

**APPROVED**  
April 11, 2014

**Marengo City Council  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
City Council Chambers  
132 E. Prairie Street  
Marengo, IL 60152  
March 28, 2016**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Donald B. Lockhart called the 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 James Regelin, Nicole DeBoer, Dennis Hammortree, Brett Martin, Todd Hall and Steve Mortensen. Also present are City Administrator Gary Boden, Assistant City Administrator Joshua Blakemore, Chief of Police Joseph Hallman, Public Works Director Howard Moser, City Attorney Carlos Arevalo, City Engineer Tim Hartnett, and Finance Director Jennifer Snelten. Aldermen Matt Keenum and Michael Smith were absent.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**

None.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** *March 14, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes*

Alderman James Regelin made a motion, seconded by Alderman Nicole DeBoer to approve the minutes from the March 14, 2016 regular meeting. The aldermen voted as follows:

Ayes: Mortensen, DeBoer, Hall, Regelin, & Hammortree  
Nays: 0  
Abstain: Martin  
The motion passed.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. List of Bills**
- b. Marengo Fire Protection District Boot Drive Request**
- c. Block Party Request- 1108 N. Page Street**
- d. Authorization to Submit Invoices to IEPA for Loan Disbursement and Authorize Payment upon Receipt of Said Disbursement**

Alderman Hammortree asked questions on several bills from the List of Bills, and also requested clarification on the invoices being submitted to the IEPA.

During the discussion on the bills, Alderman Nicole DeBoer reminded Alderman Hammortree that he had voted against us (the City) being reimbursed for the bills. "We would be out \$60,000 right now if we went with your vote."

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

Ayes: Regelin, Mortensen, DeBoer, Martin and Hall  
Nays: Hammortree  
Abstain: 0  
The motion failed.

Attorney Arevalo reminded the Council that the Consent Agenda must have a unanimous vote. The Council voted as follows on the various parts of the agenda:

*Items B and C*

Alderman Steve Mortensen made a motion, seconded by Alderman Nicole DeBoer, to approve items B & C from the Consent Agenda. The aldermen voted as follows:

Ayes: Martin, Hammortree, Hall, Mortensen, Regelin and DeBoer  
Nays: 0  
Abstain: 0  
The motion passed.

*Item A*

Alderman Todd Hall made a motion, seconded by Alderman Nicole DeBoer, to approve item A from the Consent Agenda. The aldermen voted as follows:

Ayes: Martin, Mortensen, Regelin, Hall and DeBoer  
Nays: Hammortree  
Abstain: 0  
The motion passed.

*Item D*

Alderman Steve Mortensen made a motion, seconded by Alderman Nicole DeBoer, to approve item D from the Consent Agenda. The aldermen voted as follows:

Ayes: Hall, DeBoer, Mortensen, Martin and Regelin  
Nays: Hammortree  
Abstain: 0  
The motion passed

**NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Authorization to Execute Addendum to Police Dispatch Service Agreement between the Village of Lake in the Hills and the City of Marengo**

Chief Hallman reviewed the information with the Council on the need for the addendum with the Village of Lake In The Hills.

Alderman James Regelin made a motion, seconded by Alderman Steve Mortensen, to accept the Lake in the Hills contract addendum. The aldermen voted as follows:

Ayes: Mortensen, Martin, Hammortree, Regelin, DeBoer and Hall  
Nays: 0  
Abstain: 0  
The motion passed.

**b. Authorization to Execute Intergovernmental Agreement for Dispatch Services between the City of McHenry and the City of Marengo**

Chief Hallman explained the contract with the City of McHenry, adding that now all the entities in Marengo (Police, Fire Department and Rescue Squad) would be handled by the same entity.

Alderman James Regelin made a motion, seconded by Alderman Todd Hall, for authorization to Execute and Intergovernmental Agreement for Dispatch Services between the City of McHenry and the City of Marengo. The aldermen voted as follows:

Ayes: Hammortree, DeBoer, Mortensen, Regelin, Martin and Hall  
Nays: 0  
Abstain: 0  
The motion passed.

**c. Authorization to Accept Bid for Police Department Radio Purchase as per FY 15/16 Budget**

Chief Hallman explained the benefit of upgrading to the proposed radios with the main benefit being the elimination of “dead spots.” The cost of the new radios is \$53,818.12. The radios will be purchased through Motorola, and are Starcom 21.

