

**Marengo City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
City Council Chambers
132 E. Prairie Street
Marengo, IL 60152
September 12, 2016**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Donald B. Lockhart called the meeting to order at 7:00 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, Mike Miller, Michael Smith, Nicole DeBoer, Brett Martin, Todd Hall and Steve Mortensen. Also present are City Administrator Gary Boden, Assistant City Administrator Joshua Blakemore, Interim Chief of Police Rich Solarz, Public Works Director Howard Moser, City Attorney Carlos Arevalo and City Engineer Tim Hartnett. Alderman Dennis Hammortree and Finance Director Jennifer Snelten were absent.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Fire Chief Bob Bradbury spoke about the Joint Training Session on Saturday, an “active shooter session” that was held at the Marengo High School and included the Marengo Fire Department, the Rescue Squad, and the Police Department. He gave kudos to the police chief for taking command of the session and doing a terrific job.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - August 22, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes

Alderman Todd Hall made a motion, seconded by Alderman Michael Smith, to approve the minutes.

There was discussion on the wording of a motion made at this meeting, and the Council requested that the Clerk revise the wording of the motion and resubmit them for approval at the next regular meeting. The motion was then withdrawn.

APPROVAL OF LIST OF BILLS

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Matt Keenum, to approval the List of Bills. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: Hammortree

The motion passed.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Drive Request
- b. Action on a Ordinance Declaring Certain Municipal Property as Surplus

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

a. Authorization to Accept Health Insurance and Benefits Renewal Proposal for 2016-2017
Assistant City Administrator Blakemore reviewed the renewal information with the Council, verifying the aggregate decrease of 8.1% in the health portion, a slight increase in the dental and vision benefits. There was a comparison made of the actual expenses incurred by the City (put together by InvisionBenefit) showing the savings realized from the HRA Plan. Christina Candelora, from Invision, spoke briefly about how questions and problems are handled with the employees of the City.

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Michael Smith, to accept the Health Insurance and Benefits Renewal Proposal for 2016-2017. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

b. Presentation & Acceptance of Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report as Prepared by George Roach & Associates
George Roach reviewed the financial report with the Council, and explained their normal procedure for auditing the finances. This is considered to be a “clean” audit, with no qualifications involved. The City is now required to include all of the pension information for both IMRF and the Police Pension. There is a current balance in the general fund of about \$1,400,000, which is significantly better than in prior years when that balance was about \$64,000. He commented on the change implemented in the last couple of years of designating funds for special situations and improvements (replacement of police squad car – public works equipment purchases – 27th payroll, etc). He briefly reviewed the status of the build-out costs, expenses and income of the WWTP. He commented that an individual had complimented them on the information provided regarding the various pensions and that the information gave that individual more insight into both of the pensions involved. He explained how the pensions are determined and figured by the government.

Alderman Michael Smith made a motion, seconded by Alderman Nicole DeBoer, to accept the Financial Report for 2015-2016 as presented by George Roach & Associates. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

c. Action on an Ordinance Amending Section 33.07 of the Marengo City Code Creating a New Liquor License Classification for a Video Gaming Café for an Establishment on 20001 Telegraph Street, Establishing the Number of Class VGC Licenses and Adding an Additional Class E License for the Restaurant on 228 South State Street, Marengo

Assistant City Administrator Blakemore spoke about the amendment to the Marengo City Code, and the changes made with the addition of this new classification and the addition of an additional Class E license. Mr. Urbina was not able to attend this meeting, but his wife is in attendance. Mr. Kaminski is also present. They will both answer any questions that the Council has. There was discussion on the original application fee that would be assigned to the VGC license, as well as the annual renewal fee. Attorney Arevalo clarified that the fees being discussed would need to be added to Marengo City Code 33.05 (f). The motion, if made by the Council, should also include the amendment to the Marengo City Code 33.05 (f) so that could be changed as well.

