

**Marengo City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
City Council Chambers
132 E. Prairie Street
Marengo, IL 60152
August 28, 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, and Steve Mortensen. Also present were 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. Alderman Todd Hall was absent.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

*Recognition of Marengo Community High School Indians Softball Team
On Winning the 2017 Class 3A State Championship*

Mayor Koziol presented certificates to the coach and team from the 2017 MCHS Indians Softball Team, acknowledging their winning the 2017 Class 3A State Championship. Coach Nance and twelve members of the team were present this evening.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A resident questioned the Council on the number of police currently employed by the City. He is concerned that the police force is understaffed. (Mayor Koziol stated that this has been discussed recently, and it is a priority to increase the number of officers.) Another resident expressed concern about vehicles exiting the parking lot, at Dollar General, and not stopping before pulling onto Route 20. (Chief Solarz indicated that he would speak with Dollar General about possible changes to the sign. Since this is private party, Dollar General would have to make any changes.)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 14, 2017 Regular meeting minutes

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Steve Mortensen, to approve the August 14, 2017 Regular meeting Minutes, with a correction on page 2 (Dan Streit – not Ben Street). The aldermen voted as follows:

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

Nays: 0

Absent: Hall

The motion passed.

APPROVAL OF LIST OF BILLS

Alderman Nicole DeBoer 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 and Hammortree
Nays: 0
Absent: Hall
The motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Authorization to Accept Health Insurance and Benefits Renewal Proposal for 2017/2018

Finance Director Snelten introduced Kathleen Smith and Christina Candelora. They are with InvisionBenefit. The renewal of the health insurance shows a decreased in premium of .58% . This saves the City \$2,604. The dental coverage, which was with MetLife, is being proposed to switch to BC/BS, which is 26.63% lower in cost. If the City combines the medical and dental, there would be an additional .5% decrease in the medical premium. There is an increase this year on the group life/ad&d, and voluntary life insurance premiums of 8.9% - or \$325 annually. InvisionBenefit recommends staying with Vision Service Plan for the vision coverage, as a flat renewal was offered. The EAP (Employee Assistance Program) which is through ComPsych will again be \$2,275. The total savings on the renewal package is \$49,360.

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Michael Smith, to accept the Health Insurance and Benefits Renewal Proposal for 2017 / 2018. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

b. Action on an Ordinance Granting a Special Use to Allow Outside Display of Inventory and Sales of Motor Vehicle and Operation of Moving and Storage Business and Truck and Storage Unit Rentals – 1405 N. State Street

Assistant City Administrator Blakemore reviewed the request for a Special Use at the 1405 N State Street location. The PZC recommended the proposal as outlined in the documents. The Council recommended amending the 60 day time frame to install berm or wall, along 8th Avenue, to 90 days. This special use would be restricted to CJP Enterprises, LLC, which is the owner of the property.

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Mike Miller, to approve an Ordinance granting a Special Use to allow display of inventory and sales of motor vehicles and storage business and truck and storage unit rentals at 1405 N. State Street, with a change on Section 2 – h “Owner shall install the berm or wall within 90 days maximum of adoption of this Ordinance by City Council.”
The aldermen voted as follows:

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

c. Presentation and Request for Direction on Potential Solar Farm West of Johnson Road and South of Route 20 – SunEast Development and Enel Green Energy

Assistant City Administrator Blakemore opened the discussion on the potential development East of Marengo on Johnson Road, incorporating 116 acres of land. The project would require annexation of the property into the City, and thereby also requiring a concurrent amendment t the City’s Zoning Ordinance. Attorney Jay Filler is working with the group, and introduced the representatives from SunEast Development and Enel Green Energy. They are Reed Wills the SunEast Development Manager, Trisha

Elizando with Energy Renewal Partners, Chuck McLaughlin from SunEast Development, and Christopher Harvey with Enel Green Power. Mr. Wills addressed the Council on their prior history with solar energy farms, and their thoughts and ideas for the Marengo project. The general consensus of the Council was favorable on this project.

