

MARENGO CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
Marengo Council Chambers
132 E. Prairie Street
Marengo, IL 60152
September 13, 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 City Administrator Joshua Blakemore. Present as well was Dane Checolinski with the EDC. Absent this evening was Alderman Erik DeBoer.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Roseanne Kotvan, 410 6th Avenue, Marengo, Illinois read the following statement:

I understand the dispatch center is under discussion and you are thinking about outsourcing this service. I want to make sure you are making this decision from an informed platform so I speak as an employee and a resident.

The dispatch center provides an important personal service to the residents of the cities of Marengo and Union and the entire fire/rescue district. Not just in answering the 911 calls. That is less than half of what we do there. I have put a list in your mailboxes of most of the other duties we perform for the city. What I could think of anyway. All these duties have to be performed 24 hours a day, 365 days per year.

Outsourcing these jobs closes the window and the front office where people can always come for help. Sending these jobs east eliminates jobs for 5 full-time and 4 part-time workers. Four live right in Marengo. I live in Union and one is in county. The money budgeted to run this center now would leave the city and be funneled directly into another entity. You would directly remove money from the local economy.

I understand the need to keep costs down, but you also have a duty to retain as much service to residents as you can. There must be a balance. The dispatch center is already fully funded for this year so it's not a question of the city not having the money. It's a question of using the money wisely. Three aldermen have come in to observe the operation first hand. You should know what you are eliminating. Until a

third alderman sat with us the other day, no one had asked us how to save tax dollars within the dispatch center. A couple dispatchers have scrambled to put together a proposal that saves the full-time jobs and cuts over \$100K from the dispatch budget.

The second full-time dispatcher on afternoons would be turned into a “swing” dispatcher. She would cover the days off for the night shift that is currently covered with overtime and part-time hours. She would also flex to cover shift openings due to sick or vacation days. The part-time jobs would be greatly reduced, only used to cover when the “swing” dispatcher could not. Overtime would be nearly eliminated. We would lose a second dispatch position on afternoons, so to lighten some of the workload; city hall would take over answering the in-house phones during business hours. The rest of the full-time hours would be moved to Police Department secretarial work lost when Judy retired. That dispatcher would still be available on an emergency basis when things get hairy.

- \$19,062 - this would save overtime and shift coverage.
- \$34,000 - pay/benefits budgeted to PD secretarial coverage not being replaced.
- \$10,000 - tables have actually been paid by grant already.
- \$46,000 - increase in all fees from Fire/Rescue/Union.
- \$109,062 (total saved)

The contracts with Marengo Fire, Marengo Rescue, Union Fire and Union Police would be renegotiated when they come due. I believe we can still charge them much less than they would be paying anywhere else, and still provide the personal service they have come to expect. It will cost them more, but it would still save the fire/rescue districts money over where they would be if outsourced.

Keep in mind that some of the costs budgeted to the dispatch center will never go away; phone, heat, air, electric will be there whether dispatch is in there or not. And the PD will still need records clerks to do some of the minimal duties. Officers can pick up some of those duties but I would rather pay a record's clerk than an officer pulled off the street.

If we need to expand some time in the future we have some room. We already have two desks set up for two full-time dispatchers. We have a file area next to the desks that can be used for a third dispatch desk if needed. After that, we would have to take the interior wall down into the lunchroom where there would be room for a 4th desk.

These proposals would keep our center, save the Marengo Police Dispatch budget over \$100K, bring in a more fair payment of dispatch services, nearly eliminate overtime, nearly eliminate part-time hours, and leave your options open for future consideration. Expansion or even closing the center in the future if this doesn't work out. I would like to see you vote to keep the center for now and work on cost saving. It's already budgeted. Give us all more time to come up with better options. Closing the center now slams the door on all future options. Once it's gone, it's gone.

Robert Hanlon – on behalf of Joe’s Place - requested to speak with the city attorney outside at this time for just a few minutes. (Robert Hanlon and Carlos Arevalo stepped into the corridor at this time.)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Alderman Mike Secor made a motion, seconded by Alderman Todd Hall, to approve the regular meeting minutes of the August 23, 2010 city council meeting. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Smith, Hall, Secor, Bartman, DiMaria, Brackmann and Signore.

Mayor Lockhart deviated from the agenda at this time and brought forward item 8c

OLD BUSINESS

Ad hoc Dispatch Committee Report

Present at this evenings meeting were representatives from the Lake in the Hills Police Department. Those representatives are: Jim Wiles, Director of Police Public Safety; Mary Frake, the Chief of Support Services; and Mark Pohlman, Communications Supervisor. The Lake in the Hills Police Department is located at 1115 Crystal Lake Road, Lake in the Hills, IL.

Mark Pohlman handed out a copy of a draft contract to further explain the information that was previously given to the Ad hoc Dispatch Committee. Lake in the Hills currently dispatch services for the Village of Huntley, and the Village of Fox River Grove.

