

**Marengo City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
Marengo Council Chambers
132 E. Prairie St.
Marengo, IL 60152
March 22, 2010**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Donald Lockhart called the Regular Meeting of the City Council to order at 7:00 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Donald Lockhart led everyone present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present for this meeting were: Mayor Donald Lockhart, Aldermen: Carole Bartman, Corey Brackmann, Erik DeBoer, Mike Secor and Todd Hall. Also present were City Administrator Deborah Nier, City Attorney Carlos Arevalo, Deputy Chief Joseph Hallman, Superintendent of Public Works Jim Craney and Assistant to the City Administrator Joshua Blakemore. Aldermen absent from this meeting were: Michael Smith, Pat Signore and Steve DiMaria.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Tom Wendt, 819 N. State St., Marengo, questioned the ordinance that involves barking dogs. He owns a dog that made too much noise for a neighbor, and he was reported to the police. Sergeant Riley came to his home and left a warning notice about this. The City ordinance is unclear as to how long a dog can bark until it becomes a nuisance. Mayor Lockhart recommended that Mr. Wendt meet at this time with Deputy Chief Hallman and discuss this situation and see if they could work out a solution.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There is a minor correction to the minutes on page 1 (appointment of President Pro-Tem). Alderman Carole Bartman made a motion, seconded by Mike Secor, to approve the minutes as amended. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Brackmann, DeBoer, Hall, Bartman, and Secor.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. List of Bills**
- b. Ordinance Declaring Certain Municipal Property as Surplus**

Alderman Carole Bartman addressed a question to Attorney Arevalo. She wanted to know if the Marengo Police Department uses the services of the law firm for routine traffic violations. Attorney Arevalo replied that someone from the firm appears to prosecute at every situation – traffic stops, speed tickets - anything that has to do with an ordinance violation.

Alderman Mike Secor made a motion, seconded by Todd Hall, to pass the consent agenda as presented. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Bartman, Brackmann, DeBoer, Hall and Secor.

NEW BUSINESS

Authorization for Audit Services with George Roach Associates

Alderman Carole Bartman asked Mr. Roach what month they anticipate performing the audit? Response from Mr. Roach was hopefully by the end of June 2010. He told the City Council that there is a new auditing standard out this year and it has to do with the health plans, and what is being asked as a municipal is to contemplate or take an actuarial look at what the cost is to providing health care to retirees via the IMRF or police pension, and with these older persons in the pool - what does that cause the average rate to increase. By law you cannot charge them more than what you can charge your existing personnel. There will probably be a study that will be necessary to determine what those costs are that are causing the plan to increase its cost. The Governmental Accounting Standard Board is requesting this study.

Alderman Carole Bartman made a motion, seconded by Mike Secor, to approve the appointment of George Roach Associates at a fee not to exceed \$14,000 for audit services. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Secor, Hall, Brackmann, Bartman and DeBoer.

Water & Sewer Rate Annual Review

Joshua Blakemore reviewed the information previously given to the Aldermen. He did state that pumpage is down 15% since 2007. He believes that part of this is due to natural conservation on the part of the residents of Marengo. The fund is in better shape than it has been over the past few years. Alderman Corey Brackmann asked if this was a request to raise the current rates, and Alderman Mike Secor explained that this was just a review of previous action taken in 2008 to make the fund more solvent. The current increase will be 5%, and will be automatically implemented April 1, 2010.

OLD BUSINESS

109 South Taylor St, White Lion Real Estate Sign Request

Mayor Lockhart reviewed information received from the Historic Commission regarding their meeting on the 17th of March. The Commission does not object to the sign as presented, on historic merit. They suggested that the owner explore the possibility of placing the sign on the building or lettering placed on the awning. Ellen Brunschon, 308 E. Prairie Street, Marengo, is the applicant for this request. She explained that there is no place else to put the sign, as they are trying to get the best exposure possible. The post is on City easement – which is 14 ‘ deep. If the sign is placed on the building, visibility of the sign would be decreased.

Alderman Erik DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Carole Bartman, to approve the sign variance at 109 S. Taylor St. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Brackmann, Bartman, Hall, Secor, and DeBoer.

Attorney Arevalo advised the council that this would require an ordinance variance, so he would prepare the necessary paperwork.

MAYOR'S STATEMENTS AND REPORTS

Mayor Lockhart reported that he attended the Blue and White program at the Lutheran Church for Cub Scouts. Construction will be starting soon on Taylor Street which will cause some traffic disruption but in the long run everyone in town will feel that it was well worth it. On March 18, there was a Liquor Commission Meeting, and was happy to report that it had been 6 months, including the previous year, with no calls to the police. Also, there was a "cigarette investigation" and every business passed.

DEPARTMENT HEAD AND STAFF REPORTS

Jim Craney – Superintendent of Public Works. The crews have been busy filling pot holds around town, and repairing landscaping damage that occurred from the snowplows. Brush pick-up schedule is posted at the entrance to City Hall. First pickup is scheduled for May 3rd. Leaflets have been handed out about leaves that are being put out, reminding residents that those need to be bagged and tagged.

Joshua Blakemore – Assistant to the City Administrator. Census forms have been mailed out, and he just wanted to remind people to get them filled out and sent back as soon as possible. He also reminded the Aldermen to return their website logo survey.

Deputy Chief Joseph Hallman. Had submitted a couple of written reports. The City owes a debt of gratitude to the Sheriff's Department who, on last Friday, donated a K-9 cage to be used in one of the police department's Chevy Impala's. This is a significant savings to the program.

Deborah Nier – City Administrator. The ERP (Emergency Road Repair) that is being financed with funds through Rep. Franks' office has a pre-construction meeting scheduled for tomorrow. It is anticipated that construction will start in May. Public notice will be very important on this, and she will make sure that information is on the website – door hangers – anything possible to let people in the project area know what is going to be going on.

Budget & Finance meetings are underway.

The City has received a \$600 gift from Nissan Forklift. She spoke with Lee Van Sickle about funds that they have available for Green Projects. This money will be used for tree replacement within the City.

Carlos Arevalo – City Attorney. No report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session this evening.

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Erik DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Carole Bartman, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:27 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Constance J. Boxleitner
City Clerk
City of Marengo