

**Marengo City Council  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
City Council Chambers  
132 E. Prairie Street  
Marengo, IL 60152  
February 13, 2017**

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Buzz Marks, a Navy Veteran and currently serving on the Marengo Fire and Police Commission, led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Present this evening are Mayor Donald Lockhart; Aldermen Mike Miller, Nicole DeBoer, Dennis Hammortree, Brett Martin, Todd Hall and Steve Mortensen. Also present are City Administrator Gary Bode, Assistant City Administrator Joshua Blakemore, Chief of Police Rich Solarz, Public Works Director Howard Moser, City Attorney Carlos Arevalo, and Finance Director Jennifer Snelten. Aldermen Matt Keenum and Michael Smith and City Engineer Tim Hartnett were absent.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Four residents of Marengo spoke on the proposed extension and amendment to the current contract between the City of Marengo and MDC. The consensus of those residents was to not do the extension at this time, and to have the contract put out to bid at the end of the contract term (2 years).

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Todd Hall, to approve the minutes with a correction made on page 3 (removing "Interim" from the title of Chief of Police). The aldermen voted as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF LIST OF BILLS**

Alderman Hammortree questioned invoices listed from H. R. Green, and Administrator Boden clarified what the invoices were for, and how the City was keeping track of reimbursements for them. Mayor Lockhart clarified information that was provided at the last meeting, regarding monies owed by Arnold Engineering/300 West LLC. The current balance owed is around \$19,000 – not the previously stated amount of \$60,000.

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

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

The motion passed.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Approval of 5K Color Run Request - Marengo Community Middle School & High School Booster Clubs**
- b. Approval of an Ordinance Authorizing the Sale or Disposal of Surplus Property**
- c. Approval of an Agreement with George Roach & Associates for FY 16/17 Audit Services**

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Mike Miller, to approve the Consent Agenda. The alderman voted as follows:

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

The motion passed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Approval and Adoption of Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to Execute Amendment to Agreement with MDC Environmental for Residential, Refuse, Recycling & Yard Waste Collection*

The Council reviewed the amended options presented by MDC to extend the current contract by 2 years. Administrator Boden clarified information on the amended proposals. Alderman Hammortree handed out information that he had requested from Advanced Disposal to show a comparison between MDC and Advanced. The Council opted to wait until the current contract comes up for renewal.

- b. Presentation and Request for Direction on Marengo Gaming Café Liquor License – 20001 Telegraph St*

Assistant Administrator Blakemore introduced the new petitioner for the possible Marengo Gaming Café Liquor License, Uday Patel. He introduced Ange, with Excel Entertainment, who will be running the gaming café if it is approved by the Council. Their plan is to proceed with the original project as outlined by Mr. Kaminski.

- c. Request for Direction and Authorization to Proceed with Hiring of One Full-Time Police Officer*

Chief Solarz discussed the current circumstances that prompted him to approach the Council for this request. There is a strong possibility that the City will have 2 officers retiring within the next 4-5 months. An applicant has passed initial polygraph testing, and the Commission is asking for approval from the Council to proceed. Officer training school is in April, and is a 12 week course.

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Todd Hall, for authorization to proceed with hiring one (1) full-time police officer. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

The motion passed.

- d. Discussion and Request for Direction Regarding Amendment to Management Pay Plan Pertaining to Starting Salary for Police Sergeant Position*

Administrator Boden spoke about the upcoming vacancy in the Police Department, and the pay plan currently in place. It was noted that the top of the pay plan for current officers is higher than the starting wage for newly promoted Police Sergeants. Administrator Boden recommended eliminating Steps 1A, 1B and 1C as it would pertain to non-union Sergeants. The consensus of the Council was to amend the pay plan for Sergeants as recommended.

#### **MAYOR'S STATEMENTS AND REPORTS**

Mayor Lockhart deferred to Public Works Director Moser regarding a special achievement award that H.R. Green received for work done on the City of Marengo's WWTP Project. This was presented by ACEC (American Council of Engineering Companies). Administrator Boden added information on the problems that occurred when it was determined that the original site for the expansion proved not acceptable.

Mayor Lockhart updated the Council on the bridge work that will be starting on Route 23 and the Tollway. This will start tomorrow. He then asked the Council to consider live-streaming of the Council meetings, if the budget allows. This would open up the meeting to everyone in Marengo, so all the citizens get information first hand.

#### **DEPARTMENT HEAD AND STAFF REPORTS**

*Assistant City Administrator Joshua Blakemore* reported that it is the intention to provide information to the Council at each meeting from now on about the budget process and progress. The first information that will be provided is on General Fund Revenue. He also spoke on a recent ratings call review that was done.

*Finance Director Jennifer Snelten* had nothing further.

*Public Works Director Howard Moser* noted that there was a main break on Taylor Street. There was an incident involving a JULIE digging situation. Stump removal is underway, with about 20 left to go. Routine tree pruning will be starting next week. They are going out to bid for the landscaping contract. Lights are all on in Brookside Meadows. Spoke briefly on the Sonolyzer information that was provided by HR Green and updated the Council on what has occurred on the problem that they were having with that device.

*Chief of Police Rich Solarz* advised that Officer Warren gave Narcan to a person in need, and was successful. This is the second incident that they have had for this.

*City Administrator Gary Boden* spoke on the gravel pit presentation from the last meeting, and advised that this will be presented to the PZC next Tuesday. There will be a public hearing on this at that time. Following the PZC meeting, this will be brought to the Council after that. In March, he hopes to bring water and sewer main plans to the PZC regarding water lines from the toll way to the City. This is not to be installed at this time, but to provide information down the road – possibly in a 20 to 30 year time frame.

*City Attorney Carlos Arevalo* had no report.

#### **REPORTS AND STATEMENTS FROM CITY COUNCIL**

None

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- a. Executive Session Pursuant to Section 2 (c) (1) regarding Personnel (5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1))

Alderman Steve Mortensen made a motion, seconded by Alderman Todd Hall, to go to Executive for the purpose of Personnel. The aldermen voted as follows:

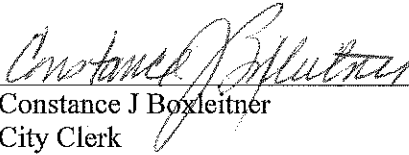
Ayes: Hall, DeBoer, Mortensen, Hammortree, Martin & Miller  
Nays: 0  
Abstain: 0  
Absent: Smith and Keenum

The motion passed.

*The meeting recessed at 7:56 PM*  
*The meeting reconvened at 8:11 PM*

**ADJOURNMENT**

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Mike Miller, to adjourn. The motion passed with a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Constance J Boxleitner  
City Clerk

---

The City Council approved these minutes on February 27, 2017.