

**MARENGO CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Marengo Council Chambers
132 E. Prairie St.
Marengo, IL 60152
June 28, 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 in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present for this meeting were Mayor Donald Lockhart, Aldermen: Carole Bartman, Michael Smith, Steve DiMaria, Mike Secor and Todd Hall. 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. Absent this evening was Alderman Eric DeBoer.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Gene Paprocki, 117 W. Forest Street, Marengo. In regards to the Councils looking into switching the dispatch to an outside agency, as a past member of 35-years of service for the fire district, I feel that this is a wrong move for the simple reason that these dispatchers have the ability and the knowledge of the area, not saying that the people out East wouldn't do a good job, but my feeling is to stay with what we've got.

Myrtle "Dolly" Sunder, 952 Kishwaukee Street, Marengo. I wanted to take my two minutes – I noticed on the agenda that it is talking about liquor license for Settlers' Day Beer Garden request. I would like to give my two cents about that. We have enough places in town that liquor is available and I just feel that is just not necessary.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Alderman Mike Secor made a motion, seconded by Alderman Todd Hall, to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2010 regular meeting. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Brackmann, DiMaria, Hall, Bartman, Smith, Secor, and Signore.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. List of bills
- b. Marengo Main Street Garage Sale Request
- c. Ordinance Stipulating a Bond Compliance Officer

Alderman Michael Smith requested that item B (Community Garage Sales Request) be broken out of the list for concern on one item. All Aldermen present agreed to the split.

Alderman Carole Bartman made a motion, seconded by Alderman Mike Secor, to approve Items A & C on the Agenda. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Bartman, Smith, Brackmann, DiMaria, Signore, Hall, and Secor.

Alderman Michael Smith said his concerns on the request were the quantity of stalls being requested for the event – 60 to 70 in total. The information shows that access will be both from the East and West. His concern is that there is a fire-truck at the fire department that is extremely large and requires more space than would be available and he would request that adequate space be allocated and blocked off and not used so that the fire department - if they had to on that Saturday – would be able to pull that rig out of there and get it back in. Alderman Pat Signore also requested that the Certificate of Insurance list the City of Marengo as an additional insured and not just as a certificateholder.

Alderman Steve DiMaria made a motion, seconded by Alderman Michael Smith, to approve the request for the Marengo Main Street Garage Sale – with the stipulation that extra space be allowed for the Fire Department, and to also have the Certificate of Insurance list the City of Marengo as an additional insured. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Signore, Secor, Hall, Brackmann, DiMaria, Bartman and Smith.

NEW BUSINESS

a. 2009/2010 Annual Cemetery Report – George Bauman.

George Bauman, Treasurer for the Marengo Cemetery Board of Managers presented the Annual Cemetery Report. The cost of a grave is \$500. Last year \$6,750 was total for lots sold.

Alderman Michael Smith made a motion, seconded by Alderman Todd Hall, to approve and accept the 2009-2010 Annual Cemetery Report. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Smith, Brackmann, Signore, DiMaria, Bartman, Hall, and Secor.

b. Settlers' Days Beer Garden Request

Brad Schumann presented the request and discussed the area being considered for the tent area. Funding is down and this would help with the cost of Settlers' Days. The area suggested is under Brandt's awning on the west side and around to the south side of Brandt's. This would be gated off with a plastic fence. The only beverage that will be served is beer, and they will have someone carding all individuals entering the tent. The committee is also requesting that the fees for the Daily Liquor Permit and the fingerprinting fees be reduced for this event. People have inquired why Marengo doesn't have a beer garden as other towns around the area do. Settlers' Days had done a beer garden in the past. Mr. Schumann had spoken with Lane Samuelson of Sam's Tavern and Mr. Samuelson did not have a problem with the beer garden being in such close proximity to his tavern.

Aldermen Smith and DiMaria stated that they did not want to waive any fees for the Settlers' Days Committee Beer Garden.

Alderman Brackmann stated that Settlers' Days is the one festival the City does and does very well and brings people in from all over. Settlers' Days is huge for the town. If the Committee needs help with funding, he would not be opposed to helping them out by waiving some of the fees.

Alderman Bartman thought it was a great idea that the Committee is trying to do something to improve attendance.

Brad Schumann stated that either they need to do something or Settlers' Days is going to go away.

Alderman Pat Signore asked the Settlers' Days Committee to get together with the Police Department to put together some basic costs for additional police presence at the beer garden during the event, and to bring that information to the next Council meeting.

Alderman Michael Smith made a motion, seconded by Alderman Steve DiMaria, to table this request until further information on the costs involved are known. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Hall, DiMaria, Smith, Secor, and Signore. Voting no on this motion were Aldermen Corey Brackmann and Carole Bartman.

c. Special Permit as per Section 5.15 of the Marengo Zoning Ordinance for 523 N. State Street – Dog Wash.

