

**Marengo City Council  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
City Council Chambers  
132 E. Prairie Street  
Marengo, IL 60152  
June 26, 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 and City Engineer Tim Hartnett. Finance Director Jennifer Snelten was absent.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Gene Carroccia advised the Council that the local radio station was open to broadcasting the Council meetings. This would not be done the night of the meeting, but could be aired following the meetings. A resident spoke about concerns with the Settlers' Days activities being moved from downtown to the empty lot in front of Al Grace Appliances, and the closing of streets where businesses are still open.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 12, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes**

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Todd Hall, to approve the minutes from the June 12, 2017 regular meeting. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

Nays: 0

Abstain: Keenum and Smith

The motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF LIST OF BILLS**

There was a question asked on two (2) bills (Acres Group and Hall's Lawn Maintenance). It was explained that Acres is the company that has the contract for maintaining the various locations that the City mows. Hall's is the company that takes care of mowing properties that are in violation of the City mowing ordinance.

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

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

Nays: 0

The motion passed.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. *Approval of a 5K Request – Hidden Path*
- b. *Approval of the Treasurer’s Annual Report of Police Pension Fund*

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

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

a. *Presentation and Update from Settlers’ Days Inc Regarding the Location of Settlers’ Days*  
Melodie Bailey, Co-Chairman of Settlers’ Days Inc., took questions from the Council on the plans to move the Settlers’ Days activities from the downtown area to an open area behind Glo-Bowl. The concern previously voiced about the closing of the road when businesses behind that area are still open was discussed, and that problem will be addressed. The only event scheduled for the downtown is the parade on Sunday. A resident advised the committee that there is strong opposition (as posted on the Marengo Forum on Facebook) to the move. Ms. Bailey indicated that she would bring the formal presentation to the next Council meeting in July.

- b. *Action on an Ordinance Revising the Marengo Municipal Code to Establish and Record Rules for Public Comment at all Open Meetings*

Attorney Arevalo explained the need to adopt the revision to the Marengo Municipal Code regarding the rules relating to public comment at open meetings. The change in wording had been done in early 2015, but official action, in the form of a revision to the current code, did not occur. By approving the revision, the City will be in compliance with the Open Meetings Act requirements.

Alderman Matt Keenum made a motion, seconded by Alderman Dennis Hammortree, to approve an ordinance revising the Marengo Municipal Code, to establish and record rules for public comment at all open meetings. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

\* Alderman Nicole DeBoer stated: “Yes, but with major amounts of hesitancy.”  
\* Alderman Todd Hall stated: “Yes, only because we have to, because of the requirement.”

**MAYOR’S STATEMENTS AND REPORTS**

Mayor Koziol opened up the meeting at this time to discuss the option that was presented by Mr. Carroccia, to broadcast a recording of the City Council meeting on the radio. The Council agreed that this would be a good idea and was in favor of this proposal. Attorney Arevalo advised that the recording of all open meetings is available to anyone in attendance, as long as the basic rules are followed. This can be done by video and audio recording.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD AND STAFF REPORTS**

*Public Works Director Howard Moser* advised that the fall tree planting plans are underway, which will start in September. The water tower will be inspected and cleaned this Saturday. July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 is the first Saturday that the wastewater plant will be open for brush drop off. The hours will be from 8 am to noon. This information is on the City website, and will also be posted on Facebook.

*Assistant City Administrator Joshua Blakemore* noted that the June newsletter is ready to be mailed to all residents. He updated the Council on the plans for the water main project on West Grant Highway. There is a "Meet the Mayor" meeting on Thursday evening at 7 PM. They have invited all the downtown property owners. This will be open to any aldermen that would like to attend, and will be posted to comply with Open Meeting requirements. Taco Bell will be coming to the July 10<sup>th</sup> Council meeting with a signage request. He attended a recent meeting with potential buyers on the remaining units in the Deerpass 6 property. An update on the toll way right-of-way acquisition plans was given. He spoke on 3 specific issues presented by the Illinois Municipal League. First is a proposed 10% reduction in the Local Government Distributive Fund (Income Tax Fund). Second item Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax, which the State is now considering diverting a portion of the tax to schools, with no actual percentage mentioned. Third is a proposed 4-year property tax freeze.

*Chief of Police Rich Solarz* advised that he attended the graduation ceremony last Friday for Officer McGinley. He reported that the other candidate has taken another position elsewhere. This means that the department will be short staffed for a while, but everyone is pitching in. The next available slot to send a new hire for training is in September.

*City Engineer Tim Hartnett* noted that the bid opening for the road project for Deerpass 6 will be held on July 6<sup>th</sup>. He has researched disaster impact on infrastructure, and explained the usual events that occur in this type of explosion. He discussed with Howard and Josh the information and it was noted that nothing of the type of evidence has been noted (specifically manhole covers blown off). This indicates that there has probably not been any impact to our water system. He requested, of the IEMA, a checklist to be followed, and he received a picture of 800 pages that pertain to any type of disaster that might occur. When he explained to IEMA what the City had already done, they said that the City had done everything appropriately, and had followed proper protocol. The water main layouts on the Grant Highway water main project is 50% complete at this time. He updated the Council on the proposed path for the project relating to the Route 23 work.

*City Attorney Carlos Arevalo* had no report.

*City Clerk Connie Boxleitner* reminded the newly elected Council members that there are still some that have not completed the OMA course. The deadline for getting that done is July 24, 2017. Please provide the Clerk's office with a copy of the certification when done.

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

Alderman Smith asked if the City has received a list of critical items relative to the wastewater treatment plant. He noted some concerns seen during his recent tour.

Alderman Hammortree spoke about the Farmers Market, which has moved to Calvin Spencer Park, and how it appears to be going very well. He asked if the radio station could advertise it. Gene Carroccia and Colleen Helfers said to get the information to them and they will put that information out.

Alderman Miller noted that he has received several complaints, around town, about the condition of the streets. He stated that the City needs to start making a plan, start prioritizing areas, and figure out how we are going to make this happen.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- a. Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1) – Regarding the Appointment of Legal Counsel
- b. Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (21) – Semi Annual Review of Minutes of Executive Session as Required by Section 2.06 of the Open Meetings Act

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Matt Keenum, to go to Executive Session, pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 ( c) (1) – regarding the appointment of Legal Counsel, and also pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 ( c) (21) – semi-annual review of minutes of Executive Session as required by Section 2.06 of the Open Meetings Act. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

Nays: 0

The motion passed.

*The meeting recessed at 8:07 PM.*

*The meeting reconvened at 8:28 PM.*

*A roll call of Council Members, following the return from Executive Session, showed all members present.*

**ACTION ON RELEASE OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES FOLLOWING THE REVIEW IN EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Alderman Matt Keenum made a motion, seconded by Alderman Nicole DeBoer, to release the Executive Session minutes for October 24, 2016 and February 13, 2017. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

Nays: 0

The motion passed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Alderman Matt Keenum made a motion, seconded by Alderman Steve Mortensen, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:29 PM.

  
Constance J. Boxleitner  
City Clerk

The City Council approved these minutes on July 10, 2017.