City of Marengo
City Council Meeting Minutes

City Council Chambers
132 E. Prairie Street
Marengo, IL 60152
July 11, 2011

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Donald Lockhart called the July 11, 2011 Regular Meeting of the Marengo City Council to order at 7:04 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Lockhart led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present this evening are Mayor Donald Lockhart, Aldermen: Carole Bartman, Corey Brackmann, Michael Smith, Mike Secor, Pat Signore, Todd Hall and Steve DiMaria. Also present are City Attorney Carlos Arevalo, Acting Chief of Police Joseph Hallman, Public Works/Building Commissioner Jayson Shull, and Assistant City Administrator Joshua Blakemore.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Matt Keenum, 603 E. Washington Street, Marengo. Mr. Keenum spoke on the Florence Nursing Home proposed expansion and expressed his concerns about the proposed changes on the building.

Debbie VanOchten, 613 E. Washington Street, Marengo. Mrs. VanOchten spoke on the Florence Nursing Home proposed expansion and also expressed her concerns about the height and length of the building addition.

APPROVAL OF MINTUES

Alderman Mike Secor made a motion, seconded by Alderman Pat Signore, to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2011 Regular Meeting as presented. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Brackmann, DiMaria, Hall, Bartman, Smith, Secor and Signore.

Alderman Steve DiMaria made a motion, seconded by Alderman Mike Secor, to approve the March 23, 2011 Committee of the Whole Minutes, with the following correction: changing Comcast to read Charter. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Bartman, Smith, Brackmann, DiMaria, Signore, Hall and Secor.

CONSENT AGENDA

a. List of Bills

Alderman Todd Hall made a motion, seconded by Alderman Mike Secor, to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Signore, Secor, Hall, Brackmann, DiMaria, Bartman and Smith.

NEW BUSINESS

a. 845 Village Circle Parking Request

Cynthia Gilmore, 845 Village Circle, Marengo, spoke on the request for the special parking request to accommodate her family member. The suggestion to establish a parking spot directly in front of her home, and install a special use sign for that purpose.

Alderman Carole Bartman made a motion, seconded by Alderman Pat Signore, to approve the on the street parking, with a designated spot, for 845 Village Circle. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Smith, Brackmann, Signore, DiMaria, Bartman, Hall and Secor.

b. **Settlers' Days Requests.**

Melody Bailey, 321 Edwards Street, Marengo, is the co-chairman of Settlers Days, and spoke on the various requests being asked of the City for the Settlers Days events.

Approval is being requested by Settlers Days for the following items:

1. Permission to close Route 23 from the Route 20 stoplight to Railroad Street on Oct. 8, 2011. Detour signs will be put up at 3 pm and will be taken down by 11 pm. They will also be put up again on Oct. 9, 2011 in the morning for the parade, and will be removed after the parade.
2. Allow the use of City Parking Lot 2 for the Carnival on Oct 6, 7, 8 and 9, 2011.
3. Permission to allow the Pet Parade on Oct 8, 2011 – following the route from previous years.
4. Permission to close the street in front of 120 E. Prairie Street for the Fire Department Water Fights on Oct. 8, 2011 from noon to 6 pm.
5. Permission to hold the tractor pull (at Calvin Spencer Park) and the car and tractor shows (at Calvin Spencer Park) on Oct 8, 2011 from 10 am to 4 pm.
6. Approval for a beer garden during Saturday Night on Main Street
7. Approval for the Marengo Women's Club to post and display informative signs for their Craft Fair being held during Settler's Days at MCHS. A list of requested sign locations is included with the request.
8. Waiver of Carnival fee of $150 a day.

Alderman Carole Bartman made a motion, seconded by Alderman Mike Secor, to approve the Settlers Days Requests. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Hall, DiMaria, Smith, Brackmann, Secor, Signore and Bartman.

c. **Authorization to Enter Agreement with E-PAY for Internet Payment Services.**

Joshua Blakemore reviewed this procedure, which will allow payment of water/sewer bills, at this time. There is no cost to the City. The user would pay a handling fee. There is the option of increasing the services to include payment of City Stickers, fines, etc., in the future.

Alderman Steve DiMaria made a motion, seconded by Alderman Pat Signore, to start an E-PAY agreement with Internet Pay Service. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: DiMaria, Signore, Secor, Bartman, Brackmann, Hall and Smith.

d. **Authorization to Purchase Paver Box as per FY 11-12 Budget.**

Jayson Shull spoke on the search that was performed to obtain the best price on purchasing the paver box, discussed the size options, and locations of dealers.

Alderman Steve DiMaria made a motion, seconded by Alderman Pat Signore, to authorize the Building Department to waive the bidding procedures as stated in Section 17.07 of the Marengo Municipal Code and allow the City Administrator or his designee to purchase a paving machine and related items at a cost not to exceed $50,000 as budgeted. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Secor, DiMaria, Smith, Bartman, Signore and Hall. Alderman Corey Brackmann voted no.

