

MARENGO CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
City Council Chambers
132 E. Prairie Street
Marengo, IL 60152
August 13, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor John Koziol led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present this evening are Mayor John Koziol; Aldermen Mike Miller, Nicole DeBoer, Michael Smith, Steve Mortensen, Dennis Hammortree, Brett Martin, Todd Hall and Matt Keenum. Also present are City Administrator Joshua Blakemore, Chief of Police Richard Solarz, Public Works Director Howard Moser, and Acting City Attorney David McArdle.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A resident questioned an agenda item regarding wastewater treatment plant expenses. Another resident questioned what the criteria are for Executive Session. Administrator Blakemore explained that Executive Session is only for discussion on personnel, land acquisition, pending or imminent litigation and collective bargaining.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – *July 23, 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: DeBoer, Smith, Mortensen, Hammortree, Martin, Hall and Miller
Nays: 0
Abstain: Keenum
The motion passed.

APPROVAL OF LIST OF BILLS

A question was asked regarding uniform allowance expense for a water sewer department employee. It was explained that this was an allowable expense as she is part of the union.

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

a. Motion to approve a resolution closing Route 23 for Settlers' Days

The Settlers' Days committee will come before the Council with their formal presentation soon, but in order to facilitate the closing of Route 23, this resolution is being presented this evening. The closing involves Saturday evening (October 6, 2018) and Sunday afternoon (October 7, 2018).

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Matt Keenum, to approve a resolution for closing Route 23 for Settlers' Days. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

b. Report from Marengo Cemetery Board, and direction on funding for Cemetery operations
Marty Mohr reviewed the report with the Council, and answered numerous questions from the Council.

Alderman Dennis Hammortree made a motion, seconded by Alderman Steve Mortensen, to approve funding for Cemetery operations in the amount of \$10,000. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

c. Motion to approve a scope of services with Strand Engineering to complete an evaluation of the wastewater treatment plant, in an amount not to exceed \$15,000
Public Works Director Moser reviewed the information presented, explaining the process that was pursued in order to reach the evaluation being presented by Strand Associates. There were concerns expressed by various members of the Council regarding the length of time that it has taken the firm to put information together. Troy Stinson, with Strand Associates, agreed that the company will work on a faster turn-around in getting information to the City.

Alderman Michael Smith made a motion, seconded by Alderman Matt Keenum, to approve a scope of services with Strand Engineering to complete an evaluation of the wastewater treatment plant, in an amount not to exceed \$15,000. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

MAYOR'S STATEMENT AND REPORT

Mayor Koziol noted that there is a meeting scheduled with Congressman Hultgren and the City's lobbyist Joyce Nardulli.

DEPARTMENT HEAD AND STAFF REPORTS

Public Works Director Howard Moser advised that the plans are underway for the fall tree planting. The dead trees at the wastewater treatment plant will be removed. They are obtaining quotes for the roof repairs needed for the storage garage at the WWTP (budgeted item). He updated the Council on the Sonalyzer. The parts for the gas handler have been ordered, and the Thermo-coupler is on backorder.

Chief of Police Rich Solarz advised the Officer Wajda is moving forward with his FTO. School starts Wednesday. The high school has reviewed the contract for the SRO. Officer JR Rzotkiewicz will replace Sgt Fritz. The school has agreed to the new amount of \$25,000, which will include covering some of the officer's benefits, as well as his wage. The truancy agreement, which is renewed every year by the school, will be signed, as well as a parking agreement. The painting and flooring at the police department are complete.

City Administrator Joshua Blakemore updated the Council with the information that Teresa Nortillo, the EDC for the City, has set a schedule with the City, and met with Colleen Helfers, with the Chamber of Commerce, to discuss the possibility of putting together a luncheon to introduce Teresa to the businesses. He noted that Governor Rauner had signed the solar act on property tax assessments.

Acting City Attorney David McArdle had no report.

REPORTS AND STATEMENTS FROM CITY COUNCIL

Alderman DeBoer asked for any further information regarding the chicken butcher shop and Administrator Blakemore updated everyone with what he has learned through the County. He did remind everyone that this property is not within the City limits, and therefore is not answerable to the City for anything that they do on that property. They do have to comply with permitting through the Department of Health.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a. *Discussion of pending or imminent litigation pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (11)*

Mayor Koziol advised that there would not be an Executive Session this evening.

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Todd Hall, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM.



Constance J. Boxleitner
City Clerk

The City Council approved these minutes on August 28, 2018.