The various items that were discussed included delay time in transferring of calls, addition of fire and rescue squad calls, and projected cost of just adding the police calls at this time. There would be the need to possibly add a dispatcher to handle the additional volume generated by Marengo, and if it were to include fire and rescue squad, then additional personnel would have to be looked at. Also discussed were wireless calls. The McHenry County Sheriff currently handles Marengo’s wireless calls. The current projection time to get the system up and running would be about 4 months.

Lake in the Hills philosophy is that police calls and fire/rescue calls are different in nature, and require different handling. That is why they currently only dispatch police calls. They are looking at the option of adding fire/rescue but do not currently offer it. Larger centers do take both calls, but when a call is received and determined the type of emergency, it is then transferred to the area of the center that handles those specific types of calls.

Alderman Steve DiMaria stated, “I will support staying consolidated with the other taxing bodies as long as the Marengo Fire Department and Rescue Squad sign an IGA with the City stating that they will each pay 25% annually of the additional costs that the City of Marengo will incur from consolidating the 911 services. I believe that every taxing body providing a crucial service to the public should be held to the same standards.”

Alderman Corey Brackmann felt that by outsourcing there is the potential to improve the service if we were able to go somewhere that does both fire and rescue. By outsourcing there

is the potential to add the cell phone calls. The wireless could be done here, if we had the capability.

It was noted that Marengo is the current back up for Lake in the Hills, and if Marengo were to contract with them, another back up would have to be worked out.

Alderman Carole Bartman thanked the representatives from Lake in the Hills for coming this evening and presenting the information and answering the questions. The Ad hoc Dispatch Committee will look into this further.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. List of Bills
- b. Constitution Week Proclamation
- c. Flatlander's Wine Garden Request
- d. Resolution in Support of McHenry County Groundwater Protection Ordinance

Alderman Michael Smith made a motion, seconded by Alderman Mike Secor, to approve the consent agenda items including the additional bill from Plote, with that payment contingent upon the check that the City of Marengo received from Emergency Repair Program clearing the bank. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Smith, Brackmann, DiMaria, Signore, Hall and Secor. Alderman Carole Bartman voted no.

NEW BUSINESS

City Logo Presentation – TSC North America

Penny Olson and Jill Koch, from TSC, presented the most recent updates on the logos that they are working on for the City of Marengo. These were all discussed and preferences were noted for future work by TSC North America.

~Mayor Donald Lockhart deviated from the agenda, and moved forward, under Old Business.

OLD BUSINESS

Authorization to Execute Agreement for Joe's Place Business Incentive Program

Robert Hanlon, representing Joe's Place, requested that the City of Marengo amend the agreement on pages 5 and 8. Those items were discussed, and it was agreed to amend the document accordingly.

Alderman Steve DiMaria made a motion, seconded by Alderman Michael Smith, to accept the BIPiM Agreement changing page 8 item v to read "18 full time equivalent positions" and to amend the 18 months to 60 days, and also strike the verbiage out of page 5, paragraph g, "including Prevailing Wage Act requirements, if any are applicable,". The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Secor, Brackmann, DiMaria, Bartman and Smith. Aldermen Pat Signore abstained. Alderman Todd Hall voted no.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance Issuing a Special Use Permit for Planned Unit Development with Variances for the Prairie Enterprises LLC Property in the City of Marengo – Highway 20 Self-Storage

Jerry Lindley is the owner of the property. The property is currently not developable, and with this variance, it will allow the owner to develop it, and also allow them to become part of the proposed TIF District.

Alderman Carole Bartman made a motion, seconded by Alderman Pat Signore, to approve the Special use Permit. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Smith, Brackmann, Signore, DiMaria, Bartman, Hall, and Secor.

Mayor Donald Lockhart deviated from the agenda, and brought forward:

OLD BUSINESS

Settlers' Days Beer Garden Request

John Wyrostek discussed the plans for the Beer Garden for Settlers' Days, and answered questions from the Council members. Concern had been expressed about the additional expense for the police presence involved, these concerns were covered in the information presented this evening. The Settlers' Days Committee is paying for that cost. The Committee has met with the other taverns in town to discuss the beer tent, and have answered their concerns/complaints. There was a concern expressed about the location of the beer tent being close to the carnival, and it was explained that the area would be roped off and secure.

Alderman Steve DiMaria made a motion, seconded by Alderman Corey Brackmann, to approve the beer garden for Settlers' Days. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Hall, DiMaria, Smith, Brackmann, Secor and Bartman. Alderman Pat Signore voted no (due to proximity of the carnival).

