

**APPROVED**  
November  
28, 2016

**Marengo City Council  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
City Council Chambers  
132 E. Prairie Street  
Marengo, IL 60152  
November 14, 2016**

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Donald 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, Dennis Hammortree, 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, City Engineer Tim Hartnett and Finance Director Jennifer Snelten.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Todd Hall, to approve the minutes from the October 24, 2016 Regular Meeting. The aldermen voted as follows:

Ayes: Mortensen, DeBoer, Miller, Hall, Smith, Hammortree & Martin  
Nays: 0  
Abstain: Keenum  
Absent: 0

The motion passed.

APPROVAL OF LIST OF BILLS

There was a question on a reimbursement request by City Administrator Boden, and he explained that this was for the entire year. The Council requested that any bills for reimbursement be submitted on a quarterly basis in the future.

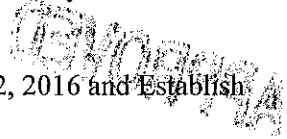
Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Todd Hall, to approve the List of Bills. The aldermen voted as follows:

Ayes: Smith, Keenum, Mortensen, DeBoer, Miller, Martin, Hall & Hammortree  
Nays: 0  
Abstain: 0  
Absent: 0

The motion passed.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Action on an Ordinance Declaring Certain Municipal Property as Surplus
- b. Authorization to Release the Brookside Meadows Phase 3 Letter of Credit Subject to Final Inspection and Acceptance by the Director of Public Works



- c. Authorization to Cancel the Regular City Council Meeting for December 12, 2016 and Establish a Special Meeting for December 19, 2016

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Presentation from Marengo Cemetery Board and Request for Direction on Cemetery Property Tax Levy

Brittany Richardson, representing the Marengo Cemetery Board, spoke to the Council about their request to have the tax levy increased back to the original \$33,000 that they had been receiving. Alderman Keenum spoke about the financial situation that the City is experiencing with the Police Pension Fund and the report that was given at the last meeting regarding the shortfall in payments. Mrs. Richardson reviewed the expenses and income for the past year, and noted a loss for the 2016 fiscal year (which ended on 4-30-2016) was about \$40,000. The Council noted that there was an increase in expenses this past year of about \$20,500, part of which was for a new road that was constructed. Finance Director Snelten commented that there are 5 line items that are capped by law, one of which is the cemetery. The maximum amount is \$28,477. She added that the City is projected to receive \$11,844, from the tax levy, more than originally anticipated. Alderman Michael Smith made a proposal that the City use some of that for the Cemetery Board. His suggestion was to increase the amount levied this year to \$10,000, next year to \$15,000 and possibly a third year increase to \$20,000. This suggestion included the request of the Cemetery Board to look at their current expenses, and see where cutting could occur.

Alderman Smith made a motion that the City fund the Cemetery for \$10,000 this year, \$15,000 next year, and \$20,000 the following year, based upon review and progress towards reducing some of the deficit. This motion died for lack of a second.

There was a question raised on the administrative expenses of \$1300 a month, paid to Marengo Insurance. Mrs. Richardson reviewed the various duties that are performed at their office, as well as the work performed by all employees.

Finance Director Snelten requested that the Cemetery Board provide the City with a breakdown of actual time spent on accounting procedures, so the City could look at the time expended, to determine if those duties could be absorbed by the City.

Alderman Michael Smith made a motion, seconded by Alderman Dennis Hammortree, to amend the tax levy for the Cemetery Board from the current \$100 to \$10,000 for the first year, \$15,000 for the second year, and \$20,000 for the third year, and to see some progress made on reducing the deficit. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

b. Request for Direction on an Ordinance Creating a Liquor License Classification for Specialty Wine Bars – Connie’s Corkery

Jason Moy, representing “Connie’s Corkery” spoke to the Council about their plans of opening a wine bar, which would require a special liquor license – Class EE. A copy of a proposed ordinance adding this classification was reviewed by Attorney Arevalo. The Council questioned various items; seating, parking, square footage of the proposed property, future expansion to outdoor seating, and video gaming (not as a main focus, but as an additional option to help pay bills). Answers to all of these questions were addressed. The general consensus of the Council was that they approve of the idea.

c. Action on the Selection of the Preferred Design Option for the Proposed Tollway Interchange at Route 23

Administrator Boden reviewed the options with the Council, and reminded the Council that Option 4 was the preferred option on the part of the County, IDOT, and the Tollway. Option 4 is a Parclo with Roundabout Intersections. City Engineer Hartnett spoke about the roundabout intersections and their use in other locations.