d. 1st Quarter Budget Report for FY 2017/2018

Finance Director Snelten reviewed the report with the Council, reviewing the various revenue and expense items. There is an amendment to the report, now showing comments in the far right column. (The Council liked this change.) The average percentage at this time is 25% which is where it should be. The few items that exceed that percentage are due to “one time” expenditures.

e. Action on a Letter of Agreement Between the City of Marengo and Illinois Labor Council Regarding Scheduling and Requests for Time Off

Chief Solarz explained what prompted the LOA being presented. This agreement will require persons changing requested time off, to cancel 5 days prior to the requested time.

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Michael Smith, to approve the Letter of Agreement between the City of Marengo and the Illinois Labor Council regarding scheduling and requests for time off. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

MAYOR’S STATEMENTS AND REPORTS

Mayor Koziol had no report this evening.

DEPARTMENT HEAD AND STAFF REPORTS

Assistant City Administrator Joshua Blakemore reported that there is a meeting on Sept. 5, 2017 at McHenry County Administration Building regarding the possible consolidation of polling places. He should have the TIF Agreement information ready for the Sept. 11, 2017 Regular Council meeting. He updated the Council with the latest that is happening on the 300 West LLC / Arnold Engineering water line project. There is a proposed start date of that project of Sept. 5, 2017. The City has not yet received a deposit for HR Green Engineering services. Josh has contacted Senator Althoff on what is happening on this, as she has requested to be kept in the loop. He has also contacted the Attorney General’s Office on what is occurring. The recent open house that was held on the toll way project was well attended, 66 signed in that evening, with representatives from IDOT, representatives from McHenry County, McHenry County EDC, and toll way representatives.

Finance Director Jennifer Snelten, in her capacity as H.R., addressed the question asked during the Public Participation on the number of police officers currently employed by the City of Marengo. There are 14 currently – 1 Chief of Police – 3 Sergeants – 10 Patrolmen (which does include the new hire). The total number of officers as not changed in several years.

Public Works Director Howard Moser spoke about the delay that has occurred with the culvert project on Prospect Street. They are waiting on the flared ends to be delivered. He talked briefly about the meeting with the downtown business owners, and the need for ADA compliant ramps in the downtown area. He is in the process of getting quotes for the project. The milling on Prairie Street – West of Route 23 – should be completed by the end of this week, with the paving of that area scheduled for Sept. 1, 2017.

Chief of Police Rich Solarz updated the Council on the status of Officer McGinley. He has almost completed his training. A new hire, Tonya Hernandez, will be completing the hiring process shortly. Marengo has borrowed the McHenry County Sheriff's "speed trailer" and it is being positioned in various areas around town. The bikes that are at the City garage are being auctioned, and that is progressing. This past weekend, there were a couple of drug overdoses.

City Engineer Tim Hartnett reported that the Deerpass Sub-Division street work is complete, and the project actually came in under cost. This saved the City \$2,660.00. He spoke about the diversion ditch that starts in Union, and explained the origins of when it was built, and by whom. He is looking to set up a meeting with all the entities possibly involved to try and solve problems that are occurring. They are in contact with the DNR and the Army Corp of Engineers.

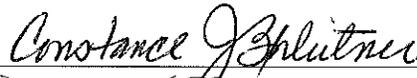
City Attorney Carlos Arevalo had submitted a report to the Council on questions that could be asked in open session, as well as those that may not be. If any of the Council has questions, please contact him.

REPORTS AND STATEMENTS FROM CITY COUNCIL

Alderman Michael Smith thanked the Police Department for placing the speed trailer in his neighborhood. Alderman Nicole DeBoer thanked Public Works Director Howard Moser for getting on the crosswalk striping. She also thanked Carrie Risse for helping with the weed problem downtown.

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Steve Mortensen, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM.



Constance J. Bohlleitner
City Clerk

The City Council approved these minutes on September 11, 2017.