

**Marengo City Council  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
City Council Chambers  
132 E. Prairie Street  
Marengo, IL 60152  
January 23, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER

City Clerk Connie Boxleitner called the meeting to order at 7:00, in the absence of Mayor Donald B. Lockhart.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Clerk Boxleitner led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present this evening are 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, Chief of Police Rich Solarz, Public Works Director Howard Moser, City Attorney Carlos Arevalo, City Engineer Tim Hartnett and Finance Director Jennifer Snelten. Mayor Donald Lockhart was absent.

SELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEM

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Matt Keenum, to appoint Alderman Todd Hall as Mayor Pro Tem. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

Mayor Pro Tem Hall advised the Council that item 7E (Action on Execution of Agreement with HR Green for work Regarding I-90 Interchange) was pulled from this evenings agenda.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Michael Smith, to approve the minutes from the January 9, 2017 Regular Meeting. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

APPROVAL OF LIST OF BILLS

Alderman Hammortree questioned an invoice received from the attorney's office for legal services / 300 West/Arnold / No Deposit on File. Attorney Arevalo explained that the invoice is for various conversations/discussions involving the annexation agreement.

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

*a. Approval of Sending Invoices to the IEPA for Loan Disbursement and Authorize Payment Upon Receipt of Said Disbursement for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project*

Administrator Boden explained that these invoices were for work that was done following the frozen line problem. Alderman Hammortree questioned why this work wasn't done at the time of the original construction, and Administrator Boden explained that it should have been done at that time, but wasn't. City Engineer Tim Hartnett explained that H. R. Green has taken responsibility for this error, and has deducted from their invoice to the City the amount of \$12,000 to compensate for this.

There was discussion on the status of the work being done on the Solonyzer. Engineer Hartnett explained for everyone what this device does, what the problem is, and what is happening with working with the supplier on getting the problems solved. He advised that they are in contact with both Williams Brothers and Public Works Director Moser on what is happening with the device, and the supplier.

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Steve Mortensen, to approve sending the invoices to the IEPA for Loan Disbursement and to authorize payment upon receipt of said disbursement for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

*b. Action on an Ordinance Adopting the Local Government Travel Expense Control Act Regarding Travel, Meal and Lodging Expenses*

Finance Director Snelten advised that this was put forward from IML mandating that municipalities adopt an ordinance on this matter. The City has this previously written in the employee handbook.

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Mike Miller, to approve an ordinance adopting the Local Government Travel Expense Control Act regarding Travel, Meal and Lodging Expenses. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

*c. Discussion Regarding a Proposal to Amend the Pleasant Grove Lakes (now known as Marengo Lakes) Annexation Agreement*

Jack Pease and Phil Brown (with Super Aggregates) spoke to the Council on their plans to enlarge the original area approved by the City, and to eliminate the original approved request to use Pleasant Grove Road as an access point for trucks. The name of the project has been changed from Pleasant Grove Lakes to Marengo Lakes LLC. The original 256 acres will remain the same, but an additional 255 acres

(currently known as VCNA Prairie) will be added. Mr. Pease is forming a 50/50 partnership with Dan & Ray Plote for the complete project. They are scheduled to go before the PZC on the 21<sup>st</sup> of February, and if approved will then come before the Council at the last meeting in February. Mr. Pease provided a sheet showing revenue projections from this venture.

*d. Discussion and Request for Direction on Potential Downtown and Eastern Corridor TIF Projects*  
Assistant City Administrator Blakemore reviewed the TIF information with the Council. The Downtown TIF currently has \$13,755. Staff has suggested using \$13,000 for sidewalk improvements. The Public Works Director is assessing the sidewalks to determine what areas are in the most need of repair/replacement. The Eastern Corridor TIF has \$45,410, most of which has been received this fiscal year. There are various options available, one of which is adding sidewalks along Route 20. Another option would be some additional storm water management along parts of Route 20, where flooding occurs. Staff will be reviewing the options available and will bring their recommendations to the Council for consideration. It was noted that at the time the TIF's were established, costs to do them was taken from the General Fund. If the City chooses, those costs can be reimbursed from each TIF fund to the General Fund. Staff does not recommend doing that at this time, but to wait until projects are selected for each district, and what the fund balance would be once the projects are completed. The Council agreed with the recommendation of staff.

#### DEPARTMENT HEAD AND STAFF REPORTS

Assistant City Administrator Joshua Blakemore reported that interviews were conducted today for the part-time position at Public Works. The interviews went well, and the hope is to have a decision by the end of the week, with the person starting on Monday. The Gaming Café (out by Rosati's) has been in contact with the City on that project, as they are hoping to move forward with that project soon. The original person that approached the Council is no longer involved, and the new owner(s) has been advised that they would need to come to approach the Council with projected plans. They are planning to attend the first meeting in February to present their plans to the Council for approval.

Finance Director Jennifer Snelten had provided the Council with the month end Treasurer's Report and Budget Trend. There were no questions from the Council.

Public Works Director Howard Moser was happy to report that there were no main breaks. Stump removal is underway with 23 removed last week. There were about 100 left to do. A new storm sewer structure project will start tomorrow on East Grant Highway, with a anticipated 1-2 hour lane closure (Eastbound) while the project is underway.

Chief of Police Rich Solarz reported that the officers have all started the mandatory training, with having completed the November and December classes. After they have completed the January training, they will be required to do one class a month. There have been problems with vehicles at the Middle School – with parents waiting for students at the end of the school day. Cars were parking on Prospect Street which causes problems with the intersection of 20 and Prospect Street, as they were backed up almost to the traffic light on Route 20. Officers have gone car to car, explaining that this is not allowed. The City has put up “No Parking at any time” signs to try and alleviate the problem.

City Engineer Tim Hartnett had provided a written report for the Council, and had nothing further to add to that document.

City Administrator Gary Boden referred to the item that was pulled from the agenda. The reason for the removal had to do with coding.

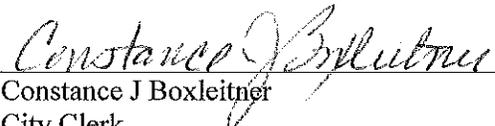
City Attorney Carlos Arevalo had no report.

REPORTS AND STATEMENTS FROM CITY COUNCIL

None

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 8:05 PM.

  
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Constance J Boxleitner  
City Clerk

The City Council approved these minutes on February 13, 2017.