Alderman Todd Hall made a motion, seconded by Alderman Nicole DeBoer, to purchase sixteen (16) new Starcom 21 Motorola radios for the police department with accompanying options, in the amount of \$53,818.12. The aldermen voted as follows:

Ayes: DeBoer, Regelin, Hall, Hammortree, Mortensen and Martin  
Nays: 0  
Abstain: 0  
The motion passed.

**d. Discussion and Request for Direction on Draft FY 16/17 Water & Sewer Funds Budget**

Assistant City Administrator Blakemore reviewed the budget draft for the water & sewer funds for FY 16/17 with the Council. He explained, this is a bare bones budget, with little to no wiggle room. The City has seen a reduction in water usage in the past 3 years of about 3%. Finance Director Snelten also provided the Council with a “20 Year Projected Fund Balance – WWTP Expansion Fund” printout.

**e. Discussion and Request for Direction on Water/Sewer Rate Increase**

City Administrator Boden talked to the Council about the need for a rate increase to fill a \$90,000 gap between the expenses and the income. The information he provided to the Council,

stated: "With the adjusted rates for Water and Sewer at \$2.90 and \$4.00 respectively, it is proposed that the water rate and the waste water treatment rate each be increased by 10 cents per thousand gallons of water used. This increase would generate \$16,500 for each account, assuming the decline in water usage flattens out in the upcoming year."

In expressing their opinion on the increase, Alderman Hall questioned the members of the Council that voted no on it, "where from this fund - where are the cuts coming from, or what is your proposal on the revenue. Do you want \$100 out of each resident? Do you think we are not charging enough, or is there some cut that you see?"

Alderman Hammortree stated "You know what – by the next City Council meeting, I will have some for you." Several Aldermen noted that he has made this comment in the past, but he has failed to present anything to the Council. Mayor Lockhart requested that he bring a proposal to the next meeting, and he agreed that he would.

The Council was split on approving this proposed rate increase, but agreed to review it again, at the next regular Council meeting, and vote on the proposal at that time.

#### **MAYOR'S STATEMENTS AND REPORTS**

Mayor Lockhart had no report.

#### **DEPARTMENT HEAD AND STAFF REPORTS**

Assistant City Administrator Joshua Blakemore had nothing further to report.

Finance Director Jennifer Snelten had submitted reports, and talked briefly on the proposed rate increase, comparing rate increases for this service, to rate increases that she receives with ComEd and Nicor. There are always slight increases that occur due to increase costs to operate. The City should look at this in the same way. There are always going to be increased costs of operation.

Public Works Director Howard Moser spoke on the purchase of salt for next season. Brush pickup is scheduled for May 2<sup>nd</sup>. The municipal lot is going to be seal coated and striped on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Staff attended an underground pipeline safety meeting. There are several potholes around town and that need to be taken care of.

Chief of Police Joseph Hallman advised that the Police will assist the City crew when they work on the municipal lot in April. He also thanked the Council for approving the purchase of the new radios. He has applied for a couple of grants to help with the cost, and will let the Council know if he is successful. The Police Department will have 2 officers certified in BASSET training, and also expanding their duties to include inspector duties.

City Engineer Tim Hartnett spoke on the plans for the Doral Ridge drainage issues, and also the Washington Street collapse that occurred. He brought his GIS specialist out last week, and spent 2 hours training employees on the use. The plans for the expanded parking lot for UniCarriers, has been approved. Met with Highway 20 Self-Storage, and reviewed the plans on the detention basin. They are working on the 3 letters of credit, putting together a punch list for

work that needs to be done on each of the subdivisions. There is a meeting on Thursday in Schaumburg, after which they will present information to the Council. After that meeting, they will present information to the County.

City Administrator Gary Boden updated the Council on the steps that are being taken by staff in contacting the property owners for buildings on State Street. Attorney Arevalo spoke about the procedure and the possible outcomes if the City were to take the property owners to court on the problems.

City Attorney Carlos Arevalo had no report.

**REPORTS AND STATEMENTS FROM CITY COUNCIL**


Alderman noted that there was an error on the minutes and requested that they be corrected to show that Alderman Brett Martin was absent. City Clerk Boxleitner will correct them.

Mayor Lockhart advised that Council that Alderman Keenum did contact the City that he would not be able to attend the meeting this evening.

Alderman James Regelin advised the Council that he will be stepping down as Alderman due to his moving out of his ward. This is effective tomorrow. A replacement will be appointed by the Mayor. That replacement will hold that position until the next general election, which will be in 2017. At that time, the term will be for 2 years.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Steve Mortensen, to adjourn. The motion passed with a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:49 PM.

  
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Constance J Boxleitner  
City Clerk

These minutes were approved at the April 11, 2016 meeting.