

APPROVED
May 23, 2016

**Marengo City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
City Council Chambers
132 E. Prairie Street
Marengo, IL 60152
May 9, 2016**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Donald B. Lockhart called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Lockhart led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present this evening are Mayor Donald Lockhart; Aldermen Matt Keenum, Michael Smith, Nicole DeBoer, 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. Alderman Dennis Hammortree was absent.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Alderman Todd Hall requested that wording on page 4 be amended to read "during the break at" instead of "after".

Alderman Todd Hall made a motion, seconded by Alderman Michael Smith, to approve the minutes from the April 25, 2016 meeting with the correction as noted above. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

The motion passed.

APPROVAL OF THE LIST OF BILLS

Questions were asked on a billing from Com Ed (page 4) for a \$6,096.72 invoice. Finance Director Snelten will research this and verify that it is correct.

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Michael Smith, to approve the list of bills, with the exception of the Com Ed bill, until verification of its accuracy is made, at which time it would be paid. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

The motion passed

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Consent to Staff and Commission Appointments
- b. Action on an Ordinance Declaring Certain Municipal Property as Surplus

Alderman Matt Keenum requested that on item a –Commission Appointments – the PZC recommendation be voted on separately. The Council agreed.

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

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

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

The motion passed.

There was a discussion on the appropriateness of having a home builder/contractor on the Planning & Zoning Commission.

Alderman Steve Mortensen made a motion, seconded by Alderman Nicole DeBoer, to approve the recommended appointment to the Planning & Zoning Commission. The aldermen voted as follows:

Ayes: Smith, Martin, Mortensen, Hall and DeBoer

Nays: Keenum

Abstain: 0

The motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Report about a Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment for 709 N Hale – Masonic Lodge Administrator Boden asked for an opinion from the Council if they would have a problem with changing the zoning for the building at 709 N Hale from the existing B-2 (general business) to a special use permit. The consensus of the Council was favorable, so he will let the Mason's know so they can start the process.

b. Action on and Ordinance Amending Chapter 25, Water and Wastewater Department of the Marengo Municipal Code Regarding Water and Sewer Rates
City Administrator Boden reviewed the Ordinance with the Council. The rates will increase by 3.5% this year, and 3.6% next year.

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Steve Mortensen, to approve an ordinance amending Chapter 25, Water and Wastewater Department of the Marengo Municipal Code Regarding Water and Sewer Rates. The aldermen voted as follows:

Ayes: Hall, DeBoer, Mortensen, Smith and Keenum

Nays: Martin

Abstain: 0

The motion passed.

c. Approval of FY 2016/2017 Budget
Assistant City Administrator Blakemore presented the proposed budget with the Council.

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Hall, to approve the Budget for FY 2016/2017. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

The motion passed.

d. Treasurer's Annual Report of Police Pension Fund for FY 2015/2016

Finance Director Snelten reviewed the report on the Police Pension Fund with the Council and answered questions.

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Michael Smith, to accept the report. The motion passed with a voice vote.

- e. Action on Request for Direction Regarding Municipal Derivatives Class Action Lawsuit – Proposed Settlement

City Attorney Arevalo reviewed the information with the Council and answered questions.

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Michael Smith, to “Stay in the Class”. The alderman voted as follows:

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

The motion passed.

- f. Action on an Ordinance Amending Chapter 33, Liquor Control and Liquor Licensing, Section 33.05 (F) Regarding the Initial Liquor License Application Fee, Section 33.07 (A) Classes, Fees Eliminating Liquor License Classification A and Section 33.07 (B) Number of Licenses Issued, Reducing the Number of Class AA Licenses by One

Chief Hallman and Mayor Lockhart discussed the information, noting that Class A Licenses would be eliminated (gourmet food or specialty), Class AA would be changed from 5 to 4 (bars and liquor stores), and increasing the application fee from \$5,000 to \$7,500 for classifications AA, BB, B & G.

Alderman Todd Hall made a motion, seconded by Alderman Nicole DeBoer to approve the Ordinance Amending Chapter 33, Sections 33.05, 33.07 and 33.07 (B). The aldermen voted as follows:

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

The motion passed.

MAYOR’S STATEMENTS AND REPORTS

Mayor Lockhart mentioned that American Legion Poppy Days would be on May 20th and 21st. Please be generous with your donations, as the money collected goes directly to veteran’s projects throughout the year.

DEPARTMENT HEAD AND STAFF REPORTS

Assistant City Administrator Joshua Blakemore had nothing further to report.

Finance Director Jennifer Snelten had nothing further to report.

Public Works Director Howard Moser provided the Council with a listing of residences that had reported water problems, outlining the initial complaint and what he found upon investigation. He requested anyone having problems with their water, to contact him, Justin or City Hall. He advised that the brush collection has been completed. The City will be flushing hydrant from June 6th thru the 10th.

Chief of Police Joseph Hallman thanked the Council for his appointment as Chief of Police. The police are working on the abandoned car issues, and things are going well with that at this time. He had included in the packet the 2015 Annual Report.

City Engineer Tim Hartnett provided a status report to the Council on projects, as well as a detailed list of additional work that had been done since May 2015.

City Administrator Gary Boden spoke on 4 issues. (1) He updated the Council on contact made to the owner of the property downtown that is in desperate need of façade improvements. He explained that the next step is to take them to court. Attorney Arevalo explained what usually happens in a proceeding such as this – the courts look at whether the problem is an aesthetic issue or a safety issue. At this time, it is strictly an aesthetic problem. The cost to pursue this in court, and to try to get a judgment against the owner, could be very expensive. He suggested that the Council make this a formal agenda item to be discussed further and options reviewed. (2) He spoke about an overpayment that was made by the State of Illinois to municipalities last year. The amount applicable to Marengo is \$6,500. This amount will be deducted from future receipts, and will probably be spread out throughout the year. (3) He provided a copy of an email that was received today from Brackmann Construction regarding work on the Brookside Meadows Subdivision specifically relating to the bike path. (4) He spoke about proposed lighting on the cul-de-sac (near where he lives), which is near Mary & Mildred, expressing the opinion that it is not needed at that location. Council recommended adding this as an agenda item for further review and consideration.

City Attorney Carlos Arevalo thanked the Council for the appointment, and had no report.

REPORTS AND STATEMENTS FROM CITY COUNCIL

None

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Matt Keenum, to adjourn. The motion passed with a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.



Constance J Boxleitner
City Clerk

The City Council approved these minutes on May 23, 2016.