

**MARENGO CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Marengo Council Chambers
132 E. Prairie St.
Marengo, IL 60152
February 8, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Donald Lockhart called the February 8, 2010 regular meeting of the Marengo City Council to order at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Lockhart led everyone present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present for this meeting were Mayor Donald Lockhart, Aldermen: Carole Bartman, Corey Brackmann, Michael Smith, Eric DeBoer, Mike Secor, Pat Signore, and Steve DiMaria. Also present were: City Administrator Deborah Nier, City Attorney Carlos Arevalo, Sgt. Richard Solarz, Assistant to the City Administrator Joshua Blakemore and City Engineer David Johanson. Absent this evening were Alderman Todd Hall, Building Commissioner Jayson Shull and Superintendent of Public Works Jim Craney. The Mayor requested Commissioner Shull and Superintendent Craney stay home this evening to get some rest before the anticipated snow fall.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Jerry Trickett, 650 Stanford Drive, thanked the City Council for recognizing the two individuals (Sgt. Paul Fritz and Deputy Chief Joseph Hallman) that have exemplified fine police work, and the work that the police department does with the students. He also thanked their families for their sacrifice as well.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Sgt. Richard Solarz read a letter from Chief Martin Podosek who couldn't be here tonight. Mayor Lockhart made a presentation of plaques to Deputy Chief Joseph Hallman and Sergeant Paul Fritz honoring their 20 years of service with the City of Marengo.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were two corrections required. First correction was on page 3 correcting the wording from "Those in favor of the increase" to read "Those in favor of having an additional meeting to discuss". The second correction was on page 2. Adding the statement from Alderman Steve DiMaria – "for the record – He was not opposed to the Prospect Street Project. He was opposed to the way that the City wanted to fund the Prospect Street Project – for paying back the bonds."

Alderman Michael Smith made a motion, seconded by Alderman Mike Secor, to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Brackmann, DiMaria, DeBoer, Bartman, Smith, Secor and Signore.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. **List of Bills**
- b. **Marengo Historic Preservation Commission Appointment (with the addition of one name – Lisa Trainor has agreed to be on this committee.)**
- c. **Special Service Area Ad Hoc Committee Appointment**
- d. **Marengo Tourism Council Appointment**
- e. **Marengo Main Street Funding Request**

Question by Alderman Signore on the Main Street Funding request - it is to match any amount up to \$15,000? Rob Levin, Marengo Main Street Board President, stated that was correct – that it was to match any amount up to \$15,000.

Alderman Steve DiMaria questioned the list of bills. He asked Sgt. Solarz about the red and blue lights and cables bill. Sgt. Solarz clarified this was for the interior lights on the unmarked vehicles.

Alderman Steve DiMaria made a motion, seconded by Alderman Eric DeBoer, to pass the consent agenda items with the addition of Lisa Trainor to the Historic Preservation Commission. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Bartman, Smith, Brackmann, DiMaria, DeBoer, Signore, and Secor.

NEW BUSINESS:

McHenry County Conservation District Presentation

David LaGue, President of the McHenry County Conservation District, thanked the Council for allowing them to come before the Council with their presentation. Last August, the District entered into an agreement with Applied Ecological Services to develop an assessment of the property they own (West of Marengo) known as the HUM Trail. He then turned the presentation over to Elizabeth Kessler, Dist. Executive Director. She discussed the area along the railroad tracks, that the District has, and the status of the area along the lines of prairie plantings. Because of the delicate nature of the prairie, there would most likely be limited access in order to maintain its current status.

MCCD has submitted a Nature Preserve Application, which takes a lot of time to complete. They are asking for the support of the local municipalities in their endeavor.

They have also sent a letter to Metra, Rick Mack, asking for information on the amount of frontage that would be required on the tracks, for a possible Metra station. They have not heard back from them yet. Joshua Blakemore stated that he had been told that it could range anywhere from 300 to 1,000 feet.

Ordinance Increasing the Number of Class AA Liquor Licenses.

