrique (Henry) Castro, William A. Crouchman, Jack D. Downey, Rebecca S. Duggan, Daniel C. Eggert, Terri A. Farrar, Henry T. Goitz, Charles P. Hall, Nathan R. Kaczmarek, Jamie L. Kaufman, Eric Ketelhut, Bradley S. Kress, Marc A. Lanzon, Paul G. Lechner, Maria T. Mayer, Robert E. McKinley, Anthony L. Misuraca, Renata A. Polonaise, Bryan J. Schomer, Randell J. Shafer, Andrew F. Smith, Erin A. Stahl, Gregory A. Stauffer, Richard F. Swanquist, Kevin W. Tuzcek, Ronald F. Willette.

Ms. Kotowski read the Council Selection Process and stated that each Council Member has been given a form with the 31 applicant names in which they will write down the names of not more than three applicants for the vacant seat. Council will sign their names to the voting form. Members will then give their selections to the City Clerk. Once all the nominations are collected, she will read each Council Member's nominations into the record. Applicants receiving two or more nominations will be invited to make a presentation at the December 17<sup>th</sup> work session. Should the process result in fewer than three candidates receiving two or more nominations, the process will be repeated with each member of Council being permitted only one nomination. Nominations in this step may only be made of individuals who were nominated in the original process and received only one vote. All individuals nominated by members of Council under this step of the process, in addition to the candidates selected in the above, are invited to attend the December 17<sup>th</sup> work session.

Mayor Walby stated that this process will be used to make it as fair as possible.

He mentioned that on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, the applicant presentations will be conducted in the Council Chambers at City Hall at 9:00 a.m. It will be live on Comcast and WOW and open to the public in Council Chambers. He said they will 'draw straws' to see who goes first and will place the other applicants in another room so as to be as fair as possible.

Mr. Ihrie spoke of the Michigan Open Meetings Act and stated that all meetings will be conducted openly with ballots going to the City Clerk since ballots have been signed and read openly at the Open Meetings Act. This process does indeed apply with the Open Meetings Act.

Ms. Kotowski completed the tallying process of applicants from each Council Member and read them aloud in alphabetical order by Council Member as follows:

<b>VACANT CITY COUNCIL SEAT SELECTIONS 12/5/2011</b>							
<b>Name</b>	<b>Frederick</b>	<b>Rubino</b>	<b>Rusie</b>	<b>Tiseo</b>	<b>Vitale</b>	<b>Walby</b>	<b>votes</b>
Karla L. Anderson	X						1
John D. Burtch	X	X		X			3
John D. Caron		X	X			X	3
William A. Crouchman	X						1
Jack D. Downey			X		X		2
Charles P. Hall					X		1
Nathan R. Kaczmarek			X	X			2
Bradley S. Kress		X		X		X	3
Kevin W. Tuzcek					X	X	2

**6. PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION ON NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR THE VACANAT COUNCIL SEAT (cont'd)**

Ms. Kotowski then read the names of the six applicants with the highest number of votes that will move on to the December 17<sup>th</sup> presentation as follows:

John D. Burtch, John D. Caron, Jack D. Downey, Nathan R. Kaczmarek, Bradley S. Kress, and Kevin W. Tuzcek

Mayor Walby indicated that the above six candidates will make presentations to the City Council on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. at a Special City Council Meeting. He indicated that Ms. Kotowski will contact the candidates by letter and that the meeting will be aired live on Cable TV.

**7. BIDS/CONTRACTS/PURCHASE ORDERS - None**

**8. CONSENT AGENDA *Items shall be considered without debate by motion and vote of Council, unless a member of Council specifically requests action taken separately on said item***

Mayor Walby stated he was removing item g.

**Motion by Rubino, seconded by Frederick to approve the Consent Agenda items a – f, which include the following:**

**a. Bills**

**Check Approval List \$2,163,228.16**

**To approve the release of checks in the amount of \$2,163,228.16, of the report that is 23 pages in length and of the grand total amount of \$2,163,228.16, \$157,322.15 went to other taxing authorities.**

**b. Fees – None**

**c. Progress Payments - None**

**d. Approval of Minutes**

<u>City Council</u>	<u>Meeting Date</u>	<u>Date E-Mailed</u>
City Council	November 21, 2011	December 1, 2011

**e. Receive & File Boards, Commissions & Committee Minutes**

<u>Minutes</u>	<u>Meeting Date</u>	<u>Date E-Mailed</u>
Board of Canvassers	August 5, 2011	November 23, 2011
Golf Course Committee	October 18, 2011	December 2, 2011
Planning Commission	November 8, 2011	November 23, 2011
Sign Arbitration Committee	September 22, 2011	December 2, 2011
Waterfront Environmental Committee	October 18, 2011	November 23, 2011

