

APPROVED
November 13, 2017

MARENGO CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
City Council Chambers
132 E. Prairie St
Marengo, IL 60152
October 23, 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, Public Works Director Howard Moser, Acting City Attorney David McArdle, Finance Director Jennifer Snelten and Sergeant Paul Fritz (sitting in for Chief Solarz).

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A resident spoke to the Council regarding the building that was demolished, leaving a hole. It is an eyesore. There also is a concern about the intersection of Routes 20 & 23. Vehicles are supposed to stop at the white line – but the white line is almost non-existent. What can the City do about these problems? A request was made to ask everyone to please speak clearly into the microphones.

APPROVAL OF MINUTE – October 9, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Steve Mortensen, to approve the minutes from the October 9, 2017 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 asked about an invoice from Zukowski, Rogers, Flood & McArdle, in the amount of \$7,000. Attorney McArdle recommended removing the invoice, allow him to research the matter, and after review by the Council, have it added to the list for the next meeting.

Alderman Matt Keenum made a motion, seconded by Alderman Michael Smith, to approve the list of bills, minus the one from Zukowski, Rogers, Flood & McArdle, in the amount of \$7,000. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

Nays: Hammortree

The motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Discussion and Request for Direction on Marengo Cemetery Board

Alderman Hall introduced a representative from the Marengo-Union Funeral Home regarding SCI, and advised what had transpired. Pictures were taken of the property, along with information on number of spaces available for sale. This information was forwarded to their home office in Houston, Texas.

Getting a response could take a while. The average cost for a lot through SCI is about \$1200, and the average cost for grave openings is about \$1500.

It was suggested by the Council that the City put the mowing of the cemetery out for bid at this time, to determine what the costs would be. It was also suggested that a replacement board be appointed as soon as possible, so they can work with the existing board on how things are handled, etc.

Alderman Keenum reviewed information he had from surrounding cemeteries, Crystal Lake, Harvard, Huntley, Cary, and Hampshire Township. Some are privately owned and some are City owned. The costs for lot purchase and grave openings differed, as well as how the properties are maintained.

It was decided that another special meeting be held next Monday – October 30th, 2017 – at 7 PM, to further discuss this situation, and to review appointments for the board.

MAYOR'S STATEMENTS AND REPORTS

Mayor Koziol spoke briefly about the Rt 20 & 23 intersection, and a meeting that will be held on November 3rd with IDOT. The intersection at Prospect and Rt 176 will also be discussed.

DEPARTMENT HEAD AND STAFF REPORTS

Public Works Director Howard Moser noted that the paving on the public parking lot – Municipal Lot #1 – will be done this week. Met with Karen Katamay, with the IEPA, last week for the annual inspection of the WWTP, and advised that she was pleased with the performance of the staff and the plant. There were some code changes that she requested, and those will be taken care of. The contract that the City has with MCO – for the Class 1 operator – ends at the end of October. The operator is taking a position with a different firm, and the new firm has provided the City with an agreement for the services, and that agreement will be presented to the Council at the next meeting. The planting of the Norway Spruce was done recently. It has been planted at the flag pole, and will be used for all future Holiday tree lightings. It was donated by Walnut Creek Nursery.

Finance Director Jennifer Snelten distributed two handouts to the Council. The first is on the Property Tax Projections. The current project from the County shows an increase of 2.32% - or an additional \$35,091 over last year. The second involves the Revolving Loan Fund and included a list of projects that the funds could be used for. The staff will present their recommended list for 2018, for the Council to review. The financial reports were provided to the Council in the packet.

Assistant City Administrator Joshua Blakemore spoke about a meeting that he had with Public Works Director Moser and Mayor Koziol on the various options and projects to use the RLF for. Updated the Council on the applications received for the WWTP position. HR Green and their team, met with McHenry County Department of Transportation last week to discuss the toll way project and keep them updated. They will be meeting with the TollWay and the McHenry County Department of Transportation in November to review the next steps to be taken. He also reviewed what is going on with the Dial-A-Ride and what is happening with Riley Township and Marengo Township, and the possibility of each township doing separate contracts with McRide. The projected annual cost for 2018 should be \$7,648. Updated the Council on what is going on with 300 West LLC – and the water line project. Information on the Wastewater Engineering Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was briefly discussed. A packet of information will be presented to the Council at the meeting next Monday.

Sergeant Paul Fritz noted that Saturday is the DEA “Drug Buy Back Day”. There is a collection box in the lobby of the police department for residents to use. Officer Hernandez is starting her training in the academy. November 1st to the 3rd, the department will be doing a Fire Arm Training Simulator, at the McGill’s building. The police department is participating in “No Shave November,” along with other departments within the County. The cost is \$30 per participant, and the McHenry County Chiefs of Police Association is paying for this. The recipient of the proceeds has not been determined yet.

Acting Attorney David McArdle had no report.

REPORTS AND STATEMENTS FROM CITY COUNCIL

Alderman Miller requested status on the new “Welcome to Marengo” signs that were purchased. Assistant City Administrator Blakemore discussed the various locations and the status of each.

Alderman Hammortree questioned when the Settler’s Days signs would be taken down. He was advised that they are the property of the Chamber of Commerce – not the City of Marengo. Public Works Director Moser volunteered to remove them, if the Council approved – which they did.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a. *Discussion of Performance and Compensation of Personnel and Appointment of Officer, Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1) and (3)*

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Steve Mortensen, to go to Executive Session for discussion of performance and compensation of personnel and appointment of officer, pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1) and (3). The aldermen voted as follows:

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

*The Council recessed at 7:55 PM.
The Council reconvened at 8:25 PM.*

ROLL CALL

In attendance are Mayor John Koziol; Aldermen Michael Smith, Matt Keenum, Brett Martin, Steve Mortensen, Nicole DeBoer, Todd Hall, Mike Miller and Dennis Hammortree. Also present is Acting City Attorney David McArdle.

NEW BUSINESS

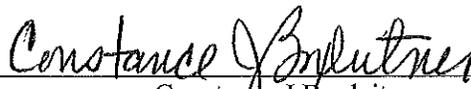
- a. Motion on item discussed in executive session

Mayor Koziol stated that the new business item would be removed from the agenda, and the Council would proceed to adjourn.

Alderman Smith questioned who to contact on ordinance enforcement, and Mayor Koziol advised that Howard Moser, the Public Works Director, was handling those items.

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 8:26 PM.



Constance J. Boxleitner
City Clerk

These minutes were approved by the Council on November 13, 2017.