The current operator/tenant of Northside Tap (104 N. State St.) will be relocating the business to 100 S. State St. They will be taking their liquor license with them.

The current owners of the property at 104 N. State St., would like to continue operating at that location as a bar/tavern, and are asking for a new liquor license for that location. This Ordinance change would increase the number of Class AA licenses from 5 to 6.

Alderman Pat Signore made a motion, seconded by Alderman Steve Secor, to approve the Ordinance Increasing the Number of Class AA Liquor Licenses. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Signore, Secor, DiMaria, Brackmann, Bartman, DeBoer, and Smith,

Intergovernmental Agreement with Marengo Township for Tornado Sirens

Steve Weskerna, Marengo Township Supervisor, answered questions on two (2) sirens to be placed in Marengo Township. Mr. Weskerna was asking the City to be responsible for activating Township sirens. The Township will pay for and have installed the equipment within the Township. The equipment is compatible with the City's radio transmitter. They will also pay for the installation of any necessary telephone lines or equipment needed to receive/transmittal signals from the system – as well as any expenses that would be related to the maintenance and/or repair of said equipment.

Alderman Pat Signore suggested the Township reviewing the siren criteria protocol and make suggestions. Steve Weskerna suggested also looking at other communities for their criteria to compare.

Alderman Steve DiMaria made a motion, seconded by Alderman Michael Smith, to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with Marengo Township for Tornado Sirens. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: DiMaria, Signore, Secor, Bartman, DeBoer, Brackmann, and Smith.

OLD BUSINESS:

City of Marengo Website Redesign Project

Josh Blakemore, Assistant to the City Administrator, requested direction by the City Council on this project. Alderman Steve DiMaria liked the presentation given by TSC – and also the price quoted for the project. Alderman Pat Signore asked Attorney Arevalo about what the City's obligation is in the bidding process. Is the City obligated to take the low bid if the Council feels that the organization has the resources to fulfill the project scope? Attorney Arevalo clarified that you go with the "lowest responsible bidder" in these instances.

Alderman Carole Bartman questioned if there was money budgeted this year for this project, and Deborah Nier (City Administrator) explained that this is correct. There are some funds available under "professional services – other" that could go towards that project. Josh stated that both of the companies that spoke stated that they would be fine with a deferred payment plan on the project.

Alderman Steve DiMaria made a motion, seconded by Alderman Eric DeBoer, to go with TSC as the City of Marengo's Web Site project, paying for it in next year's budget. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Secor, DeBoer, DiMaria, Brackmann, Smith, Bartman and Signore.

MAYOR'S STATEMENTS AND REPORTS

No report this evening.

DEPARTMENT HEAD AND STAFF REPORTS

Sgt. Richard Solarz – Marengo Police Department Report. Written report was previously given to all Aldermen. No questions.

David Johanson – City Engineer's Report. Written report already given to all Aldermen. Alderman Corey Brackmann asked if there would be an optic on the light at the intersection of 20 and Prospect - for use by emergency vehicles. David said that it would typically be included, but would not be a State reimbursable item. The cost would come out of the City's portion of the project costs.

Deborah Nier – City Administrator Report. The City of Marengo has applied to Senator Burris for a portion of the appropriations bill, in the amount of \$250,000. This is being done through Jack Frank's office – he is doing the coordinating. This would be put towards the Waste Water Treatment plant. They are also submitting an application to Senator Durbin's office for the same project. The Mayor is going to try and speak with Representative Don Manzullo about any funds that might be available through his office as well.

Carlos Arevalo – City Attorney Report. No report this evening, except the update that the Karsten Agreement language has been finalized and it should come before the Council soon.

Mayor Lockhart advised the Council Members that there was nothing for Executive Session this evening.

Alderman Steve DiMaria made a motion, seconded by Alderman Pat Signore, to adjourn. The motion passed with a voice vote by all Aldermen.

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Constance J. Boxleitner
City Clerk