

APPROVED
January 26, 2018

MARENGO CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
City Council Chambers
132 E. Prairie Street
Marengo, IL 60152
December 18, 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 Acting City Attorney David McArdle, City Engineer Tim Hartnett and Finance Director Jennifer Snelten.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A resident spoke to the Council regarding the Citizens Climate Lobby, McHenry County Chapter. He reiterated the information that he had provided to the Council at a meeting in November. He is requesting that the City and the County get actively involved in Climate Control.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –*November 27, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes*

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Todd Hall, to approve the minutes from the November 27th, 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 on the invoice from HR Green (page 1 of list) and Assistant City Administrator Blakemore reviewed the specific parts of the invoice.

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, Hall and Hammortree

Nays: 0

The motion passed.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. *Motion approving an ordinance establishing the regular meeting dates of the City Council for 2018*
- b. *Motion approving an ordinance abating the tax levied for tax year 2017 to pay the principal and interest on the \$2,740,000 general obligation refunding bonds (Alternate Revenue Source) Series*

2005; the \$1,500,000 taxable general obligation bonds (Alternate Revenue Source) Series 2010; and the \$4,975,000 general obligation bonds (Alternate Revenue Source) Series 2014.

- c. *Motion approving an ordinance authorizing the abatement of 2017 City of Marengo taxes on certain properties annexed to the City of Marengo – Pursuant to 35 ILCS 200/18-184*

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

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

Nays: 0

The motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. *Motion approving an employment agreement between the City of Marengo and Joshua Blakemore to serve as City Administrator*

Questions were asked by the Council on some of the areas of the agreement, with answers provided by Acting City Attorney McArdle.

Alderman Matt Keenum made a motion, seconded by Alderman Todd Hall, approving an employment agreement between the City of Marengo and Joshua Blakemore, to serve as City Administrator. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

Nays: 0

The motion passed.

- b. *Motion approving the tax levy ordinance for the City of Marengo for tax year 2017*

Alderman Steve Mortensen made a motion, seconded by Alderman Michael Smith, approving the Tax Levy Ordinance for the City of Marengo, for the Tax Year 2017. The aldermen voted as follows:

Ayes: DeBoer, Mortensen, Smith, Martin and Keenum

Nays: Hall, Hammortree and Miller

The motion passed.

- c. *Second quarter budget report for FY 17/18*

City Administrator Blakemore reviewed the budget report with the Council, noting that the Property Tax Revenue is projected to be 118.48% due to 2 payments being received from the State in November. The total General Fund Revenue for the first quarter was \$3,225,238 – which represents 81.32% of the projected annual revenue – up 13.71% from the same period last year. General Fund Expenses were \$2,258,870 – representing 57.62% - up 4.85% from the same period last year. Water Sewer Revenue is at \$874,881, representing 50.32% - up 1.62% from last year. The Water-Sewer Expenses are at \$890,171, or 51.39% - down 2.53% from last year.

- d. *Motion approving a resolution adopting an anti-harassment policy*

The proposed resolution updates the current employee handbook section regarding anti-harassment. The new policy includes provisions on retaliation and filing of false claims. All of the newly recommended requirements, signed into effect on November 16, 2017 by the Governor, are being incorporated into the policy update.

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Michael Smith, approving a Resolution Adopting an Anti-Harassment Policy. 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 expressed his thanks to the City Staff on the Christmas Tree Lighting that was done in conjunction with the Fire Department, thanking Chief Bradbury for their support.

DEPARTMENT HEAD AND STAFF REPORTS

City Administrator Joshua Blakemore mentioned the tax intervention that was received from MCHS. The Council did not see a need to participate in this. There is a meeting scheduled on Tuesday with Sun East and their updated concept plan of expanding their operation to 227 acres. There was a conference call today with the various entities involved in the toll-way project that involved looking at ways to accelerate the ramp project. He has received paperwork on the Prospect Street project, so that should be concluded shortly. He also thanked Chief Bradbury and the City Staff for the City Tree Lighting Ceremony. The new Cemetery Board met last week and reviewed their priorities. Ray Knake has been named the Manager. They will be exploring contracting out the mowing, grave opening, and also looking at the option to sell the cemetery, and what would be involved in that process. The next meeting will be on January 8th. He requested dates from the Council regarding the special meetings to interview the engineering firms, and the recommendation was the 3rd and 5th Mondays for those purposes. He thanked the Council for the appointment as the new City Administrator.

Finance Director Jennifer Snelten wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

Public Works Director Howard Moser submitted preliminary plans to IDOT for installation of cross walk signs for State and Washington and State and Prairie. He met with ComEd last week regarding the installation of a new street light on the Southeast corner of Prospect and 176. This project should be complete within a 4 -6 week timeframe. Several of the homes that were damaged on 7th Circle are near completion. There was a water main break Sunday night.

Chief of Police Rich Solarz thanked Marengo Auto Group for donating the use of a vehicle for the "Shop with a Cop" program this year. He thanked NAPA for their donation of \$500, which allowed the department to replace a broken coffeemaker and an old microwave. Thanks also to Chief Bradbury for the use of his staff for recertification of CPR next month. Chief Solarz will be attending the graduation ceremony for Officer Hernandez on Friday. Officer Gehrke submitted a letter to the Department advising that he will be retiring on January 2, 2018. Chief Solarz updated the Council on where the City stands in regards to placing someone at the police academy, with the earliest possible date of July of 2018. Alderman Keenum expressed thanks to the police department after he received a call regarding the crossing guards at Prospect at the Middle School. The guards had requested lighted stop signs for use when crossing the children. The department was able to purchase 4 of these signs, to be used at various locations.

City Engineer Tim Hartnett had submitted a written report, but added information on a meeting that was held on December 6th, at City Hall, with the IDNR. This group was able to provide copies of agreements that have been in place since the 70's and 80's, regarding maintenance and what the City can and cannot do with the diversion ditch.

Acting City Attorney David McArdle noted that he had two items to discuss with the Council, both of which would be done in Executive Session.

REPORTS AND STATEMENTS FROM CITY COUNCIL

Alderman Miller requested updated information on the new City signs. Administrator Blakemore advised that things are a go on Route 23 North, looking at alternate locations for placement on Route 20 West, waiting on a signature on the Route 176 location, and waiting to hear back from Jack Franks regarding Route 20 East sign. Mayor Koziol advised that the placement of the signs would not happen until the springtime because of weather conditions.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a. *Discussion of pending or imminent litigation and property acquisition pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (5) (11)*

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Steve Mortensen, to go to Executive Session for Discussion of pending or imminent litigation and property acquisition pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (5) (11). The aldermen voted as follows:

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

Nays: 0

The motion passed.

The regular meeting recessed at 7:55 PM.

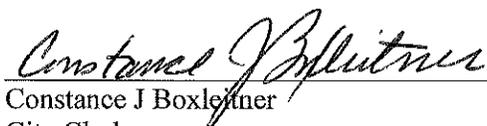
The regular meeting reconvened at 8:45 PM.

ROLL CALL

In attendance following the Executive Session are Mayor John Koziol; Aldermen Michael Smith, Matt Keenum, Steve Mortensen, Nicole DeBoer, Mike Miller, Brett Martin, Todd Hall and Dennis Hammortree. Also present are City Engineer Tim Hartnett, Public Works Director Howard Moser and Acting City Attorney David McArdle.

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 8:46 PM.



Constance J Boxleitner
City Clerk

The City Council approved these minutes on January 16, 2018.