

**MARENGO CITY COUNCIL  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
City Council Chambers  
132 E. Prairie Street  
Marengo, IL 60152  
April 23, 2018**

**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 Matt Keenum, Mike Miller, Nicole DeBoer, Dennis Hammortree, Brett Martin, Todd Hall and Steve Mortensen. Also present are City Administrator Joshua Blakemore, Chief of Police Richard Solarz, Public Works Director Howard Moser, Acting City Attorney David McArdle, City Engineer Tim Hartnett and Finance Director Jennifer Snelten. Alderman Michael Smith was absent.

Mayor Koziol announced that the meeting would be recessed at this time (7:04 pm) and will move to Marengo Community High School, 110 Franks Lane, due to the large turnout. The regular meeting will reconvene at 7:30 PM.

**RECONVENE AND CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Koziol reconvened the meeting at 7:30 PM. Roll call showed the following persons in attendance: Mayor John Koziol, Aldermen: Todd Hall, Dennis Hammortree, Steve Mortensen, Nicole DeBoer, Mike Miller, Brett Martin, Michael Smith (entered the meeting at 7:30 pm) and Matt Keenum. Also present are City Administrator Joshua Blakemore, Chief of Police Richard Solarz, Public Works Director Howard Moser, Acting City Attorney David McArdle, City Engineer Tim Hartnett and Finance Director Tim Hartnett.

**SWEARING IN CEREMONY – *New Patrol Officer Jacob Wajda***

New Patrol Officer Jacob Wajda was sworn in by Chief Solarz. Officer Wajda is in his 4<sup>th</sup> week at the academy with 8 more weeks to go.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mayor Koziol requested that individuals wishing to address the Council on anything other than the items listed under New Business, to please speak at this time. If you want to speak on the New Business item, please hold your comments until we reach that part of the meeting, and you will be invited to speak at that time. There were no public comments at this time.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – *April 9, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes***

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

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

Nays: 0

The motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF LIST OF BILLS**

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Michael Smith, to approve the list of bills. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

Nays: 0

The motion passed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

*a. Presentation from Nicor on an infrastructure initiative: Investing in Illinois*

Mayor Koziol advised that due to the large turnout for the shooting range discussion, Nicor opted to delay their presentation to a later date.

Mayor Koziol read the 3 items pertaining to the possible shooting range, and invited the public to speak (limited to the City ordinance of 2 minutes) on these items.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A total of 22 persons spoke this evening. Their comments ranged from being in favor of it, to not. Several of the individuals were from out of town. The main concern from those in opposition to the proposed shooting range involved the location – that being in the central business area. The location is near a child care facility, and that business is concerned about the possible loss of business because of it being so near the shooting range facility.

Mark Saladin, attorney for Mr. and Mrs. Lindner, introduced them, so they could address the conditions that were recommended by the PZC at their meeting last week.

*b. Motion to approve an Ordinance amending the Marengo Zoning Ordinance to add Indoor Shooting Range as a Special Use in the B-1 Central Business District*

Administrator Blakemore clarified that this Ordinance is only an amendment to the current zoning ordinance to allow for an indoor shooting range, as a Special Use in the B-1 Central Business District.

Alderman Dennis Hammortree made a motion, seconded by Alderman Todd Hall, to approve an Ordinance Amending the Marengo Zoning Ordinance to add Indoor Shooting Range as a Special Use in the B-1 Central Business District. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

Nays: Keenum

The motion passed.

*c. Motion to approve an Ordinance issuing a Special Use Permit for 131 E. Prairie Street, to allow for an indoor shooting range, with conditions, and granting variations from the Marengo Zoning Ordinance*

Administrator Blakemore explained that this Ordinance involves issuing a Special Use Permit for the specific location of 131 E Prairie Street, to allow for an indoor shooting range, with conditions laid out by the PZC, as well as granting the variation for parking.

Attorney Saladin addressed the issue of the use of a breathalyzer at the business. After discussing the use of the device with the Illinois State Police, the police recommended they get training for use of the device through the manufacturer. The State Police only provide training for law enforcement entities. There was discussion on live feed to the police department on the interior/exterior cameras, and the petitioner indicated that they would be working with the police department on possibly doing this. The Council

requested that a surveillance camera be added to the City parking lot, and the petitioner agreed to that recommendation. A request was made to “add some teeth” to the conditions to ensure the petitioner adheres to these conditions. Attorney McArdle advised what stipulations could be added. The Council clarified that their request for a breathalyzer test would only be applicable of the individual that came to the facility exhibited signs of being intoxicated (odor of alcohol, slurring of speech, etc).

Mayor Koziol: “I’m going to go on the record here, I have been to a lot of indoor shooting ranges, and I have not even heard of a breathalyzer in one. I have zero problems with making sure that the safety is there, but I really do not want to see us require a breathalyzer for every single person that walks through the door.”

