

**Marengo City Council  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
City Council Chambers  
132 E. Prairie Street  
Marengo, IL 60152  
June 12, 2017**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor John Koziol called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Koziol led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Present this evening are Mayor John Koziol; Aldermen Mike Miller, Nicole DeBoer, Denis Hammortree, Brett Martin, Todd Hall and Steve Mortensen. Also present are Assistant City Administrator Joshua Blakemore, Chief of Police Richard Solarz, Public Works Director Howard Moser, City Attorney Carlos Arevalo and City Engineer Tim Hartnett. Also in attendance was Administrative Assistant Megan Lopez. Absent this evening were Aldermen Michael Smith, Alderman Matt Keenum and Finance Director Jennifer Snelten.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A resident commended the excellent job done by the fire department, rescue squad and police during Sunday's disaster. He also questioned the City regarding brush pick-up. A Boy Scout asked the City if there were any plans for completing the sidewalks along Prospect Street, from the railroad tracks to Route 176. Assistant City Administrator Blakemore responded on what had been discussed previously by the Council on that situation and when the possibility of grant money would be available to help with the funding.

Mayor Koziol noted that there was talk of possibly postponing tonight's meeting, but it was decided to keep the meeting as originally scheduled.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – *May 22, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes***

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Todd Hall, to approve the regular meeting minutes from the May 22, 2017 meeting. The aldermen voted as follows:

Ayes: Mortensen, DeBoer, Miller, Hall, Hammortree and Martin

Nays: 0

Absent: Keenum and Smith

The motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF LIST OF BILLS**

Questions were asked, and answers provided, on 2 of the bills presented (Reserve Account – 01-51-532.00 - \$500.00, First Natl. Bank of Omaha – 30-70-523.00 - \$211.17).

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, Hall and Hammortree

Nays: 0

Absent: Smith and Keenum

The motion passed.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Action on Mayor’s Appointments – Planning & Zoning Commission, Fire & Police Commission
- b. Approval of a Resolution for Maintenance of Streets and Highways by the City of Marengo, under the Illinois Highway Code – Resolution Allowing for Spending of Motor Fuel Tax Funds as per 17/18 Budget
- c. Approval of Said Disbursement for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion Project

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

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

- a. *Action on Request to accept a Proposal for New Welcome Signs*

Megan Lopez reviewed information on proposed new welcome signs (5) for the City. Quotes were received from Halquist Stone (\$7,300.00) and Modern Sign Design (\$45,500.00). Public Works Director Moser put together a quote to replace the signs with like construction (13,073.83). The Council discussed the options and the wording proposed. Megan noted that if the Council approves the quote from Halquist, she has been in contact with Delong Trucking (who have agreed to pick-up and deliver the stones at no charge), and also with Stark Service who have agreed to donate a truck load of concrete for the bases. The public works department will install each sign.

Alderman Mike Miller made a motion, seconded by Alderman Nicole DeBoer, to approve the proposal for the new welcome signs, going with Option 1, block lettering, with the wording to read “Welcome to Marengo”. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

- b. *Update on Building Department and Code Enforcement Operation and Action on Request to Cease Agreement with Working World Inc. for Temporary Staffing Services and Create a Part Time Administrative Assistant Position for the City of Marengo Building Department & Public Works*

Public Works Director Moser reviewed the information with the Council, and is recommending offering employment to Angelina D’Andrea as a part time administrative assistant for the Building Department. The contract with Working World, Inc was for 400 hours and does include the option of the City hiring her as an employee at the end of that time period.

Alderman Steve Mortensen made a motion, seconded by Alderman Nicole DeBoer, to approve the request to the Cease Agreement with Working World, Inc., and to create a part time administrative position for the City of Marengo Building Department & Public Works. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

The motion passed.

*c. Action on Request to Proceed with Putting Deerpass Resurfacing Project Out for Competitive Bids*

Assistant Administrator Blakemore reviewed information with the Council on the current balance on the Deerpass Unit 6 LOC (\$20,370.47). After paying for design, bid prep and construction work, the balance in that account would be around \$17,000. City Engineer Hartnett described the work that had been done, and the work that is being proposed. The estimated cost of the project is \$66,612. The recommendation is to take \$50,000 from the General Fund reserves. This would draw down the cash reserves from the current 98.2 days (of reserve) to 93.5 days. The projected schedule indicates a proposed complete project in August of September, with the closeout and acceptance in September or October.

Alderman Todd Hall made a motion, seconded by Alderman Dennis Hammortree, to approve the request to proceed with putting the Deerpass Resurfacing Project out for competitive bids. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

*d. Action on an Ordinance Establishing the Prevailing Wage for the City of Marengo*

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Steve Mortensen, approving an ordinance establishing the Prevailing Wage for the City of Marengo. The aldermen voted as follows:

Ayes: Mortensen, DeBoer, Miller, Hall (\*), Hammortree and Martin  
Nays: 0  
Absent: Keenum and Smith  
The motion passed.

