

APPROVED
April 25, 2016

**Marengo City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
City Council Chambers
132 E. Prairie Street
Marengo, IL 60152
April 11, 2016**

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Luke Shirley, the winner of the 2016 Vehicle Sticker Design Contest, led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Mayor Lockhart presented a certificate and check, to Luke Shirley, as the winner of the 2016 Vehicle Sticker Design Contest.

ROLL CALL

Present this evening are Mayor Donald Lockhart, Aldermen Matt Keenum, Michael Smith, 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 Work Director Howard Moser, City Engineer Tim Hartnett, City Attorney Carlos Arevalo, and Finance Director Jennifer Snelten.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Numerous residents spoke to the Council about the water/sewer rate increase that is being considered this evening. The questions posed to the Council included how big an increase, how long would it be applicable, why the City needed to expand the wastewater treatment plant, and the condition of the water coming from taps within the City. There was also a question concerning the demolition of the 8th Avenue property that the City purchased, and why the City purchased it. Some questioned the installation of water lines down Ritz Road, and the flushing system that is being looked at. There is concern that some seniors could not afford the increase, and would need to sell their home.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES March 28, 2016 *Regular Meeting Minutes*

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Steve Mortensen, to approve the minutes from the February 8, 2016 regular meeting. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

CONSENT AGENDA

a. List of Bills

There were questions on some of the bills presented, and these were clarified.

Alderman Todd Hall made a motion, seconded by Alderman Nicole DeBoer, to approve the list of bills. The alderman voted as follows:

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

The motion passed.

- b. Action on an Ordinance Ratifying the Establishment of Special Service Area #5 – GMT Holdings, LLC – Pleasant Grove Estates

This is a “dormant” SSA, and Attorney Arevalo explained the need to ratify it for future use, if that need were to arise. The SSA’s are for taxation of the subdivision property owners for trail and detention pond maintenance within the subdivision if a homeowners association does not adequately perform these services.

Alderman Todd Hall made a motion, seconded by Alderman Nicole DeBoer, to approve an Ordinance ratifying the establishment of SSA #5 – GMT Holdings, LLC – Pleasant Grove Estates. The aldermen voted as follows:

Ayes: Hall, Keenum, Mortensen, DeBoer and Smith

Nays: Martin and Hammortree

Abstain: 0

The motion passed.

- c. Action on an Ordinance Ratifying the Establishment of Special Service Area #6 – North Star Trust Co

Alderman Todd Hall made a motion, seconded by Alderman Nicole DeBoer, to approve an Ordinance ratifying the establishment of SSA #6 – North Star Trust Co. The aldermen voted as follows:

Ayes: Smith, Keenum, Mortensen, Hall and DeBoer

Nays: Martin and Hammortree

Abstain: 0

The motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Action on a Resolution for the Donation of Property to McHenry County for Bridge Improvements on Deerpass Road

Administrator Boden explained the request for the donation of some road side on Deerpass Road, near the two bridges that span the Kishwaukee River. The total acreage involved is .371 acre.

Alderman Matt Keenum made a motion, seconded by Alderman Nicole DeBoer, to adopt the resolution for the donation of property to McHenry County for bridge improvements on Deerpass Road, with a request that the County pay any costs involved in this donation. The aldermen voted as follows:

Ayes: Hall, DeBoer, Mortensen, Smith, Keenum, Hammortree, Martin and Mayor Lockhart

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

The motion passed.

- b. Request for Direction to Design and Proceed to Bidding a Connecting Water Main Project on West Grant Hwy

Administrator Boden spoke to the Council on this proposed looping connection on the water main project for West Grant Highway. The proposed project has a cost of \$669,072., and the funds would come from the original \$2,212,745 bond that was applied for previously as a capital improvement. City Engineer Tim Hartnett added information on the proposed project. This connection would provide a second direction of water flow serving about 635 people living in and between Indian Trails and Park Street, and also the adjacent businesses along the south side of West Grant Highway, thereby improving the quality. Alderman Smith spoke about cost over-runs that occurred last year on a project, and he requested that the City “put some teeth into the agreement” that if there are cost over-runs that half of that would be shared by whoever is doing the contracting or engineering services,

so we don't get stuck with \$140,000 worth of excess charges. He felt that this made sense for the City. Administrator Boden agreed that when the bid package was put together, it would be presented to the Council for approval.