**f. Adoption of a resolution approving use of Receiving Boards for all 2012 Elections which reads as follows:**

**Be it resolved that the City Council of the City of St. Clair Shores approves the use of Receiving Boards at the elections to be held February 28, August 7, and November 6, 2012, with members to be appointed by the City Clerk and approved by the Election Commission prior to each election as in compliance with Michigan Election Law Section 168.679a.**

Ayes: All - 6

**8. CONSENT AGENDA Items shall be considered without debate by motion and vote of Council, unless a member of Council specifically requests action taken separately on said item (cont'd)**

**Separated Consent Agenda Item g.**

**g. South Macomb Sanitary District (SMDS) appointment of Mayor Kip Walby as the voting delegate and DPW Director Bryan Babcock as the Alternate Voting Delegate**

Mayor Walby separated Consent Agenda 8g indicating that in the past it has been the Mayor and Mayor Pro-Tem on the board. He feels he needs to make a change and believes the appointment needs to go to someone who is involved in the trash and sanitary lines. The DPW Director is knowledgeable in this area and believes it falls right into the DPW Directors niche. Mayor Walby said he talked to Mr. Hughes and although Mr. Babcock has a number of committees in the evenings, they will try to reshuffle the deck to move forward since this is a vital board and Mr. Babcock should be involved.

Mr. Hughes said this is a good move and that Mr. Babcock is ready and willing to attend these meetings.

**Motion by Rubino, seconded by Rusie to approve the Consent Agenda item g, to approve the South Macomb Sanitary District (SMDS) appointment of Mayor Kip Walby as the voting delegate and DPW Director Bryan Babcock as the alternate voting delegate.**

Ayes: All – 6

**9. UPDATES AND FOLLOW-UPS FROM COUNCIL MEETING**

Mr. Hughes said he had a few open ended questions from the November City Council Meeting regarding two NSP homes, one on Colony and the other on Carolina. Subsequent work needed to be done regarding water and basement issues to stabilize the basement. In both cases the contractor was at fault for performing improper work the first time and their final payment has been withheld to this particular contract because we had to hire someone else. He stated that NSP home funds are not in jeopardy and that St. Clair Shores did not overpay for someone's negligence and will continue to pursue the issue with the original contractor. We do hold a separate escrow account in cases like this.

Mr. Hughes indicated SMART has agreed to not replace the glass sides in the bus stop at 13 Mile Road and Harper, in front of St. Margaret's Church.

Mayor Walby asked Mr. Hughes about the questions Mr. Rubino and Ms. Rusie had in regards to the contractors and Mr. Hughes indicated that he talked to the contractors both privately and personally.

**10. COMMENTS BY INDIVIDUAL COUNCILPERSONS**

**Council Member Tiseo** thanked the 32 applicants that had applied for the vacant council seat. He indicated that he spoke to many within the past week. He said it was difficult to choose only three, but he did the best he could and he encouraged as many to be part of St. Clair Shores by volunteering on different committees. He met a lot of people on his tour of the city and one thing he got most out of it was the great people working for St. Clair Shores and found many who wore many hats. He also thanked those who welcomed him.

**Council Member Frederick** thanked the 32 applicants that applied for the vacant council seat. He encouraged those to file to run for Council in 2013 if they did not make this one. He said there were so many on list that were qualified, but had to pick three.

He also announced the Cops for Kids needs help with Christmas shopping at K-Mart this Friday, December 9th. Help is needed for wrapping on Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> beginning at 8 a.m. at Assumption Greek Church on Marter Road. He stated that if anyone has time, please help on Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Frederick also mentioned that Kathy Joerin, who was not at the City Council Meeting, started the Candlelight Vigil for bereaved parents who lost a child. He stated that it has grown over the years and has become part of an international organization at 7 p.m. across the world in which they would be gathering to remember children that

**10. COMMENTS BY INDIVIDUAL COUNCILPERSONS (cont'd)**

passed before their time. The vigil will be on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:45 p.m. at Veteran's Memorial Park. If anyone wants a name on the list, they can call Kathy at 586-293-6176 or send an email to [kjmac21@aol.com](mailto:kjmac21@aol.com).

Mr. Frederick also thanked the Goodfellows for another great day. He thanked Mr. Pullin for the lesson on Pearl Harbor Day and mentioned that it is important we don't forget what happened on this day. The Poinsettia Ball, hosted by the Optimist Club, will be held on Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> from 6 - 9 p.m. The cost is \$40 for meal, dancing, and fellowship and everyone is invited. Call 586-808-3478 and he'll put you in touch with those who have the tickets.