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance Zoning Certain Property BP – Business Park upon Annexation and Rezoning Certain Property BP – Business Park – Prairie Companies – Coral Commerce Center

(This item was removed from the agenda)

Ordinance Authorizing Annexation Agreement for Prairie Companies – Coral Commerce Center

(This item was removed from the agenda)

Authorization to Executive Annexation Agreement for Prairie Companies – Coral Commerce Center

(This item was removed from the agenda)

IDOT Resolution to Authorize use of Motor Fuel Tax Funds for Riley Drive Project

Jim Craney, Superintendent of Public Works, explained the project and what was needed for the water main replacement and street repairs for Riley Drive, Mary Court, and Georgeann

Court. These will be paid for through Motor Fuel Taxes – at a cost of \$175,000. This would leave \$226,310 remaining in the fund.

Alderman Corey Brackmann made a motion, seconded by Alderman Mike Secor, to approve the IDOT Resolution and Authorization for the Riley Drive Street Project. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: DiMaria, Signore, Secor, Bartman, Brackmann, Hall and Smith.

Authorization to Executive Agreement with McMahon Engineering for Riley Drive Services

Alderman Steve DiMaria made a motion, seconded by Alderman Mike Secor, authorizing to execute the Agreement with McMahon Engineering for Riley Drive Services. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Secor, DiMaria, Brackmann, Smith, Bartman, Signore and Hall.

Authorization to Executive Agreement with McMahon Engineering for Wastewater Treatment Plant Engineering

This item was removed from the agenda.

Authorization to Execute Agreement with SEC Group, Inc for an Infiltration Study

This study was recommended to determine the extent of infiltration that is occurring into the sewer pipes. This will include manhole inspections and flow monitoring, and will provide information necessary to determine the likely sites of the greatest infiltration. The SEC Group proposed the study be conducted at an amount not to exceed \$7,200.

Alderman Michael Smith made a motion, seconded by Alderman Steve DiMaria, authorizing to execute the agreement with SEC Group, Inc. for an infiltration study. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Bartman, Hall, Smith, Secor, Brackmann, DiMaria and Signore.

Resolution to Allow for the Increase of Service Credit for Military Service from Two Years to Four Years for IMRF

Public Works Superintendent Jim Craney has requested that the City of Marengo consider the purchase of additional military service credits in order to realize an increase in the amount of military service that can be converted to IMRF service. The City of Marengo presently allows for conversion of two years of military service. The estimated additional payment that would be required of the City of Marengo, if this resolution passes could be \$1,777.30 each year for 20 years. If this resolution passes, this benefit would be applicable to all eligible employees (present and future) with military service.

Alderman Carole Bartman made a motion, seconded by Alderman Mike Secor, to allow for the increase of service credit for military services from two years to four years for IMRF. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Smith, Bartman, Signore, and Secor. Voting no were Aldermen: Hall, Brackmann, and DiMaria. Mayor Lockhart voted aye.

Budget & Finance Report

City Administrator Deborah Nier reviewed this report with the Aldermen.

OLD BUSINESS

(All of these were previously addressed)

MAYOR'S STATEMENTS AND REPORTS

Mayor Lockhart attended a 9-11 ceremony at the American Legion Post Home on Saturday morning.

Mayor Lockhart invited McHenry County Board Member Randy Donley to speak. Mr. Donley wanted the Council to know that he is open to questions or concerns the City of Marengo might have, that could be addressed on the County level. He spoke briefly about the project in Lakewood and explained his voting on this issue.

DEPARTMENT HEAD AND STAFF REPORTS

Joseph Hallman, Deputy Chief.

No report.

Jayson Shull, Building Commission.

Formal report was given to Council members. Jayson addressed the deadline for Harley D's and the consequences if they fail to meet it. Questions asked about ordinances for window signage. Also discussed this evening were ideas for better efficiency of the departments – with one possibility being combining the departments into one building for one central location for services. Carole Bartman discussed the possibility of setting up business licenses within the City of Marengo as a means of tracking (not for revenue) the legal businesses in the community. She asked the Mayor if Dane (from the EDC) and she could work together on this to see if this would be a possibility. The “legality” of the gun shop was questioned, and Jayson advised that there are strict guidelines that they had to follow, and that they met those guidelines. This type of business is closely monitored by the State, and ATF.

Jim Craney, Superintendent of Public Works.

No report.

Joshua Blakemore, Assistant City Administrator.

No report.

Martin Podosek, Chief of Police.

No report.

David Johanson, City Engineer.

No report.

Deborah Nier, City Administrator.

No report.

Carlo Arevalo, City Attorney.

No report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Lockhart advised that the Council would be going into Executive Session for the purpose of Collective Bargaining and Approval and Release of Executive Session Minutes.

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

Regular Session recessed at 9:44 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

The City Council reconvened following Executive Session at 9:54 P.M.

There was no further business to come before the Council this evening.

Alderman Michael Smith made a motion, seconded by Alderman Todd Hall, to adjourn. The motion passed with a voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 9:54 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Constance J. Boxleitner
City Clerk
City of Marengo