

**MARENGO CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Marengo Council Chambers
132 E. Prairie St.
Marengo, IL 60152
May 24, 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 Lockhart led everyone present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present for this meeting were Mayor Donald Lockhart; Aldermen: Pat Signore, Michael Smith, Todd Hall, Mike Secor, Carole Bartman, Steve DiMaria, and Corey Brackmann. Also present were City Administrator Deborah Nier, City Attorney Carlos Arevalo, Deputy Chief Joseph Hallman, Building Commissioner Jayson Shull, Superintendent of Public Works Jim Craney, and Assistant to the City Administrator Joshua Blakemore. Present as well was Dane Checolinski with the EDC. Absent this evening was Alderman Erik DeBoer.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Alderman Mike Secor made a motion, seconded by Alderman Todd Hall, to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2010 Regular Meeting. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Smith, Hall, Secor, Bartman, DiMaria, Brackmann and Signore.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. **List of Bills**
- b. **Staff and Commission Appointments**
- c. **Marengo Main Street Funding Request**

Alderman Pat Signore made a motion, seconded by Alderman Mike Secor, to table item B at this time. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Signore, Smith, Secor, Hall, Bartman, DiMaria, and Brackmann.

Questions were asked regarding various items in the list of bills presented. Alderman Steve DiMaria made a motion, seconded by Alderman Michael Smith, to approve items A and C for the Consent Agenda. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Brackmann, Hall, Bartman, Signore, Secor, Smith and DiMaria.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. **School Resource Officer Update**

Sgt. Fritz, of the Marengo Police Department, spoke on this program. Due to budget restraints, this program was in jeopardy of being reduced. Marengo Community High School has offered to provide the needed funding to keep the program active, and will be paying for the Police Department services.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Fiscal Year 2010/2011 Budget

Attorney Arevalo clarified that the City of Marengo is in an appropriation method of financing. The appropriation ordinance has to be passed in the first quarter of the fiscal year. This means that the City has until July 31, 2010 to pass the appropriation. The budget that is strictly an internal document that serves as a basis of the appropriation ordinance. This allows the City to “tweak” the budget if the need arose to do so. He further explained that once the appropriation ordinance is passed and adopted, the City still has some flexibility with moving funds.

Alderman Carole Bartman added “passing the budget does not mean that you are necessarily going to spend that much on whatever program you are talking about.”

Attorney Arevalo said that the budget is passed as a Council – so if everyone wanted to further analyze an issue and made a decision (through the City Council) that there were additional concerns, you could amend it – with the proper support of the Council to do so. The appropriation ordinance would need to be completed before the 31st of July.

Alderman Michael Smith brought up several issues that he had with the line items of the budget. He would like to table the proposed budget and then discuss it at a Committee of the Whole for the entire Council to have more input.

Alderman Steve DiMaria asked several questions of Jenny Snelton on income sources and how the budget is figured.

Alderman Corey Brackmann asked if the changes in the benefit packages were shown in this budget. Administrator Nier responded that yes, they are included in the budget. Alderman Brackmann then asked if there were any layoffs being considered, and are they shown in the budget. Administrator Nier responded that there is none budgeted.

Mayor Lockhart stated that he has discussed this with our attorney, and there is the possibility that there will be future layoffs. The document that is before the Council this evening is just so the various departments have an idea of what the line items are for the coming year. The City is in a financial crisis that is going to have to be dealt with month to month.

Alderman Carole Bartman suggested to the Council that a full treasurer/financial report be presented to the Council at each meeting.

Alderman Mike Secor spoke about previous processes for budgets. When he started on the Council, there was no “budget process”. The budget was presented to the Council without any input from the Council. That didn’t work. Then the Council got fully involved in the budget process, and that didn’t work either. Now this time around, a committee was put together to

work on it, and now it seems like that isn't working either. No one ever seems to be happy with any of the ways that the budget has been presented.

Alderman Smith reminded the Council that we had a positive reserve balance last year, and the City is down to nothing this year. He wants to be sure that if there are reserves, they be brought before the Council for expenditures, taken into consideration for terms of payment, etc. Money was spent because we (the City) thought that money was coming in from the State, and that money didn't materialize. He feels that there needs to be more input on the part of the Council as a whole for this process. He is answerable to the citizens of Marengo.

Alderman Carole Bartman made a motion, which was seconded by Alderman Steve DiMaria to pass the budget as proposed in the May 24th, 2010 packet, with the \$26,400 additional expenditure for Aldermen salaries included, and subject to a Committee of the Whole being established in June – and in periodic intervals - to review the budget. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Secor, Smith, Bartman, Hall, DiMaria and Signore. Alderman Corey Brackmann voted no on this motion.

The Council set a date of June 11th, 2010 for a Committee of the Whole meeting to review the budget. The meeting will start at 5:00 P.M. and run until 6:30 P.M. The purpose of this meeting will be for budget amendments.

MAYOR'S STATEMENTS AND REPORTS

Mayor Donald Lockhart attended the recent dedication of the Carl Lundgren Memorial at Zion Lutheran School Park. The Historical Society did a wonderful job in making this presentation.

DEPARTMENT HEADS AND STAFF REPORTS

Jayson Shull – Building Commission. No formal report tonight. The heavy rains caused the ditches to fill, but according to the IDNR there was no adverse impact to the City of Marengo's flood control infrastructures. He has a copy of that letter if anyone would like a copy. Flooding concerns were discussed – along with possible options.

Jim Craney – Superintendent of Public Works. Road repairs are coming along well. Washington, Prairie, and Taylor streets are all about done. He is hoping to finish the last paving projects about a month early and is very happy with the work that has been done by the contractor.

Joshua Blakemore – Assistant to the City Administrator. TIF is still moving along. The storage facility is possibly to be divided into 3 separate sections. Another issue has come up – with the Carmichael property. There are 3 parcels in question – 1 that is not currently annexed into the city of Marengo. They are working to get this straightened out and corrected. Joshua spoke with the tenant at 835 W. Grant Highway. He has requested a short-term lease to be reviewed on a quarterly basis. Consensus of the Council was to proceed with the request.

Joseph Hallman – Deputy Chief. Written report submitted. Zion Lutheran School has asked permission to close Jackson Street this coming Thursday for an end of the school year function.

Deborah Nier – City Administrator. No report.

Carlos Arevalo – City Attorney. No report.

Dane Checolinski – EDC. Foreign Trade Zone 176 – which is out of Rockford – currently surrounds Nissan Forklift and is looking to expand that zone to include a large chunk of the County. Further information will be presented when it is available. This involves tax breaks on the tariffs for importing/exporting of manufactured goods. Later this week, Dane will be meeting with a facilitator to put together planning and costs of compensation. Swedish American has their banner up, and the press release on their web site indicates that they are hoping to be open for business by mid-August.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Alderman Pat Signore made a motion, seconded by Alderman Steve DiMaria, for the Council to go into Executive Session this evening for the purpose of discussing personnel. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Bartman, Hall, Secor, Smith, DiMaria, Signore and Brackmann.

The meeting recessed at 8:34 P.M.

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The Regular Session of the May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010 City Council reconvened at 9:36 P.M.

Alderman Smith talked about the Metra Station - when Don Manzullo's email came out about looking for a location within McHenry County, he sent an email to Jack Franks and Pam Althoff asking what the City of Marengo could do to assist them in making a case for Marengo to have the station located in Marengo, since Metra has already analyzed the area with a rail yard and stop, and that it would be an added benefit to have Amtrak here as well.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Alderman Pat Signore made a motion, seconded by Alderman Mike Secor, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:41 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

*Constance J. Boxleitner  
City Clerk*