

**City of Marengo
City Council Meeting Minutes
City Council Chambers
132 E. Prairie Street
Marengo, IL 60152
August 8, 2011**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Donald Lockhart called the August 8, 2011 Council Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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 Acting City Administrator Joshua Blakemore. Absent this evening is Alderman Erik DeBoer.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Kathleen Roberson, 350 8th Ave., Marengo. Asked if there was a way to get an expanded version of the water/sewer bill, so people know what they are paying for on that bill. Second comment was on the appointments that are on the agenda this evening.

Donald Urban, 818 Whitetail Drive, Marengo. Questioned the meter reading process and how it is done.

Mr. Beto, Fifth Avenue, Marengo. Questioned the Council on why the Administrator was leaving, and this was clarified. Also questioned why the information that is reported in the Northwest Herald is incorrect, and why the meetings are not printed. He also questioned the difference in the number of meters being reported in the Northwest Herald.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

Mayor Lockhart presented Mr. Hank DeBoer a plaque in recognition of his service to the City of Marengo, having served on the Marengo Economic Development Commission. The City greatly appreciates all his time and efforts in bringing business and jobs to the City. Alderman Carole Bartman added her words of praise for his work on the McHenry County Board as well.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Alderman Mike Secor made a motion, seconded by Alderman Todd Hall, to approve the minutes of the July 25, 2011 regular meeting as presented. 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 United Methodist Church Street Closure Request.**

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

NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Habitat for Humanity for Waiver/Reduction Request**

Jerry Monica, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity in McHenry. They are requesting either a waiver or a reduction in the building permit and impact fees for a new project in Marengo.

Alderman Pat Signore made a motion, seconded by Alderman Steve DiMaria, to deny the request to waive or reduce any of the listed fees. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Signore, Secor, Hall, DiMaria, Bartman and Smith. Voting no on this motion is Alderman Brackmann.

- b. **Ordinance declaring certain municipal property as surplus.**

Alderman Steve DiMaria made a motion, seconded by Alderman Pat Signore, to approve an ordinance declaring certain municipal property as surplus. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Smith, Brackmann, Signore, DiMaria, Bartman, Hall and Secor.

- c. **Consent on Staff/Commission appointments.**

Mayor Lockhart presented the list of annual appointments for this year:

1. Superintendent of Public Works -Jayson Shull
2. Police Pension Board -William Ryman (2 year term)

Alderman Michael Smith made a motion, seconded by Alderman Steve DiMaria, for consent on the Staff/Commission appointments. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Hall, DiMaria, Smith, Brackmann, Secor, Signore and Bartman.

- d. **Ordinance Amending Chapter 25 Wastewater Service Charges of the Marengo Municipal Code.**

Alderman Carole Bartman questioned why we would initiate the rate increase on October 1st, and Tim Bronn (with McMahon Engineering) explained that this should be in effect prior to finalizing the loan on the project. Questions were asked about the rates that were shown on the ordinance, and these were explained.

Alderman Carole Bartman made a motion, seconded by Alderman Todd Hall, to Amend Chapter 25, Water and Wastewater Department of the Marengo Municipal Code Regarding Water and Sewer Rates, with the review of the rates to occur on an annual basis, with the first review in August of 2012. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: DiMaria, Secor, Bartman, Brackmann, Hall and Smith. Voting no on this motion is Alderman Pat Signore.

During the voting process, Alderman Mike Secor read the following statement: "The price tag is high, no doubt. We fully understand. And believe me when I say that we understand the impact any billing increase will have on the residents. It is tremendous. Please remember that we are residents too. And some of us have struggled as much as anyone in this economic environment. We live in the same neighborhoods and share the same costs as everyone else. It is this price tag that has everyone upset. We are too, which is why we have been trying so hard to minimize the individual costs as much as we possibly can."

OLD BUSINESS

There was none this evening.

MAYOR'S STATEMENT AND REPORT.

Mayor Lockhart had no statement or report at this point.

DEPARTMENT HEAD AND STAFF REPORTS

Public Works / Building Commissioner Jayson Shull.

Jayson thanked the Council for the appointment. He has no written report this evening. A purchase has been made of the paver box, and is \$9,000 under budget. August 17 there will be a training session on the unit. Looking at the state bids for new trucks, with the bids coming in surprisingly low. Skid steer is being pursued. There has been a slight decrease in the building permits taken out. Underground work is complete on Riley Drive, and hope to start laying concrete at the end of this week. Main shaft in the wastewater treatment plant is down, but the other clarifier is keeping up. The plant is running okay at this time. The other clarifier should be up and running in 4 to 6 weeks.

Acting Chief of Police Joseph Hallman.

Report was in the board packet. There were no questions from the Council.

Acting City Administrator Joshua Blakemore.

Josh then thanked the Council for their work on the water and sewer rates. There will be a public hearing on August 19th at 7 pm at the Huntley Village Hall, regarding the I-90 Corridor. The toll-way authority will be conducting the meeting. Will be working with the Northern Illinois Municipal Electrical Co-Op to possibly look at a referendum, for residents to allow the City to solicit bids for electric rates for the residents. The City has contacted Comcast, and we (the City) are waiting on a response at this time. The budget is "dead on". The trend reports that have been done show that we are where we should be at this time.

City Attorney Carlos Arevalo.

Attorney Arevalo had no specific report this evening, but brought new books along for the Council, which contains the voting requirements for specific statutes. He also spoke on changing utilities. He recommended contacting Dave Hoover to speak with the council on this issue. The Council would need to pass an ordinance, making it a public question, if the City were to look at other options on electricity for the residents.

EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Mayor Lockhart advised the Council that they would be going into Executive Session this evening for the purpose of Land Acquisition.

Alderman Pat Signore made a motion, seconded by Alderman Michael Smith, to go to Executive Session for the purpose of Land Acquisition. The motion passed with an aye vote by Aldermen: Secor, DiMaria, Brackmann, Smith, Bartman, Signore, and Hall.

The meeting recessed at 8:25 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 8:41 p.m.

Alderman Michael Smith suggested that the City post the rate structure for sewer/water rates, to let the citizens know what the rates are currently, and what they will be in October.

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Steve DiMaria made a motion, seconded by Alderman Todd Hall, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Constance J. Boxleitner
City Clerk