Alderman Mike Secor made a motion, seconded by Alderman Michael Smith, to approve the special permit as per Section 5.15 of the Marengo Zoning Ordinance for 523 N. State Street. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: DiMaria, Secor, Bartman, Brackmann, Hall, and Smith. Alderman Pat Signore abstained from voting on this motion.

d. Authorization to Execute Lease for 837 W. Grant Hwy – Sabre Trailers.

Joshua Blakemore presented a draft of the renewal lease for 837 W. Grant Hwy. The request on this lease is for a lease on a quarterly basis, with no other changes to the previous lease.

Aldermen Steve DiMaria made a motion, seconded by Alderman Mike Secor, to approve the lease for 837 W. Grant Hwy – Sabre Trailers. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Secor, DiMaria, Brackmann, Smith, Bartman, Signore, and Hall.

e. Authorization to Execute Contract for EDC Strategic Planning Session.

Dane Checolinski, EDC Coordinator, updated the Council members on what is happening with the Commission, and answered questions. The Commission is looking to hire a consultant to facilitate a meeting to review their goals and objectives, to redefine how the Commission is going to go about achieving those goals and objectives, and try to create a matrix to gauge the success. The full cost of the consultant would be \$1,000. This fee would come out of the funds already appropriated to the EDC – out of the professional services line item of their budget.

Alderman Pat Signore made a motion, seconded by Alderman Steve DiMaria, to authorize the EDC to execute a contract for a Strategic Planning Session. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Hall, Smith, Secor, DiMaria, and Signore. Voting no on this motion were Aldermen: Carole Bartman and Corey Brackmann.

f. Intergovernmental Agreement with Marengo and Riley Townships Regarding Pace Dial-A-Ride Service.

Joshua Blakemore advised that this agreement is a renewal of the previous agreement, just amending the dates. He is still waiting on verification of the extended hours of operation – which is supposed to take effective on August 1, 2010.

Alderman Carole Bartman made a motion, seconded by Aldermen Todd Hall, to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with Marengo and Riley Townships regarding Pace Dial-A-Ride Service. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Smith, Bartman, Hall, Brackmann, DiMaria, and Secor. Alderman Pat Signore voted no on this motion.

g. Ordinance Amending Chapter 33 of the Marengo Municipal Code Regarding Liquor License Application Requirements.

Mayor Lockhart, as Liquor Commissioner, is requesting the Council approve an increase in the application fee for applicants seeking a liquor license in the City of Marengo. The current application fee is \$2,500, and the increase would amend that amount to \$5,000. This would not affect classes C & D which are club and fraternal organization licenses.

Alderman Steve DiMaria made a motion, seconded by Alderman Carole Bartman, to amend Chapter 33 Application Requirements, specifically 33.05, F (Application Fee) increasing the initial, non-refundable application fee for liquor licenses from \$2,500 to \$5,000. This increase shall not apply to license renewals as provided in section 33.12, classes C & D or daily permits. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Hall, DiMaria, Secor, Smith, Signore, Bartman, and Brackmann.

h. Ordinance Amending Chapter 12 of the Marengo Municipal Code Regarding Open Burning.

Mayor Lockhart has received numerous complaints from residents with health issues about the open burning that is happening. Currently there is no limit to the number of bonfires that any individual household can have. Residents apply to the City for a permit, the area is inspected, and the permit is given. There is no fee for this permit. This amendment would restrict those to one a month per household from April through October. At this time, there is no fine if a household does not follow the current municipal code. The amendment presented this evening does not alter that.

Alderman Pat Signore recommended that we review this code, suggesting that we charge a fee for the permit, and also fine people who do not get a permit for open burning.

Alderman Pat Signore made a motion, seconded by Alderman Steve DiMaria, to amend Chapter 12.09; Open Burning, specifically B EXCEPTIONS, by adding 2. paragraph (f). limiting recreational bonfires to one per residence per month during the months of April through October. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Smith, Bartman, DiMaria, Hall, and Signore. Voting no on this motion were Aldermen: Secor and Brackmann.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

MAYOR'S STATEMENTS AND REPORTS

Mayor Lockhart read the following: "Recently there has been a lot of talk about Amtrak potentially locating here in the Marengo area. As you are aware, we (the City of Marengo) has taken some initiatives lately by approving resolutions supporting the station in Marengo. These have been forwarded on to the appropriate authorities, including Congressman Don Manzullo. Since that time, we have talked to some people with knowledge of the Amtrak situation and they feel that Marengo has a legitimate chance of seeing Amtrak coming to our town. However, those that I have talked to have all said the same thing, Marengo must have some skin in the game. With that being said, I feel it is a very important project and we should do everything within our power to see it through to the finish. An Amtrak station in Marengo will lead to many new opportunities for our City, including speeding up the process of building a Metra station and facilitating an interchange at I 90 and Rt. 23. Given the importance of this project, it is my intent to send a letter to Congressman Don Manzullo, Secretary of Transportation Raymond LaHood, and any other appropriate State and Federal officials indicating that Marengo is committed to Amtrak and would be willing to explore various financing methods for this project if needed. As I said before, Marengo must bring some money to the table if we are to have any hopes of bringing Amtrak. The obvious question of how much this project will cost and how much will Marengo need to spend – I don't have those answers right now, but I do know that the Village of Huntley has already agreed to contribute money to build a station. So, I think the Council should be prepared to at least match whatever amount Huntley is willing to contribute. Those are my intentions and I want to make the Council aware of them. I am not seeking authority at this time to borrow money, but it seems safe to say that if we are going to get Amtrak, we will need to borrow money, and so I thought it was in the best interest to inform the Council this evening. If the Council is not interested in borrowing the money for this project, then those intentions should be made clear to me now so that we do not waste our time, effort and money trying to land Amtrak, if I find out a few months or a year from now that the Council would not be willing to consider such a bonding. With that, I will open up the floor for comments. I am looking for the consensus of the City Council.