OLD BUSINESS

a. **Ordinance Amending a Special Use Permit for 546 East Grant Highway (Florence Nursing Home) and Rezoning a portion of the property to R-5 Multiple Family Residential.**

The revised plans, as requested by the City Council, were reviewed. Alderman Corey Brackmann spoke on his meeting with the objectors to the expansion. It has been suggested that the petitioners consider larger scale trees, and other berming/landscaping options.

Matt Keenum, 613 E. Washington, Marengo, spoke on the landscaping options.
Alderman Pat Signore suggested that the adjacent homeowners and the petitioners sit down and try to come to a solution on this situation.

Tom VanOchten, 613 E. Washington Street, Marengo requested a visual on the distance from City Hall to the building across the street – stating that it was about the same distance from his property to the proposed new location for the addition, and asked the Council if they would be happy with a building that tall being in their back yard.

Attorney Arevalo informed the Council that there was an objection filed on this proposal, and as such, it will require a super majority – 2/3 vote of the Aldermen (6 votes) to pass.

Mayor Donald Lockhart stated: "I have always been for growth in the City of Marengo. I wouldn't want to look out my window and see it, and I don't really think that it is fair to these people (the property owners to the north), and if I was voting, I personally would vote no. But, unfortunately the law says that I can't vote under these circumstances."

Alderman Carole Bartman made a motion, seconded by Alderman Todd Hall, to adopt an Ordinance Granting a Special Use Permit Amendment for a 96 occupant Nursing Home located at 546 E. Grant Highway; subject to 4' berms, maintaining 4 trees on the north end of the property, changing the location of the berms subject to the City's satisfaction/specifications, changing the trees from 6 feet to 10 - 12 feet planted on the berms (recommended 16 Colorado Spruce), with all of the above subject to the City's Building Commissioners approval. Voting yes on this motion are Alderman: Bartman, Hall, Brackmann and DiMaria. Voting no on this motion are Aldermen: Smith, Secor and Signore. The motion failed, and no action was taken. There was no motion to deny the application.

This information will be provided to the applicant, indicating that the motion to approve failed, and that no motion to deny was made. As a result, no action could be taken on the application.

b. Ad Hoc Board Committee Update.

Alderman Signore spoke on the interview process that had been done on selecting a company to do the search, and the findings of the committee. Matt Keenum spoke briefly and expressed his opinion on the value of using a firm that conducts these searches as a full-time operation, as opposed to an individual that performs the search as a "side job." Alderman Steve DiMaria expressed the opinion that the City deserves the best candidate.

Alderman Steve DiMaria made a motion, seconded by Alderman Pat Signore, to approve hiring Voorhees for the Administrator Search for the City of Marengo. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Smith, Hall, DiMaria, Signore, and Mayor Lockhart. Voting no on this motion are Aldermen: Bartman, Brackmann, and Secor.

MAYOR'S STATEMENTS AND REPORTS

Mayor Lockhart spoke on the events of this morning. All majority services are operating on generators. There will be a need to bring in outside help to remove the downed limbs and the clean up necessary.

DEPARTMENT HEAD AND STAFF REPORTS

Jayson Shull, Public Works/Building Commissioner.

No written report. Entered into a contract to do some sidewalk raising in Ward 3. There were 41 building permits issued in June. Meyer Road contract with Riley Township has been completed. Two barbeque grills have been purchased for Calvin Spencer Park. Also purchased a bicycle rack for the Washington Street bump out. Flushing and jetting continues.

Joseph Hallman, Acting Chief of Police.
No written report. All departments worked well today, under the circumstances. It was very dangerous this morning with the lightning and trees and wires down. No serious injuries. Streets were opened very quickly. Held a Sergeant's exam on Saturday. Awaiting the results. Article was placed in the Northwest Herald, about the recent elderly scam that was discovered. Reported that there have been no liquor violations for the past 4 months. Arbitration hearing was held last week with the FOP.

Joshua Blakemore, Assistant City Administrator.
Reviewed the situation with the storm on Monday morning. Praised the work being done by Anna and Jenny, who are filling in on the water/sewer department work during Karen's recovery. He will be attending an I-90 Corridor Planning Meeting on Wednesday at the toll way headquarters in Downers Grove. There is a problem with the centrifuge at the water treatment plant, unsure if it is storm related, but it is being checked out. Complimented the department heads for staying in the budget. Reviewed the arbitration process being done with the FOP. The City has received all the signed TIF Intergovernmental Agreements but one. Waiting on the document from the High School.

Steve DiMaria, spoke on the workshop that he attended last week. He expressed the desires of those that attended in wanting the downtown area to stay and prosper. Spoke on the desires of everyone that attended. For this to be successful, everyone (community – building owners – citizens) must buy-in.

Carlos Arevalo, City Attorney. No report.

Mayor Lockhart added the information that a shaft at the wastewater treatment plant went down last week, so they are currently renting a shaft. There will be a Committee of the Whole meeting on the 27th of July at 7 pm, to decide on the rate structure for sewer and water.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
Mayor Lockhart advised the Council that there would not be an Executive Session this evening.

ADJOURNMENT
Alderman Steve DiMaria made a motion, seconded by Alderman Mike Secor, to adjourn. The motion passed with a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Constance J. Boxleitner
City Clerk