Alderman Todd Hall made a motion, seconded by Alderman Nicole DeBoer, to approve Design Option 4, the Parclo with Roundabout Intersections, for the Proposed Tollway Interchange at Route 23. The aldermen voted as follows:

Ayes: Hall, DeBoer, Mortensen, Smith, Martin, Keenum & Miller  
Nays: Hammortree  
Abstain: 0  
Absent: 0

The motion passed.

d. Action on an Intergovernmental Agreement with McHenry County for McRide Services

Assistant Administrator Blakemore reviewed the information provided to the Council on the agreement with McHenry County for McRide Services. The estimated cost for 2017 is \$22,017, which is in line with the amount currently budgeted for this program. This cost is off-set by participation from Marengo and Riley Townships.

Alderman Steve Mortensen made a motion, seconded by Alderman Nicole DeBoer, to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with McHenry County for McRide Services for 2017. The aldermen voted as follows:

Ayes: Miller, Keenum, Smith, DeBoer, Hammortree, Martin & Mortensen  
Nays: Hall  
Abstain: 0  
Absent: 0

The motion passed.

e. Discussion and Request for Direction Regarding the Delivery of Building Inspection and Code Enforcement Services

Administrator Boden discussed with the Council the option of going with a two person position for filling the job previously done by Marianne Wayne. He offered the option of the Council looking at possibly extending the contract that they have with Safebuilt for building inspections, and to hire a part-time person to do code enforcement, hiring an engineering firm (like HR Green) to deal with construction related activity like project design, engineering, construction management and inspection, or contracting with another City like Woodstock (that has the staffing capacity and government service context to

provide building inspection services). A last alternative would be to do everything in-house by hiring a person to replace Marianne.

Alderman Hammortree asked that information be provided to the Council on the number of inspections normally done in a year and how much code enforcement is done in an average year. Administrator Boden said he would have this information put together for the Council to review before making a decision on this issue. He asked the Council if they wanted to be pro-active or re-active when it comes to code enforcement. In the past, the City has been re-active – handling problems when complaints occurred. This issue will be set for further review at the December meeting, with the additional information that was requested.

f. Request for Direction and Discussion on a Professional Services Agreement with Layne Christensen for any Water/Well Related Projects

Director of Public Works, Howard Moser, recommended that the City pursue a Professional Services Agreement with Layne Christensen for all water/well related projects. They currently are the company that is called when problems occur. This agreement would place us on a “priority” for emergency repair services, and also a discount for all projects. Funding for this agreement would come from the Water Department – Utility Infrastructure account. There was a question on the schedule of Service Rates, as the listing that was included with the company information, is dated 10-1-2015. Howard will check with Layne Christensen to verify if these figures are still current. The Council agreed that this would be a good thing to pursue.

MAYOR’S STATEMENTS AND REPORTS

Mayor Lockhart thanked everyone who attended the Veterans Day Program held at Marengo Community High School last Friday. He expressed his gratitude to the schools for this fine program.

DEPARTMENT HEAD AND STAFF REPORTS

Assistant City Administrator Joshua Blakemore spoke on Connie’s Corkery proposal from earlier this evening, and was appreciative of how nice it has been working with them. He has met with a potential buyer for the old Vidiots property, and discussed their possibly wanting to obtain a liquor license for that location, and that this potential buyer has no connection with the current owners.

Finance Director Jennifer Snelten had nothing further to report.

Public Works Director Howard Moser reported that the fall tree planting is complete. Twenty-nine trees were planted. Spoke briefly on the status of the Brookside Meadows punch list. Brush pick-up is done, but if any residents have brush to dispose of, they can bring it to the waste water treatment plant. The IEPA inspection was done on November 4<sup>th</sup>, and all went well. The report should be to the City shortly.

Interim Chief of Police Rich Solarz reported that the new squad vehicle is ready to go. Overtime has increased due to one of the officers being out on medical leave.

City Engineer Tim Hartnett had submitted a written report to the Council.

City Administrator Gary Boden had nothing further to report.

City Attorney Carlos Arevalo had no report.

REPORTS AND STATEMENTS FROM CITY COUNCIL

None

Mayor Lockhart wished everyone a Happy and Safe Thanksgiving, and reminded everyone that the next meeting will be on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November.

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Steve Mortensen, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with a voice vote by the Council. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

  
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Constance J Boxleitner  
City Clerk

The City Council approved these minutes on November 28, 2016.