

**Marengo City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
City Council Chambers
132 E. Prairie Street
Marengo, IL 60152
May 22, 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 Matt Keenum, Mike Miller, Michael Smith, Nicole DeBoer, Dennis 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, City Engineer Tim Hartnett and Finance Director Jennifer Snelten.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Residents addressed the Council on their thoughts about the proposed Marengo Farmer's Market (in favor of it), and the renewed interest and optimism seen lately by the Citizens. A question was asked of the City about the enforcement of the Vehicle Stickers and the number of vehicles not displaying them. Two individuals spoke against the issuance of any new liquor licenses, and cited a decision that was made about 8 months ago that the City was putting a moratorium on the issuance of liquor and gaming licenses. *(Please note that the City did not impose a moratorium.)*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - May 8, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Steve Mortensen, to approve the minutes from the May 8, 2017 regular meeting. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

Nays: 0

The motion passed

APPROVAL OF LIST OF BILLS

A question was raised regarding an invoice from Smith Amundsen LLC for legal services for the 300 West Arnold Engineering project. The Council requested that all future invoices be processed as "retained personnel."

Alderman Dennis Hammortree made a motion, seconded by Alderman Steve Mortensen, to approve the list of bills. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

Nays: 0

The motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Action on Mayor's Staff Appointments

Chief of Police Richard Solarz, and Director of Public Works Howard Moser

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Steve Mortensen, to approve the Staff Appointments of Chief of Police and Director of Public Works. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

Nays: 0

The motion passed.

b. Action on a Request for Public Parking Lot Closures for Proposed Marengo Farmer's Market

Assistant City Administrator Blakemore introduced Tim Ring, Marengo Action Committee representative. Mr. Ring discussed the proposal with the Council, and answered questions from the Council. There were questions asked on the vendors (only local homegrown items), non-profit status (paperwork in process to achieve), signage (reclaimed wooden type at each end of venue), and garbage collection (covered garbage cans will be used). The proposed Saturdays would be from June 10, 2017 to September 30, 2017. Times would be from 9 AM to 1 PM.

Alderman Dennis Hammortree made a motion, seconded by Alderman Steve Mortensen, to approve a request for public parking lot closures for the proposed Marengo Farmer's Market. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

Nays: 0

Abstain: Smith

The motion passed.

c. Action on an Ordinance Making a Zoning Text Amendment to Section 1.03 (4) to Permit Manufacturing of Firearms Pursuant to Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms Regulations as a Special Use in the B-2 General Business District and Issuance of a Special Use Permit for Said Use – 20014 East Grant Hwy – Domenic DeBock – Marengo Guns Inc, and Gene & Sandra Lindow

Assistant City Administrator Blakemore introduced Domenic DeBock, Marengo Guns, Inc., who then answered questions posed by the Council on the requested amendment. The request at this time is to allow them to Cerakote guns that are currently in stock, allow gunsmithing on premises, and allow for slide modifications. This zoning text amendment was approved by the Planning & Zoning Commission.

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Mike Miller, an Ordinance making a Zoning Text Amendment to Section 1.03 (4) to permit manufacturing of firearms pursuant to ATF Regulations, as a Special Use in the B -2 General Business District and issuance of a Special Use Permit for said use – 20014 E. Grant Hwy – Domenic DeBock – Marengo Guns, Inc., and Gene & Sandra Lindow. The aldermen voted as follow:

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

Nays: Keenum

The motion passed.

d. Authorization and Direction to Staff and City Attorney in response to Vipul and Sam Patel's Request regarding future liquor license issuance for 20009 – 20015 E. Grant Hwy. Commercial Strip Center development

Attorney Arevalo spoke about the request made by Vipul and Sam Patel's request of the City and answered questions on the proposed document. There are 5 (five) specific requirements that the applicant must meet in order for the Council to approve the requested liquor licenses. If approved, City staff will deliver the document to the applicant. The applicant's representative, Corey Brackmann, was present and answered questions from the Council. Alderman Smith questioned why the applicant had not submitted information on other locations that have this type of set-up, as had been requested when they approached the Council earlier. Mr. Brackmann will speak with the applicants and remind them to get that information to the Council for review.

