

**Marengo City Council**  
**Regular City Council Meeting**  
Marengo Council Chambers  
132 E. Prairie St.  
Marengo, IL 60152

March 28, 2011

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Lockhart led everyone present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Present this evening are Mayor Donald Lockhart, Aldermen: Carole Bartman, Corey Brackmann, Pat Signore and Steve DiMaria. Also present are City Attorney Carlos Arevalo, Deputy Chief Joseph Hallman, Building Commissioner Jayson Shull and Asst to the City Administrator Joshua Blakemore. Absent this evening are Aldermen: Michael Smith, Eric DeBoer, Mike Secor, Todd Hall, and Superintendent of Public Works Jim Craney.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mike Grismer, 9014 Voss Road, Marengo, and Glenn Volkening, 11318 Genoa Road, Genoa are the petitioners to the City of Marengo for Seven Oaks and Pleasant Grove Estates. They addressed the City Council and clarified information previously presented on (#1) the 10-unit parcel examples (for visual density), and (#2) contact made with Riley School District 18 and (#3) contact made with the Marengo Rescue Squad.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Alderman Steve DiMaria made a motion, seconded by Alderman Carole Bartman, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on March 14, 2011. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Brackmann, DiMaria, Bartman, Signore and Mayor Lockhart.

Alderman Pat Signore made a motion, seconded by Alderman Steve DiMaria, to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing – Seven Oaks, held on March 14, 2011. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: DiMaria, Signore, Bartman, Brackmann and Mayor Lockhart.

Alderman Pat Signore made a motion, seconded by Alderman Steve DiMaria, to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing – Pleasant Grove Estates, held on March 14, 2011. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: DiMaria, Brackmann, Bartman, Signore and Mayor Lockhart.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**a. List of Bills**

Alderman Steve DiMaria made a motion, seconded by Alderman Pat Signore, to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Bartman, Brackmann, DiMaria, Signore and Mayor Lockhart.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Habitat for Humanity of McHenry County – Request for Fee Waiver/Reduction.**

Tom Jones, the representative for Habitat for Humanity of McHenry County addressed the Council on the request for a fee waiver or reduction for a home they are going to build in Brookside Meadows

subdivision in May. Their goal is to build 2 additional homes in Marengo. The City granted a reduction last year, to \$1600, and they are requesting the same reduction this time.

Alderman Steve DiMaria expressed his opinion on the City not being in the financial position at the present time to support this request. Alderman Pat Signore agreed.

Alderman Carole Bartman made a motion, seconded by Alderman Pat Signore, to approve the payment of \$1600 in lieu of the regular fees for the Habitat for Humanity house in Brookside Meadows. The motion failed, and no action will be taken. Voting yes on the motion are Alderman Carole Bartman, and Mayor Donald Lockhart. Voting no on the motion are Alderman Pat Signore and Alderman Steve DiMaria. Alderman Corey Brackmann abstained.

***Alderman Michael Smith entered the meeting at 7:12 pm.***

Alderman Steve DiMaria made a motion, seconded by Alderman Pat Signore, to vote again on the previous motion. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Bartman, Smith, DiMaria, Signore and Mayor Lockhart. Alderman Corey Brackmann abstained. (This vote rescinds the prior motion and vote)

Alderman Michael Smith made a motion, seconded by Alderman Carole Bartman, to approve the request for a reduction in the fees to \$1600 (for labor costs) plus \$200 material costs (for water meter) for a total of \$1800. Voting yes on this motion are Alderman Smith, Bartman and Mayor Lockhart. Voting no on this motion are Aldermen DiMaria and Signore. Alderman Brackmann abstained. The motion failed for a lack a majority.

b. **An Ordinance Amending a Special Use Permit and Granting a Zoning map Amendment and Zoning Variation (rear yard setback) for 546 East Grant Highway – Florence Nursing Home.**

Jayson Shull reviewed the information with the Council. The PZC had conducted a question and answer session, and also held a public hearing on this matter. There were no objections from any of the adjacent property owners on this plan. A PZC Commissioner had requested information on the façade of the building, and was informed that they had not made a decision on that yet.

