

**MARENGO CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Marengo Council Chambers
132 E. Prairie St.
Marengo, IL 60152
April 12, 2010**

CALL TO ORDER

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

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, Mike Secor, Pat Signore, Todd Hall and Steve DiMaria. Also present at this meeting were City Administrator Deborah Nier, Deputy Chief Joseph Hallman, Building Commissioner Jayson Shull, Assistant to the City Administrator Joshua Blakemore and City Engineer David Johanson. Absent this evening were Aldermen: Michael Smith and Erik DeBoer.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

(Attorney Carlos Arevalo entered the meeting at 7:03 pm)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Alderman Mike Secor made a motion, seconded by Alderman Todd Hall, to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2010 Regular Meeting. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Brackmann, Hall, Bartman, Secor, and Signore. Alderman DiMaria abstained.

(Alderman Michael Smith entered the meeting at 7:05 pm)

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. **List of Bills**
- b. **IDOT Resolution for Construction on State Right of Way**

Alderman Steve DiMaria raised a question from the list of bills on a charge for pump grease foam disposal. Deborah Nier explained that there was a problem that had developed with grease and the foam is what they use to dispel it. Alderman DiMaria asked if anyone had made any inspections of any of the businesses to try and determine where the grease may be coming from. City Administrator Nier stated that yes, they have

been checking into this problem. Alderman Michael Secor stated that this problem has been going on for a long time.

Alderman Carole Bartman questioned the billing for engineering fees for Prospect Street (through SEC Group). David Johanson (of the SEC Group) explained that this was for the survey services of the project. They had been holding the invoice for quite awhile waiting for the bond sale to be finalized. A Lindow Plaza invoice was also questioned.

Alderman Steve DiMaria made a motion, seconded by Alderman Pat Signore, to approve the Consent Agenda items. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Bartman, Smith, Brackmann, DiMaria, Signore, Hall and Secor.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Report on Bond Bids for Prospect Street Project

David Phillips, of Speer Financial, reviewed the report given to the Alderman on the bid for the bonds that took place this morning. The winning bidder is Bernardi Securities, Inc. of Chicago, Illinois. The “taxable bid true interest rate” is 5.5444% - with an “effective true interest rate (after rebate adjustment)” of 3.64769%. The City plans to issue the series 2010 bonds as federally taxable Build America bonds, pursuant to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

The City of Marengo was assigned a rating, from Standard & Poor’s Ratings Services; of “A+” to series 2010 general obligation alternate revenue source bonds which reflect the City’s:

- Stable local economy with access to jobs in the northwest suburbs of Chicago;
- Strong income and wealth levels;
- Strong reserve levels, though historically decreasing;
- Low debt burden with limited future capital needs.

Mr. Phillips explained to the Aldermen that the “A+” rating is a reflection to the market of the financial stability of the City.

The City will use 2010 bond proceeds to pay for road improvements.

Alderman Carole Bartman questioned if this would be the time for the City of Marengo to look at refinancing the two old issues the city has on the books? Mr. Phillips said that it might be a good time to look at those.

Alderman Signore inquired about the criteria for achieving the “A+” rating. Mr. Phillips noted that one of the things that rating agencies look at in this economic climate is a strong staff team (City Administrator). During times of economic stress they want to make sure that the captions of the ship understand the financial position of their community and are doing their due diligence to address issues as they come up. Those

are very important, if not more important, factors now than during the good times when it is not as difficult to manage the financial operation of a community.

Alderman DeMaria inquired about a penalty for paying off early because he had heard speculation that maybe there would be an opportunity for recovery zone bonds at 45%. Mr. Phillips explained that there is an 8 year call when you would be able to prepay without a penalty. He also explained that you could not use the recovery zone bonds to pay off the build America bonds; they would have to be used for new projects.

b. An Ordinance Amending Chapters 34 and 37 of the Marengo Municipal Code Regarding Taxes on Occupations or Privileges and the Simplified Municipal Telecommunications Tax.