This Saturday the Optimists are back at the Selinsky-Green Farmhouse with Santa Claus. There will be a petting farm along with a visit from Santa from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**Council Member Vitale** wished Gus, a St. Clair Shores resident for 60 years, a Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday. He said that Gus attributed his vitality to the fresh, clean air from Lake St. Clair. He also wished a Happy 87<sup>th</sup> Birthday to his grandfather Giovanni Ferrone. He also thanked Mary Cipriano for the invitation to the Christmas luncheon, but indicated that he was unable to attend.

Mr. Vitale also stated that a resident had approached him about a dumpster in the middle of the street at Taylor and Evergreen. Mr. Vitale said he checked this out himself and said that it looked like the house was finished being remodeled and said that the dumpster was a hazard and unsightly. He asked if there was a regulation on the amount of time it can sit on the street.

Mr. Hughes stated there was and he will look into the situation tomorrow.

Mr. Vitale said that he also wanted to explain his votes for the vacant council seat. He said that after he read the resumes, he could reduce them by one half. He also mentioned that Ms. Kotowski helped further the field by giving him candidate voting history. He mentioned that voting history is not required, but demonstrates the person is informed and willing to participate in government. After this process he could reduce the list by six more candidates. He also stated that by the process of phone calls, he could feel who was interested in the good of the City and up to speed on issues of the City. One of the questions he asked was, 'what are some of the issues facing the City'. He said that some of the answers he received were not all that detailed.

He said he voted for Mr. Downey because of his experience with construction bidding and senior causes and had recommendations in his package. Mr. Downey put himself on the line in regards to runaway pension costs in the City. He didn't exclude people who didn't run for office or who ran and didn't win. He said he voted for Mr. Hall because he knows him personally and for his dedication to the City. He is on several committees and often speaks before council. He can speak against sacred cows and is committed to tough love. Both men are retired people who live in City and can use their spare time to investigate and bring issues to light. For his 3<sup>rd</sup> choice Mr. Vitale voted for Mr. Tuzcek. He said he doesn't personally know him, but has a background in marketing and education which are two skills that can be used for growth in the City.

**Council Member Rusie** mentioned that every applicant cares about the City and thanked the 32 candidates. She said she spoke to many people on phone, but was not able to get to everyone. She also said that a vote for someone is not a vote against anyone else. She went back and forth with the applications and it was a tough decision with many different perspectives of what's important and what they bring to the table. She hopes all the candidates will continue to be involved in the city and help the city and neighbors and continue to move forward to bring about positive changes.

Ms. Rusie also reiterated the Candlelight Memorial for bereaved for parents. She said it was a moving ceremony and asked everyone to please keep it in mind. It is scheduled for Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. and again mentioned that if a parent who has lost a child too early, even an adult child, can call 586-293-6176, or email Kathy at [kjmac21@aol.com](mailto:kjmac21@aol.com) to have them recognized at the ceremony.

Ms. Rusie thanked the Goodfellows for their annual paper sales and for the volunteers who helped out and braved the elements. She also thanked the Village Market for opening their lobby so they were able to take donations.

**10. COMMENTS BY INDIVIDUAL COUNCILPERSONS (cont'd)**

**Council Member Rubino** mentioned the St. Clair Shores Cultural Committee is hosting their 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Holiday Art Mart which is a chance to show their work during the holiday season and give residents an opportunity to purchase locally made items. The Holiday Art Mart is located at 31396 Harper in the Landmark Plaza on Saturday and Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 p.m. – 5 p.m., on Saturday and Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> from 12 p.m. – 5 p.m., and on Saturday and Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Mr. Rubino noted that at the last meeting he brought up the issue regarding Waste Management. He misspoke and noted that Mrs. D'Herde and a representative from Waste Management had addressed the issue and were proactive.

Mr. Rubino stated that Mr. Goodfellow asked if the Council Members talked to the candidates in regards to the vacant council seat. Mr. Rubino stated that they absolutely did. It was part of their job to be informed. He spoke to a great deal of them, but not all of them and indicated that there are a lot of good people, but they have to choose three, so they have to set their criteria and go from there. He could have picked six names, but again, he had only three choices.

**11. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Hughes indicated that last week Tuesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, we had a major rainfall. He said that it came to his attention that a decision by DPW was to have piece of city equipment used on a short-term basis at an employees residence. He said that as soon as it came to the administration's attention, it was stopped. It was a poor decision by the department which has been addressed and will not happen again. He apologized to the citizens and wants to put the issue to rest. He also appreciated the residents who made him aware of this issue.

Mr. Hughes mentioned that the Cool City Committee is collecting for Toys For Tots through December 14<sup>th</sup>. New and unwrapped toys can be dropped off at City Hall during normal business hours and in the evening during meetings. He mentioned that the toys are given to needy children in St. Clair Shores and Macomb County.