The Council, after taking a straw vote of 5 yes and 3 no, agreed to proceed with this proposed project.
Action on an Ordinance Amending Chapter 25 of the Marengo Municipal Code, Regarding Water and Sewer Rates

c. Action on an Ordinance Amending Chapter 25 of the Marengo Municipal Code, Regarding Water and Sewer Rates

Assistant City Administrator Blakemore spoke on the information that was provided. He presented various charts on usage, costs and revenue, explaining each for the Council and the residents. The proposed increase (of 4% for this year) would increase the average users cost by \$7 to \$9 each quarter. There is a proposed increase for next year of 5%, the year after that a 2% increase, and the year after that 2%.

The Council took a short break at 9:35 PM, and returned at 9:43 PM.

Alderman Hammortree questioned costs related to the sewer/water funds, and Administrator Boden answered those questions.

Alderman Dennis Hammortree made a motion, seconded by Alderman Brett Martin, to table this to have a committee meeting to explore other solutions. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

Alderman Smith suggested moving the increase percentages around, putting a lesser increase to start with, and the higher increases to the later years.

Alderman Todd Hall made a motion that we increase it (the rates) the recommended percent for the next 4 years, so that we try to minimize the impact each and every year. The motion died for lack of a second.

Alderman Michael Smith made a motion, seconded by Alderman Matt Keenum, for the Council to take the next few weeks to explore any opportunity that we could somehow make an adjustment and try to lessen the load on people paying their water bills (that is all of us), but any decision that we make, we have to come to the table with the understanding that it has to be made up in a different year if we decide to shift it. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

Administrator Boden will put together options of rate increases of 0% to 4% for the Council to review at the next meeting.

MAYOR'S STATEMENTS AND REPORTS

None.

DEPARTMENT HEAD AND STAFF REPORTS

Assistant City Administrator Joshua Blakemore advised on grant money that was received, \$82,621.39 for the lighting project, and also grant money for McRide.

Finance Director Jennifer Snelten had no further report.

Public Works Director Howard Moser reported that the citywide valve exercising program is complete. Also completed was a citywide leak detection survey which located 11 leaking hydrants and these will be repaired in the next few weeks. Brush pick-up will start on Monday, May 2nd.

Chief of Police Joseph Hallman had no written report, but did update on the breaking up of a burglary to Marengo Guns that was reported in the newspaper. The dispatch is being transferred to McHenry, and the installation cost of a T-1 line is possibly going to be shared with the Fire Department. Negotiations are pending on this.

City Engineer Tim Hartnett submitted a written report, and there were no questions from the Council.

City Administrator Gary Boden spoke on information received from the Illinois Municipal League regarding changing the Illinois Constitution to allow smaller communities to become "home rule" communities.

City Attorney Carlos Arevalo had no report.

REPORTS AND STATEMENTS FROM CITY COUNCIL

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

a. Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (2) – Collective Bargaining

Alderman Steve Mortensen made a motion, seconded by Alderman Matt Keenum, to go to Executive Session, pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (2) – Collective Bargaining. The aldermen voted as follows:

Ayes: Hall, Mortensen, Smith, Martin, DeBoer and Keenum

Nays: Hammortree

Abstain: 0

The motion passed.

Alderman Hammortree advised the Council he would not participate in Executive Session and exited the meeting at 10:35 p.m.

The meeting recessed at 10:35 PM.

The meeting reconvened at 10:46 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Michael Smith, to adjourn. The motion passed with a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 10:47 PM.


Constance J Boyleither
City Clerk

These minutes were approved at the April 25, 2016 meeting.