Alderman Todd Hall made a motion, seconded by Alderman Nicole DeBoer, to approve an Ordinance Issuing a Special Use Permit for 131 E. Prairie Street, Marengo, to allow for an indoor shooting range, with the following conditions. 1) Submission to the City of an exterior lighting plan for the property, to enhance security and safety from dusk to dawn, to be approved by the City Administrator and the Police Chief before operating the shooting range. 2) Submit a written plan detailing the location of indoor and outdoor security surveillance cameras for the property, to be approved by the City Administrator and the Police Chief before operating the range, with all points of entry, storage areas of fire arms and ammunition shall be covered. A security camera shall be installed to monitor the City parking lot as well. The property shall be alarmed and monitored on a 24-hour 7-day a week basis, and the owner shall annually meet with the Chief or his designee, to review for approval all security protocols for the year. 3) The owner will maintain a portable breathalyzer instrument at the facility, with internal rules (operations manual) stating that there is no alcohol on the premises. 4) The hours of operation Monday thru Sunday are 8 AM to 8 PM. 5) The facility will have an NRA (or equivalent) trained chief safety officer on staff; and also two NRA (or equivalent) range officers present during range hours, with proof available to the City. 6) Customers renting a shooting range shall possess a valid FOID card. 7) The shooting range shall remain closed during hours of designated City celebrations where the City parking lot is being used (approximately 10 days a year). 8) If the business is sold to another party other than the applicant assumes operation of the business in the future, City staff must be notified and all conditions listed here must be adhered to; and granting variation, down to zero for parking on premises, from the Marengo Zoning Ordinance. 9) Penalties including fines, suspension, and revocation shall be issued upon notice, and an opportunity to be heard by the petitioner. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

*d. Motion to approve an Ordinance amending Section 40.07 of the Marengo Municipal Code, Weapons, to allow for the discharge of a firearm at an approved shooting range*

Alderman Todd Hall made a motion, seconded by Alderman Michael Smith, to approve an Ordinance Amending Section 40.07 of the Marengo Municipal Code, Weapons, to allow for the Discharge of a Firearm at an Approved Shooting Range. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

*Mayor Koziol suggested taking a 15 minute recess at this time, and the Council agreed. Time: 8:30 PM*

*e. Motion to approve Fiscal Year 2018/2019 Budget*

Administrator Blakemore reviewed the proposed Fiscal Year 2018/2019 Budget with the Council, answering questions on various parts of the budget.

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Michael Smith, to approve the Fiscal Year 2018/2019 Budget. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

*f. Motion to approve transfer of certain funds from the General Fund and Water/Sewer Fund to Capital Improvement Fund and Water/Sewer Capital Improvement Fund*

Administrator Blakemore reviewed the transfer of funds, explaining each transfer, and answered questions from the Council. The transfer of funds will not affect the cash balance, but will affect the investment balance – possibly affecting the “days of reserve fund” with an estimate of 98.9 days of cash reserves.

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Michael Smith, to approve the transfer of certain funds from the General Fund and Water/Sewer Funds to Capital Improvement Fund and Water/Sewer Capital Improvement Fund. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

*g. Motion to approve an Ordinance making the Supplemental Appropriations for FY 2017/2018*  
Finance Director Snelten reviewed the various line items on the supplemental appropriations for the 2017/2018 fiscal year.

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Michael Smith, to approve an Ordinance making the Supplemental Appropriations for FY 2017/2018. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

**MAYOR’S STATEMENT AND REPORT**

*Mayor Koziol* had no report.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD AND STAFF REPORTS**

*Finance Director Jennifer Snelten* had nothing further to report.

*Public Works Director Howard Moser* updated the Council on the installation of the welcome signs, and advised that they will be engraved soon. The staff and Howard met with Strand and Associates today at the WWTP. Brush collection begins on May 7<sup>th</sup>. There is a meeting scheduled for later this week with UniCarriers regarding the adoption of Prospect Street.

*Chief of Police Rich Solarz* had no report.

*City Engineer Tim Hartnett* had no report.

*City Administrator Joshua Blakemore* reminded the Council that the presentation from NiCor will be rescheduled. A meeting on Collective Bargaining between the City, the Teamsters and the FOP is scheduled for this week. A draft copy of a RFQ for an Economic Development Consultant was emailed to the Council last Friday. If there are no objections from the Council, the intention is to get that RFQ out this week.

*City Attorney David McArdle* had no report.

*City Clerk Connie Boxleitner* reminded 4 members of the Council of the need to complete the Statement of Economic Interests with the County Clerk's office. Those 4 persons are: Connie Boxleitner, Brett Martin, Nicole DeBoer and Dennis Hammortree. If anyone needs help with completing the form, please give the clerk's office a call. The deadline for turning in the form is the 30<sup>th</sup> of April.

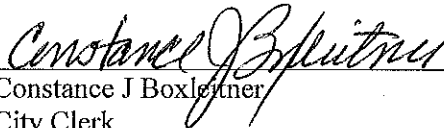
#### **REPORTS AND STATEMENTS FROM CITY COUNCIL**

*Alderman Keenum* stated "for the record" I hope that the stipulations that were added will minimize the concerns of the citizens who were opposed to the zoning changes, in regard to the proposed gun range. However I am disappointed in the misinformation that was spread on behalf of the petition that erroneously encouraged people that we were voting on a 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment issue when it fact it was a location issue.

*Alderman Hammortree* questioned who the individual was on the internet that bashed the Methodist Church, and noted that a letter was received from Rocco Gailoretto and his comments were right on. Dennis has visited the job site and he feels that the petitioner is on the up-and-up, and that they did a good job.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Michael Smith, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:26 PM.

  
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Constance J Boxleitner  
City Clerk

The City Council approved these minutes on May 14, 2018.

