

APPROVED
5/26/2015

**Marengo City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
City Council Chambers
132 E. Prairie Street
Marengo, IL 60152
May 11, 2015**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Donald B. Lockhart called the Regular City Council meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Gene Boxleitner led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present this evening are Mayor Donald B Lockhart; Aldermen Carole Bartman, Matt Keenum, Nicole DeBoer, Dennis Hammortree, Gretchen Samuelson, Todd Hall and Steve Mortensen. Also present are City Administrator Gary Boden, Assistant City Administrator Joshua Blakemore, Finance Director Jennifer Snelten, City Engineer Tim Hartnett, Chief of Police Joseph Hallman, and City Attorney Carlos Arevalo. Alderman Michael Smith was absent.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

R. J. Meyer, teacher and coach from Marengo Community High School, thanked the City Council for allowing the REALITY Group from MCHS to attend this Council meeting and to speak to the Council.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - April 27, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes

Alderman Gretchen Samuelson made a motion, seconded by Alderman Nicole DeBoer, to approve the minutes from the April 27, 2015 Regular Meeting. The aldermen voted as follows:

- Ayes: Keenum, Mortensen, DeBoer, Hall, Bartman, Hammortree and Samuelson
- Nays: 0
- Abstain: 0

The motion passed.

OATH OF OFFICE – Aldermen

Mayor Lockhart read the Oath of Office for the newly elected City Aldermen. Those individuals are James Regelin (Ward 1), Todd Hall (Ward 3), and Brett Martin (Ward 4). Alderman Michael Smith (Ward 2) was absent, and he will be sworn in at the next meeting.

ROLL CALL

Present are Mayor Donald Lockhart; Aldermen James Regelin, Matt Keenum, Nicole DeBoer, Dennis Hammortree, Brett Martin, Todd Hall and Steve Mortensen. Alderman Michael Smith was absent.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION - Recognition of Carole Bartman & Gretchen Samuelson

Mayor Lockhart presented plaques to Alderman Carole Bartman and Alderman Gretchen Samuelson, thanking them for their serving the City of Marengo as Ward Aldermen.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION - 2015 Vehicle Sticker Design Contest Award Winner

Mayor Lockhart presented a certificate and check to Brittani Oliver who won the Vehicle Sticker Contest.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. List of Bills
- b. Proclamation designating May 15th as Peace Officer’s Memorial Day

c. Authorization to Submit HR Green & Williams Brothers Construction Inc invoices to IEPA for Loan Disbursement and to Authorize Payment Upon Receipt of Said Disbursement

d. Consent to Staff Appointments

Alderman Matt Keenum made a motion, seconded by Alderman Todd Hall, to approve the Consent Agenda items. The aldermen voted as follows:

Ayes: Keenum, Mortensen, DeBoer, Hall, Regelin, Hammortree and Martin
Nays: 0
Abstain: 0

The motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Marengo Community High School – Marengo REALITY Presentation

Three members of the Marengo REALITY Group addressed the City Council and requested that the Council consider enacting an ordinance making Settler's Days tobacco free. Mayor Lockhart thanked the group for attending and advised the group that the City would take their request under advisement.

b. Marengo Main Street Presentation and Request for Matching Funding as per FY 2015/2016 Budget

Ellen Brunshon, Board President of Marengo Main Street, thanked the City Council for their previous support, and expressed their appreciation for the commitment the City has made for this year in the amount of \$15,000. They are requesting a first match in the amount of \$7,933.25.

Alderman Steve Mortensen made a motion, seconded by Alderman Todd Hall, to approve the request from Marengo Main Street for matching funds, in the amount of \$7,933.25. The aldermen voted as follows:

Ayes: Regelin, Keenum, Mortensen, Martin, Hall and Hammortree
Nays: 0
Abstain: DeBoer

The motion passed.

c. Treasurer's Annual Report of Police Pension Fund

Finance Director Snelten was present to answer any questions from the Council on this report, but there were none.

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Steve Mortensen, to accept the Annual Report of the Police Pension Fund. The aldermen voted as follows:

Ayes: Martin, Hammortree, Hall, Keenum, Mortensen, Regelin and DeBoer
Nays: 0
Abstain: 0

The motion passed.

MAYOR'S STATEMENTS AND REPORTS

Mayor Lockhart thanked both Carole Bartman and Gretchen Samuelson for their work on the City Council, and welcomed the new aldermen who have stepped up to help our City.

DEPARTMENT HEAD AND STAFF REPORTS

Assistant City Administrator Joshua Blakemore asked for clarification on direction for the request made by the Marengo REALITY group, and Attorney Arevalo explained the procedure. Alderman Keenum questioned the enforcement of such an ordinance, and Josh has suggested that the group meet and discuss this with the Settler's Day Committee, and also with the police. All members of the Council have received a copy of the budget for 2015/16. He updated the Council on the gas leak at the WWTP,

and the City has authorized work, at a projected cost of \$4,500. Pre-construction on the transite project is underway and explained the memo that was received from HR Green. They are getting quotes for tree removal for the Emerald Ash Tree problem, as well as some trees that need to be taken care of within the City. Commended the 3 foremen on stepping up and helping keep everyone informed on what is going on.

Finance Director Jennifer Snelten had nothing further.

Chief of Police Joseph Hallman had no written report.

City Engineer Tim Hartnett updated the Council on the progress of the I-90 project. Traffic data collection should be completed by the end of this week.

City Administrator Gary Boden spoke on the fund balance (92 days currently), and talked briefly on the recent article that was in the paper on this subject, and the possible loss of funds from the State. There is conjecture that Governor Rauner might amend the cut in funds to apply only to "Home Rule" municipalities. Mayor Lockhart explained that there are two ways for town to become "Home Rule" towns. The first is that when a census is taken, the number of residents in the town exceeds 25,000, and the second way is if the citizens of the town vote to become a "Home Rule" town.

City Attorney Carlos Arevalo had no report. He did thank the Council for the appointment as City Attorney.

REPORTS AND STATEMENTS FROM CITY COUNCIL

Alderman Keenum welcomed the new aldermen to the Council, and strongly recommended that they attend the seminar being offered for newly elected officials. He then questioned the current status of the City's search for the new Public Works Director. Administrator Boden answered that the City would bring options to the Council, for consideration, on job description, as well as other factors relating to this position.

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Steve Mortensen, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:39 PM.


Constance J. Boxleitner
City Clerk

These minutes were approved by the City Council on May 26, 2015.