\* Alderman Hall stated: "Yes, only because we have to, and it is the State (of Illinois) that is forcing us to. So it is yes."

**MAYOR'S STATEMENTS AND REPORTS**

Mayor Koziol praised Chief Solarz and Chief Bradbury on how the City came together. He noted that in all the training scenarios that he has participated in, nothing like this has ever come up or thought about. Between the explosion disaster and the armed robbery standoff, resources were stretched, but everyone stepped up, including County, State and other municipalities.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD AND STAFF REPORTS**

Assistant City Administrator Joshua Blakemore reiterated his praises for Chief Bradbury and Chief Solarz in their handling of the events on Sunday. He extended a big "shout out" to County Emergency Management for their assistance. He thanked Megan for her work on the sign project. He spoke with Jack Peace on the Marengo Lakes LLC project and their possible starting date, and was advised that they are looking at mid-July. He has been in contact with the Attorney General's office about 300 West LLC / Arnold's project, and the possibility of a delay in getting the waterline project started. Because of the large scope of the project, the City is requesting that HR Green be on site during the construction, for observation purposes, with the cost being born by 300 West LLC. He has sent a letter to the AG's office stating that 300 West LLC/Arnold Engineering will need to pay that expense up front before the project begins. He had good news to report on a meeting recently, between the County Administrator and the City, wherein Joe Gottemoller has offered his help on matters involving "right of way" work that would

need to be done. He is the County Transportation Department Chair. The plan is to present updated information on the project to the County Transportation Department by late July.

*Public Works Director Howard Moser* expressed thanks to Rick from MDC for the use of the roll-offs (being provided at no cost), to John Hellyer & Sons Tree Removal for work on debris removal (again done at no cost), to Steve – Harvard Building Inspector – who was on site at 9:30 that morning. A meeting of individuals involved in the water main project down West Grant Highway was done, and the group is asking for feedback from the Council on possible changes to the scope of the project. The original project, per the map provided, would be quoted for sections 3, 3.1, and 3.2. The first change is to not run the line all the way to Meyer Road as originally planned. They recommended reducing the length by 200.’ They looked at a possibility of upgrading the line at the North end of Route 23 (see 3.2A - 500’ North), but it was determined that the current line is 6” cast, which is sufficient. There is a section of Route 23 (see 3.2B – 650’ length). It was estimated that the cost to do 3.2B would cost about \$200,000. City Engineer Hartnett added information on asking for the quotes to be done as an “add alternate” for the 3.2B section. He noted that there is a creek that is involved in the areas under consideration, as well as a detour route that would need to be approved by IDOT during the construction process. Tim will look at possibly coming off the water line on Sunset Drive, and looping it to the highway. This would eliminate the need to deal with the creek, as well as detouring of traffic.

Alderman Hammortree asked what the possibility of infrastructure damage from the explosion? Josh noted that they had not received any calls for problems with resident in that area, but they will be keeping track of any problems that might occur. Tim proposed speaking with his structural engineering team and his soils engineers and will email with City with what he finds out. He recommended the City monitor the water usage and look at info from last Friday or Saturday as samples. The City should be monitoring well production and compare it to the usage of the wastewater to see if it spikes.

Alderman DeBoer questioned damage that occurred to the streets in the area, and it was noted that there is damage. Tim recommended that the City take picture and document the streets in and around the area.

*Chief of Police Rich Solarz* agreed that yesterday was a long day for everyone involved. He gives credit to all the officers that were there – first to be at the explosion site and then to shift focus on the armed robbery situation. He has high praise for all the departments working together on this – the City, the County and the State- all pulled together and got through it. The City made a plea to the Police Academy and got moved up from 12<sup>th</sup> place on the list, to being offered a spot for the June 26<sup>th</sup> class. The Police Commission reported that the recent applicant passed his tests, so he will be going to the academy on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

*City Engineer Tim Hartnett* had submitted a written report. He added that HR Green would be happy to donate, if needed, the structural engineering design for the foundation and the rebar sizing for the new welcome signs. He also would like to offer a donation of \$500 toward the success of those signs.

*City Attorney Carlos Arevalo* had no report.

*City Clerk Connie Boxleitner* requested that the Council members stop by the Clerk’s office before the next meeting to review the minutes from the Executive Session. She reminded the Council that they are not being asked to approve the minutes, just to review them.

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


Alderman Hammortree questioned if the brush drop-off at the WWTP was still available, and Public Works Director Moser confirmed that it is. Dennis then offered to assist a resident with the removal of a brush pile from his residence.

Alderman Miller then asked what the status was on the live streaming that had been discussed. Assistant Administrator Blakemore updated the Council that they had not found it to be cost effective at this time.

Alderman Steve Mortensen congratulated the MCHS Softball team with their win.

**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 8:22 PM.

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

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

