

APPROVED
May 9, 2016

**Marengo City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
City Council Chambers
132 E. Prairie Street
Marengo, IL 60152
April 25, 2016**

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Former Alderman Steve DiMaria led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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 Works Director Howard Moser, City Attorney Carlos Arevalo, City Engineer Tim Hartnett and Finance Director Jennifer Snelten.

City Attorney Arevalo spoke to everyone present about guidelines that are in place regarding public participation at Council meetings.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A resident handed out copies of emails to the Council, from other residents, regarding problems with the water rates, and other things in the City.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES *April 11, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes*

Alderman Todd Hall made a motion, seconded by Alderman Nicole DeBoer, to approve the minutes, with a correction to show that Alderman Hammortree chose not to attend the Executive Session, and exited the meeting. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

APPROVAL OF THE LIST OF BILLS

Alderman Hammortree questioned two of the bills that were presented from the City's law firm. Attorney Arevalo answered those questions.

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Steve Mortensen, to approve the list of bills. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

NEW BUSINESS

a. Marengo Main Street Matching Funds Request

Tim Sebastian and Lesley Pace presented information to the Council on the recent activities of Marengo Main Street, and requested the final funds, in the amount of \$7,006.75. They will be ceasing operation at the end of this year, due to there no longer being an Illinois Main Street. They are looking at putting up a flag pole in town, and are open to suggestions on where to have it installed.

Alderman Steve Mortensen made a motion, seconded by Alderman Michael Smith, to approve the request from Marengo Main Street. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

b. Status Report on Wastewater Treatment Plant Operations

Public Works Director Howard Moser updated the Council on an incident from the 4th of April, outlining the incident, and the various steps that were taken, when they were taken, and the current status. Questions were asked of both Director Moser and WWTP Foreman Evertsen, by several of the aldermen on the time frame of the occurrence and when various individuals were notified and updated.

c. Request from Mayor to Engage Fact Finding About the Roles of City Officials and Staff as it Pertains to the Wastewater Treatment Plant Incident.

Mayor Lockhart requested that an independent third party investigation be done to determine what was said, to whom, when it was said, and why. There is a communication problem within the City, and perhaps this investigation will help on clarifying procedures.

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Michael Smith, to approve the request to engage fact finding about the roles of City officials and Staff as it pertains to the Wastewater Treatment Plant incident. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

d. Discussion and Request for Direction Regarding Water/Sewer Rate Increase

Administrator Boden reviewed the 6 options under consideration. The options included going with no increase (which would show an end of year deficit of \$7,506) up to going with a 4.19% increase (which would show an end of the year balance of \$7,304). If the Council went with the no increase option, the cash reserves would decrease from 65.9 days, to 50.5 days. If the Council went with the original proposal, the cash reserves would increase to 67.4 days. He answered questions posed by the Council on the various options.

Alderman Matt Keenum made a motion, seconded by Alderman Todd Hall, to approve the rate increase as originally presented to the Council. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

The motion failed.

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Michael Smith, to approve the option presented that would increase the quarterly flat fee to \$4.50 and increase the cost per 1,000 gallons-operations fee by .20 cents. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

e. Ordinance Making the Supplemental Appropriations for FY 15/16

Finance Director Snelten reviewed this with the Council, and answered questions.

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Steve Mortensen, to approve the Ordinance for the Supplemental Appropriations for FY 15/16. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

MAYORS STATEMENTS AND REPORTS

Mayor Lockhart reminded everyone to please sign the sheet with your name and address if you are experiencing problems with your water.

DEPARTMENT HEAD AND STAFF REPORTS

Assistant City Administrator Joshua Blakemore noted that he would have the full budget at the next meeting for the Council to vote on.

Finance Director Jennifer Snelten said that if resident's wanted to figure what their new "approximate" bill will be with the new rates, there is a water/sewer rate calculator on the City website. Any questions, please call City Hall for help. She also updated the Council with the state revenue projection.

Public Works Director Howard Moser reminded everyone that brush pick-up will be on May 2. Tree pruning should be ending this week, and tree stump removal has started. If you have a stump that needs to be taken care of, please contact the building department to be sure that the address is on the list. They are continuing to work on the valve replacement.

Chief of Police Joseph Hallman had submitted a report to the Council. The next vehicle that they will be looking at replacing is M-6.

City Engineer Tim Hartnett is working on the Doral Ridge drainage problem, and will work with the homeowner on solving it. Punch list walkthrough has been completed for Settler's Cove, Deerpass Unit #6 and Deerpass Meadows, with projected costs, etc. They will put together the bid specifications package within the next 3 weeks. When asked about "warranty" work, Tim said he would provide specific information to the City, who should then share at information with the Council, on what work has been done as warranty, and what has not. He explained how the invoices are submitted, the wording, etc.

City Administrator Gary Boden noted that there has been recent legislation passed regarding TIF Districts, but that should not apply to the current TIF Districts in Marengo. There is a possible party

looking at property on East Grant Highway, by Hubbs Greenhouse, which would mean the widening of Route 20, which is in the flood plain.

City Attorney Carlos Arevalo had no report.

REPORTS AND STATEMENTS FROM CITY COUNCIL

Alderman Martin spoke about his reasons for running for Alderman.

Alderman Smith explained his reasons for running for Alderman.

Alderman Hall recommended to all the Council members that it might help to get better answers to questions on bills and other items, if contact was made prior to the meeting, so the person being asked would come prepared with the information needed to properly respond.

Alderman Keenum spoke directly to the public on the vote that was taken this evening, on the water/sewer rates, and said that anyone wishing to speak with him could email him, call his phone or however, he will get in touch with them. He expressed his disappointment in how one alderman handled information on the problem at the WWTP.

Alderman Hammortree questioned if there was communication among the Council on the Resolution.

Alderman Hall stated that, during the break at the last meeting, he spoke directly to Howard, and also to Tim, about the WWTP, and if they knew about any problems, to which they both replied no. He was then approached by one alderman as he was leaving that meeting, who commented that 'two of us went down and we're aware of what is going on, don't tell anyone else'. He stated that this should not have been handled in this manner.

Alderman Martin said that he was the person who spoke to Alderman Hall and that the person that had shared information was "in fear for his job." He said the individual felt intimidated by the higher ups.

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Brett Martin, to adjourn. The motion passed with a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM.



Constance J. Boxleitner
City Clerk

These minutes were approved by the Council on May 9, 2016.