Alderman Carole Bartman asked if we knew how much Huntley has offered, and Mayor Lockhart replied that he did not know at this time - either in the size of the property or the dollar amount. Alderman Michael Smith asked about getting input from both Metra and Amtrak on the size station that they want so that it would be a dual use station? Deborah Nier (City Administrator) replied that those are all things that would be brought to the table as further research is done.

Alderman Carole Bartman recommended that our Mayor and Administrator look into this further. Alderman Steve DiMaria agreed with this recommendation, as did Alderman Michael Smith, Mike Secor, Todd Hall, Pat Signore, and Corey Brackmann.

DEPARTMENT HEAD AND STAFF REPORTS

Jayson Shull, Building Commission. No formal report for the Council this evening. Jayson discussed setting a date for the CDC committee.

Jim Craney, Superintendent of Public Works. No formal report this evening. Still collecting brush from the recent storms.

Joshua Blakemore, Assistant to the City Administrator. Joshua handed out a brochure on the possible options for the website/logos presented by TSC North America. He asked the Council members to look this over and give their feedback on what they liked and what they didn't like.

Deputy Chief Joseph Hallman. A report had been given to Aldermen in their packet. No questions for that report, but Alderman Pat Signore asked what the costs would be to retro-fit the Chief's car to be used as a regular squad car. It would require some additional lights, but he felt it had everything else that would be needed. Alderman Signore thought that would be his first option over buying or leasing a new vehicle. Deputy Chief Hallman will speak with our mechanic and get a definitive answer for the Council at the next meeting.

Deborah Nier, City Administrator. The Chamber of Commerce is hosting a ribbon cutting at White Lion Real Estate, and all Aldermen are invited to attend. This will be at 5:30 pm on Tuesday the 29th of June. Deborah submitted a grant for a new air conditioning unit under the ARRA program, and is waiting to hear back from that application. Hopefully the City will be successful. The amount of the grant requested is \$19,600.

Last week, the City of Marengo had received a bid conference call with NIMEC. They submitted a bid for the street lighting and (NIMEC) came in about 15% lower than ComEd. This is a savings of about \$1,600. This had to be taken care of that day, so with the savings in mind, the City went ahead and entered into a contract (for 1 year) with them for that purpose. Deborah is also looking into them taking on a couple of our pumping station accounts, and hopefully save some money on those as well.

Alderman Steve DiMaria asked Dane Checolinski a question about incentive program. Has anybody received any feedback from any potential investors, and if they would be willing to invest in the community. Dane stated that at this point, he had only talked to Castle Bank and just mentioned it in passing. They indicated that they might be interested.

Alderman Pat Signore questioned the hotel situation presented earlier in the EDC report, and the information that the hotel would be looking for local investors. Dane updated the Aldermen on what he knew at this point. It was the feeling of the EDC that if the City of Marengo had not pursued the TIF studies, the hotel would not be looking at Marengo as a site location. Dane verified that the TIF draft on the downtown study is complete. Aldermen asked to review the draft. The east side study is not completed. The Council would prefer, before the EDC presents the hotel corporation with an incentive offer, they run it by the Council first so the Council understands what we are offering them.

Carlos Arevalo, City Attorney. No report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Donald Lockhart stated that the City Council would need to go to Executive Session this evening for the purpose of Personnel and Collective Bargaining. Alderman Steve DiMaria made a motion, seconded by Alderman Todd Hall, to go into Executive Session. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Hall, Signore, Secor, Brackmann, Bartman, Smith and DiMaria. The meeting recessed at 8:20 p.m.

Mayor Donald Lockhart reconvened the Regular Session at 9:28 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. **Action on Executive Session Matters Regarding Layoffs and Furlough Days.**
Alderman Steve DiMaria made a motion, seconded by Alderman Todd Hall, to lay off two maintenance workers from the street department, and one patrol officer. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Secor, Bartman, Hall, Smith, Signore, and DiMaria. Voting no on this motion was Alderman Brackmann.

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Steve DiMaria made a motion, seconded by Alderman Todd Hall, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with a voice vote by all Aldermen present. The meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Constance J. Boxleitner
City Clerk