Alderman Todd Hall made a motion, seconded by Alderman Steve Mortensen, to approve an Ordinance Amending Section 33.07 of the Marengo City Code, creating a new liquor license classification for a Video Gaming Café, with an original application fee of \$5,000, and an annual renewal fee of \$1500, establishing the number of Class VGC Licenses (1), and adding an additional Class E license (5), and that the Marengo City Code 33.05 (f) be changed as well. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

d. Request for Direction on Potential Changes to Liquor Licensing and Classifications

Assistant Administrator Blakemore requested specific direction from the Council on what potential changes they think need to be made to the various liquor licenses and classifications. The Council clarified the moratorium situation, and that it only applies to video gaming licenses, and not to liquor licenses. Information was provided to the Council on the current number of liquor licenses per classification, with a map that showed the locations. There was discussion on restricting the issuance of a liquor license in an area that currently has several (i.e. the downtown area). There was some discussion on combining some of the classifications together (i.e. gas stations & convenience stores). One alderman questioned why the City is looking at a moratorium on liquor licenses, when any request to pursue a new license would come before the City for approval. Mayor Lockhart commented that the image of the City is important to the citizens. Administrator Boden advised the Council that it could look at restricting geographically all classifications, placing an indefinite moratorium on any or all of the license classifications, and placing a moratorium on specific classifications in certain geographical areas.

Administrator Boden suggested the staff put together an ordinance that has a general moratorium for taverns and then let the Council further talk and debate this issue at the next meeting. The Council agreed with that suggestions, but also recommended looking at a moratorium on the VGC license in the downtown area, possibly restricting them geographically as well.

Alderman Hall stated "I am not for a moratorium, but I will go on the record that I will not vote for a tavern. I think it is up to that one to come before us and try and persuade me otherwise."

There was brief discussion on the video gaming license classification, and the general consensus was to not allow any of these types of businesses into the downtown area at this time, with no cap on the number of licenses.

MAYOR'S STATEMENTS AND REPORTS

Mayor Lockhart stated that the Stone Soup kitchen, at the Presbyterian Church will reopen tomorrow. He thanked the Council for their support on the I-90 Interchange project.

DEPARTMENT HEAD AND STAFF REPORTS

Assistant City Administrator Joshua Blakemore advised that an Intergovernmental Agreement with McRide should be brought before the Council in October. The renewal information for the liability insurance for the City will be presented in October as well.

Public Works Director Howard Moser advised that brush pick up with start on Nov. 7. The leak out in Brookside Meadows took quite some time to fix, and Director Moser showed the Council the pipe that caused the problem. Alderman Miller took a tour of the WWTP last week, and he recommended that if anyone on the Council had not toured the facility, you should do so. The City is in the process of setting up a time to deliver the two spare centrifuges that are not currently in use. The company that is working with the City feels that they should be able to get one of them up and running. If this works out, then it will greatly assist in the plants ability to handle solid waste.

Interim Chief of Police Solarz had submitted a written report, and Council thanked him for saving the City money: switching IT techs, reducing the hourly rate for tech support, and working with Spectrum Business to get the monthly internet service from reduced. He spoke about the Saturday tactical project that was done at the high school. He and Chief Bradbury attended the car show on Sunday, held at Joe's Place and they were presented with plaques honoring their service.

City Engineer Tim Hartnett had submitted a written report on current projects, and he also offered his thanks for the support of the Council on the I-90 Project. The official kick-off (bridge work) is currently out for bids at this time. He spoke briefly about the timeline for design plans, etc. for the project. He was asked to update the Council on the 2016 Water Main Project down US HWY 20, and advised that nothing was being done at this time because of the Arnolds project. Administrator Boden advised that the work on Ritz Road should start in about 4 weeks. The City has received a request for an IGA between the City and the Township relating to the maintenance of the water main. The City has requested an easement to allow the water main to be installed. The City has indicated that it will not require an IGA for that situation, and if they want one, they will need to prepare it and present it to the City to be reviewed and considered.

City Administrator Gary Boden advised that there will probably be a zoning change request at our next regular meeting, to amend a special use permit from "insurance" office designation, to an "office" designation.

City Attorney Carlos Arevalo had nothing to report.

REPORTS AND STATEMENTS FROM CITY COUNCIL

None

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 9:20 PM.


Constance J. Boxleitner
City Clerk

The City Council approved these minutes on September 26, 2016.