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Steve Mortensen, to approve the document relating to the proposed Commercial Strip Center Development at 20009 – 20015 East Grant Highway. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

Nays: Keenum and Hammortree

The motion passed.

e. Action on an Ordinance Granting Special Use Permit for a 2-acre Parcel Currently Zoned B-2 General Business District Pursuant to Section 15 of the Marengo Zoning Code, for a Two Drive-Through Facilities Commercial Development at 20009 – 20015 E. Grant Hwy – Brackmann Construction and Vipul Patel and Sam Patel

The applicants are requesting a special use permit to include two drive-through facilities to the Commercial Development of 20009 – 20015 E Grant Highway (Commercial Strip Center). The PZC approved the request with a condition required of the applicant that they come back before the PZC for review of the project once the engineering for the turn lane and the design of the proposed use is finalized.

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Michael Smith, to approve an Ordinance granting a Special Use Permit for a 2-Acre parcel currently zoned B-2 General Business District Pursuant to Section 15 of the Marengo Zoning Code, for a Two Drive-through Facilities Commercial Development at 20009 – 20015 E. Grant Hwy – Brackmann Construction and Vipul Patel and Sam Patel. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

Nays: 0

The motion passed.

f. Action on Authorizing Staff to Proceed Waiving Competitive Bidding with the Purchase of a 1999 Elgin Pelican Street Sweeper for \$18,000 from R.N.O.W. Inc., West Allis, WI.

Public Works Director Howard Moser spoke on the possible purchase of a 1999 Elgin Pelican Street Sweeper. He discussed the condition of the current unit. The funds for this purchase will come from the Street Vehicle Replacement Fund and the General Fund Operating Contingency Fund. Mr. Moser contacted Stark Enterprises, and they will pick-up and deliver the unit for \$700. The quote from R.N.O.W. was \$1,500. The City will surplus the 1992 Whirlwind (the current unit) with any funds collected from the sale to reimburse the General Fund Operating Contingency fund.

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Todd Hall, for authorization to waive competitive bidding on the purchase of a 1999 Elgin Pelican Street Sweeper for \$18,000 from R.N.O.W., Inc., West Allis, WI. The aldermen voted as follows

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

Nays: 0

The motion passed.

g. Action on an Ordinance Declaring Certain Municipal Property as Surplus

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Michael Smith, to approve an ordinance declaring certain municipal property as surplus. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

Nays: 0

The motion passed.

h. Action on an Agreement with IDOT Regarding Cost Sharing of Coral/Pleasant Grove Road and Route 23 Traffic Signal Upgrade Cost Sharing – Contract #60V05, State Section 24N-2

Assistant City Administrator Blakemore spoke on Agenda Items h, i and j. This proposed agreement between IDOT and the City of Marengo is for improvement approximately 999 feet of that section of the roadway. The City is responsible for ¼ of that area, and is therefore responsible for ¼ of the cost of improvements deemed necessary by IDOT. The City's total contribution to this project is \$11,845. *Item h requires approval of the agreement. Item i is for approval of the funding of the project. Item j is an ordinance restricting parking in the project area.*

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Michael Smith, to approve an agreement with IDOT regarding cost sharing of Coral Road / Pleasant Grove Road and Route 23 traffic signal upgrade – Contract #60V05, State Section 24 N-2. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

Nays: 0

The motion passed.

i. Action on Funding Resolution Pursuant to an Agreement with the State of Illinois for the Improvement of IL Rte. 23 at Coral Road / Pleasant Grove Road, Contract #60V05, State Section: 24 N-2

Alderman Steve Mortensen made a motion, seconded by Alderman Nicole DeBoer, on a funding resolution pursuant to an agreement with the State of Illinois for the improvement of IL Rte 23 at Coral Road / Pleasant Grove Road, Contract # 60 V 05, State Section: 24 N-2. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

Nays: 0

The motion passed.

j. Action on an Ordinance Restricting Parking Along FAP Route 324 (IL Route 23) at Coral / Pleasant Grove Road within the City of Marengo

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Steve Mortensen, to approve an Ordinance restricting parking along FAP Route 324 (IL Rte 23) at Coral / Pleasant Grove Road within the City of Marengo. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

Nays: 0

The motion passed.