Mr. Hughes mentioned that in the spirit of holidays, arrangements for the American Red Cross have been made to come into St. Clair Shores when there is a low blood supply. Most recently on July 8<sup>th</sup>, 49 St. Clair Shores residents responded. Looking ahead to the last two weeks in December, the American Red Cross is forecasting a record low blood supply. Arrangements for Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> for an 11-hour blood drive from 8 a.m. – 7 p.m. have been made at City Hall. To schedule an appointment, anyone can call 1-877-505-9527. This information will also be updated on Facebook and the St. Clair Shores web page.

Mayor Walby stated that the DPW issue was not swept under the rug, and administration handles them. City Manager Hughes said this was a rare mistake made in poor judgment, and was unacceptable.

**12. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (5 minute time limit)**

Patrick Biange, St. Clair Shores resident, read his application letter of intent for the vacant council seat out loud because he plans on living in the city for a long time and will get involved with the city of St. Clair Shores as much as he can. He submitted his letter with his experience and education. He said he will come back in the next few weeks to give his projection as to what the real budget should be, which is a .75 millage for Police and Fire.

Bryan Mazey, past president of the Kiwanis Club, announced dining with Santa at Rosies Diner on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m. He said military families in the National Guard Base are looking for sponsors for Christmas. The National Guard are full-time civilians and part-time military. He asked that everyone please help support military families. By giving gift cards, purchasing items off families wish list or donating financially to the Family Fund which helps pay bills the families have. This program is non-profit and tax exempt. Mr. Massey said they don't have expectations from their sponsors and depend solely on what you can and are able to do. He also asked for donations of wrapping paper, but all donations of gifts should be unwrapped. To be a family sponsor call 586-239-5583 or email [deborah.schroeder@ang.anf.net](mailto:deborah.schroeder@ang.anf.net) or call Mr. Massey on 586-255-6616. He said registration forms are in the C & G Newspaper.



**12. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (5 minute time limit) (cont'd)**

Ralph Kosal, St. Clair Shores resident, congratulated the mayor and all who won the election. He said he has seen Waste Management throwing garbage cans in front of driveways and he has to get out of his car too many times so he doesn't put garbage cans out anymore since it's a lot easier putting bags out instead. He mentioned that the Holiday Jingle that helped to raise money for the Skate Park was an excellent event with a big turnout and thanked the great businesses who donated a lot of food and items for the silent auction.

Mark Lanzon, St. Clair Shores resident, said he was happy with due diligence in regards to the vacant council seat. He was very satisfied to throw his name in the hat and next time he will do things more conventional and should participate more in the future. He was happy with the phone calls and said he has been part of the city for 36 years. He congratulated those who were newly elected.

Lolly Gerhardstein, resident of the St. Clair Shores Senior Housing Complex, said it was good to know that elected officials are proactive to budgets. She was happy to hear about seniors living in city and mentioned the volunteer services that come out of those living at the Senior Center. She said St. Clair Shores is facing tremendous decisions and hopes they are guided regarding budget cuts since everyone needs to look at repercussions and always be accountable for their decisions. She said that the resident membership at the Senior Center was a good deal versus going to a sports club. It was \$10, but is now \$15, a 50% increase and about a 67% increase for non-residents and the cost for running the Senior Center has increased. Ms. Gerhardstein respectfully said that if no one went into the ladies washroom, she would like to take them there. She said the hygiene standards don't meet standards of her home. She said she doesn't think it's a large expenditure, but is asking council to analyze it. She asked where will the money be found in the budget to make the needed upgrades.

Mayor Walby said they will look at the washroom and will report at next meeting. He said that they could possibly use HUD money as a revenue source.

**13. MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

Mayor Walby mentioned that the Study Session is next Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers. It will be an overview on the Water Meter Program (completing the rest of the city on electronic water meters) and an Overview on Rental Programs (how many we have, the cost and how to proceed). The meeting should take about two hours with one hour on each topic.

Mayor Walby also mentioned Pond Hockey and the possibility of starting a Winterfest in St. Clair Shores. He hopes that Pond Hockey will spur and become our Winterfest. The dates are January 21, 22, and 23, 2012 for the first Pond Hockey Shores Winterfest. He said seven-man teams are available and people can go to website to register.

Mayor Walby also mentioned that he would like to give Mr. Hughes the 2012 goals of each council member that they see will move St. Clair Shores forward. He will see how the goals overlap and this will give him ideas as to where we want to go and attempt to get there.

Mayor Walby again thanked all the applicants for applying for the vacant council seat. He reiterated that voting for any three people is not voting against anyone else.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by Frederick, seconded by Rusie to adjourn at 8:28 p.m.**

Ayes: All - 6

*(THE PRECEDING MINUTES ARE A SYNOPSIS OF A CITY COUNCIL MEETING AND DO NOT REPRESENT A VERBATIM RECORD.)*

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KIP C. WALBY, MAYOR

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MARY A. KOTOWSKI, CITY CLERK