Attorney Carlos Arevalo explained the need for this Ordinance change – which resulted from the Council increasing the Telecommunications Tax. This change is being made to increase the current tax to 6%. He further explained that the ordinance includes a 3-year claim period – but that could be altered to either a 2-year claim period or even a 1-year claim period. Joshua Blakemore verified that this has already been confirmed with the State of Illinois. It will take effect July 1st, 2010.

Alderman Michael Smith made a motion, seconded by Alderman Mike Secor, to adopt the Ordinance Amending Chapters 34 and 37 of the Marengo Municipal Code Regarding Taxes on Occupations or Privileges and the Simplified Municipal Telecommunications Tax – changing the claim period from 3 years to 1 year. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Signore, Secor, Hall, DiMaria, Bartman and Smith. Alderman Corey Brackmann voted nay on this motion.

OLD BUSINESS

None

MAYOR’S STATEMENTS AND REPORTS

Mayor Donald Lockhart had nothing to add to this evenings meeting.

DEPARTMENT HEAD AND STAFF REPORTS

Jayson Shull – Building Commission. Jayson is back to work, following his absence from injury and surgery, and is catching up with paperwork and projects. He will have a more detailed report at the next meeting. Alderman Pat Signore asked if there was a way to “in the future” avoid the situation that has occurred at the corner of Railroad and Route 23 where all the utilities for that building face Route 23. Jayson recommended they address this at the next Community Development meeting and review options and make recommendations at that time.

Joshua Blakemore – Assistant to the City Administrator. Joshua advised the Council that Census returns are coming along well. The City of Marengo is at 77% return at this point. Ehlers has submitted an invoice for \$30,000 for the 2 TIF surveys – which are now almost done. Things are moving forward. There is one property that might have to

be sub-divided (where the storage facility is located), and they are exploring the options for this.

Deputy Chief Joseph Hallman. Deputy Chief Hallman asked if there were any questions on his reports. A question was raised about the Settlers Days 2010 beer tent. Location of the tent would be on Prairie Street – between Sam’s and Brandt’s. There should not be a problem moving the squads or with Fire or Rescue moving in and out. Typically an avenue is left open on the other side of the street and post Rescue squad over there. There have been beer tents on Prairie Street in the past.

David Johanson – City Engineer. David did a quick review of his report. The Emergency Road Repair Project starts next week, and it should be completed in June. The work will begin on Taylor Street. Alderman Steve DiMaria asked about the IEPA Violation Notice that was in the report. The IEPA made an assumption that the need to have port-a-potties along Page Street and Stevenson Street was due to a sewer back-up, but it was due to excessive rains. When this issue is resolved, the violation will be taken off our record.

Alderman Pat Signore questioned who was responsible for the clean up of the HUM trail. Recent rain has caused debris to collect. It was explained that the Conservation District was responsible for the clean up.

Deborah Nier – City Administrator. Deborah also offered her thanks to both Joshua Blakemore and Jennifer Snelten, for their work on the bond process. She announced that on Wednesday morning there would be a meeting of Marengo Main Street, the Chamber of Commerce, the E.D.C. and the City. Everyone is invited to attend. It will start at 8:30 a.m. at City Hall.

The grease trap situation was discussed. An education on grease traps would like to be presented in the future. Options for grease disposal were also discussed.

Carlos Arevalo – City Attorney. No report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Donald Lockhart advised everyone present that the City Council would be going into Executive Session at this time for the purpose of discussing Land Acquisition. There were Boy Scouts in attendance at this meeting, and the Mayor explained to them what the Executive Session involved.

Alderman Mike Secor made a motion, seconded by Alderman Pat Signore, to go into Executive Session. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Smith, Brackmann, Signore, DiMaria, Bartman, Hall and Secor.

The Regular Session recessed at 7:58 p.m.

The meeting reconvened following Executive Session at 8: 11 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to come before the City Council this evening. Alderman Pat Signore made a motion, seconded by Alderman Steve DiMaria, to adjourn. The motion passed with a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8: 13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Constance J. Boxleitner
City Clerk