Alderman Pat Signore stated that he would prefer to make a decision after the information on how they are going to "blend this all together" is made known, and this is his only concern on the request. It was recommended that this be tabled until more information on the façade is presented to the Council. This item was tabled at this time, to be brought back before the Council at the next meeting.

c. **2011/2011 Water & Sewer Rate Analysis.**

Josh Blakemore reviewed the information given on water usage. There has been a reduction in usage, and several factors come into play. The fund is in better health this year as opposed to previous years. This increase is the last of the "scheduled" increases (2008 to 2011) of 5% per year. It is anticipated that the City will likely be starting construction on the wastewater treatment plan expansion in the 2012/2013 fiscal year. The City staff has recommended that the City leave the 5% adjustment in place for the upcoming fiscal year, to keep the fund in good standing.

Mr. Blakemore explained that if the 5% increase were to remain for the coming fiscal year, then no action would be required on the part of the Council. If a change to that increase were to occur, then a motion would be required. The Council agreed that the 5% increase would remain for the coming fiscal year.

***Mrs. Beverly Merz-Booker, 521 E. Grant Hwy, Marengo, read a prepared statement on the library. That statement is attached.***

**d. Discussion regarding contracting for mowing services.**

Jayson Shull reviewed the information on 3 scenarios for mowing of City property. The first scenario would be to recall a worker and designate their main duty to be mowing. The combined cost of this scenario would be \$73,200 (maximum). The second scenario would be to outsource the mowing at an anticipated cost of \$65,500. The third scenario would be to outsource the mowing and recall a worker. This option would be optimal and would enhance additional opportunities for overall City Public Works demands. The City staff recommends going with the second scenario at this time.

Alderman Steve DiMaria made a motion, seconded by Alderman Pat Signore, to outsource the mowing of the grass, with a cost not to exceed \$65,500, and a request to resubmit and put it out to bid. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: DiMaria, Smith, Signore, Bartman and Brackmann.

Alderman Steve DiMaria made a motion, seconded by Alderman Michael Smith, to reject the existing bid (for the mowing of City property). The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Brackmann, Smith, Bartman, DiMaria and Signore.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**MAYOR'S STATEMENTS AND REPORTS**

No report.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD AND STAFF REPORTS**

**Jayson Shull, Building Commissioner.** Formal report was in packet. Alderman Signore questioned the problem that occurred on Kent Street (back up of sludge) causing damage to property. This was as a result of the main brake that occurred. Alderman Signore will contact the insurance company, if authorized to do so, on this to try and resolve the problem. Alderman DiMaria questioned if additional revenue added into the upcoming budget for the SSA revenue that will be generated for the Indian Trails retention work, and Josh advised that it was not in the preliminary information that the Aldermen had. They (the City staff) are working with George to determine if a separate fund will be created, or where it will be placed in the budget.

**Deputy Chief Joseph Hallman** spoke on the purchase of 2 new vehicles for the police department. Also explained about the STEP (State Traffic Enforcement Program) grant overtime hours. Lake in the Hills will be testing the tornado sirens April 5<sup>th</sup>. May 1<sup>st</sup> is the projected date to start with Lake In The Hills.

**Joshua Blakemore, Asst to the City Administrator.** Updated the Council on the bid opening that occurred on March 24<sup>th</sup>. This was for the Riley/Georgeann water main improvements. It was estimated that the bids would be about \$291,000. The low bid, from Stenstrom Excavation and Blacktop (from Rockford), is for \$283,905.73. The high bid was \$392,278.00.

There will be a budget meeting next Wednesday, and any and all Aldermen are invited to attend this meeting.

A memorandum was given to each of the Aldermen on accumulated interest funds, and it was requested to move the interest from these funds (the debt service fund, the retained personnel fund, and the developer contributions fund) into the general budget to cover a projected cash flow deficit for this year. There is currently about \$119,000 of interest that has accumulated in those funds, over the last 10 years. This suggestion was cleared with George Roach, the auditor.

Alderman Michael Smith made a motion, seconded by Alderman Pat Signore, to temporarily transfer the accumulated interest into the general budget, and when the revenue comes in it is repaid. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Signore, Brackmann, Bartman, Smith and DiMaria.

**Carlos Arevalo, City Attorney.** No report.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Donald Lockhart stated that the Council would be going into Executive Session for the purpose of Personnel and Imminent Litigation.

Alderman Steve DiMaria made a motion, seconded by Alderman Pat Signore, to go into Executive Session for the purpose of Personnel and Imminent Litigation. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Bartman, Brackmann, Smith, Signore and DiMaria.

The Regular Meeting recessed at 8:38 PM.

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The Regular Meeting reconvened at 8:59 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Alderman Michael Smith made a motion, seconded by Alderman Steve DiMaria, to adjourn the Regular Meeting. The motion passed with a voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 9:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Constance J. Boxleitner*  
City Clerk

Attachment