MAYOR'S STATEMENTS AND REPORTS

Mayor Koziol has toured the WWTP, as have several of the Council. He has learned quite a bit about the operation after speaking with the people that work there. Last week he met with the Park District and

participated in the construction of the playground area. He commended the members of the community that participated. He, along with Josh and Nikki, met with the group that is working towards expanding a youth center. They are currently using the old library, but are in need of a larger property to accommodate their future plans. He reported that he has had several meetings with the entities involved in the I-90 Interchange for Route 23, and was happy to note that things are progressing well. He then stated: "I have heard from several people that I did not support the project. I have heard that a member of City Council has been telling people that with the departure of Gary Boden that the project may fail. This is false. Mr. Blakemore has already been making strides in making this a complete seamless transition. I am going on record right now stating that I support the project. The support of the project from McHenry County, IDOT and the Toll Way Authority has been tremendous. Without this support the project would have surely failed. I look forward to the upcoming meetings I have scheduled so I can communicate my support to them directly. I would also like to request that no one speak for me or on behalf of the City on these matters. With so many agencies involved, it can definitely complicate things. While everyone has the right to express opinions and I encourage opinions and feedback, I would hope that enough respect for my position exists that no one speaks for me. If there are rumors that you would like clarified, and that goes for anybody, please contact me. If I can't answer it, I will find an answer for you."

DEPARTMENT HEAD AND STAFF REPORTS

Asst. City Administrator Joshua Blakemore updated the Council on McRide data and discussed the information given to them on ridership. The City is part of NIMIC (Northern Illinois Municipal Co-op, and there is a possibility for street lighting bids through them. He will keep the Council informed if this is possible. There was a meeting about 2 weeks ago, with Tim Hartnett, to get a status update on the toll way project, and explained what will be happening in the next few of months. He requested an update from the Illinois General Office regarding the 300 West LLC / Arnolds Engineering situation, but has not heard back from them. He proposed that the Council look at earmarking the gravel pit tipping fees generated towards the Coral Road / Pleasant Grove Road / Route 23 signal upgrade. There is \$15,000 budgeted as income from those fees. He has expressed, in his weekly email to all Council members, a desire to sit down with each person and go over any questions or concerns they might have. He has received a response from some, but would like to meet with all. He will continue to send out weekly emails to keep everyone updated with what is happening in the City.

Finance Director Jennifer Snelten noted that the approved budget books were given to each of the aldermen. The packet also included the April Budget Trend report and the Treasurer's report. She reviewed the WWTP payment projections for the term of the loan.

Public Works Director Howard Moser advised that brush drop-off for residents at the WWTP is open weekdays from 8 am to 2 pm. Crews are working on repairs from utility cuts that occurred from main breaks and sewer repair projects. They are also out doing some jetting on Stevenson Street to eliminate root problems. He thanked the Council for the appointment, and also those Council members who came last week to tour the WWTP. He hopes it was informative for everyone. The Acres Group will be applying mulch this week to the flower and tree beds at Calvin Spencer Park, the Police Station, and at City Hall. They are working at setting up a meeting with the business owners in the downtown area to discuss the sidewalk repair options. Building permits have increased, as well as the hours of operation at the building department, with Angela doing a fantastic job.

Chief of Police Rich Solarz spoke briefly about the shooting incident in town recently, and advised that this is an ongoing investigation and as such he is unable to provide any specific information. He said that the Community support the Police Department has received recently is amazing. He provided updated information on the recent rash of car burglaries, and noted that the vehicles involved were all unlocked at the time they were broken into. Advised residents to lock their vehicles and keep personal items stowed away and out of site. June 23rd is the graduation date from the academy for our new officer.

City Engineer Tim Hartnett advised that the projects are going well. He did ask that if anyone has a question for HR Green, to please email the question(s) to Josh or Howard, who in turn will forward the question to his attention. He will respond back to them as quickly as possible.

City Attorney Carlos Arevalo had no report.

REPORTS AND STATEMENTS FROM CITY COUNCIL

Alderman Mike Miller thanked everyone for their help at the Park District during the installation of the new playground equipment. Mayor Koziol and Alderman Matt Keenum both thanked Mike for his work on this.

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Steve Mortensen made a motion, seconded by Alderman Nicole DeBoer, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.


Constance J Boxleitner
City Clerk

The City Council approved these minutes on June 12, 2017.