

**MARENGO CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
City Council Chambers
132 E. Prairie Street
Marengo, IL 60152
March 12, 2018**

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 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.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION – *Sergeant Adam Boyce for the McHenry County Chiefs of Police Officer of the Year and Life Saving Award*

Chief Solarz presented the award to Sergeant Adam Boyce for his involvement in the house fire and his assistance in saving of the resident. Chief Bradbury presented a certificate Sgt Boyce from the Fire and Rescue Squads.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A resident questioned when the new “Welcome to Marengo” stone signs would be completed, and who would be responsible for maintaining the signs and the area surrounding them. Mayor Koziol updated everyone on the progress that has been made on securing the proper “right of way” to have the signs mounted and displayed. Three of the five locations are ready to go. The stones will be carved in the spring, so as to avoid any cracking of the material.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – *February 26, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes*

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Michael Smith, to approve the minutes from the February 26th, 2018 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

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

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

Nays: 0

The motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Motion to Approve the Official Zoning Map Updates for 2018

Per state statute, the Council was requested to approve the following zoning map updates: 17-5-1, 17-5-2, 17-7-2 and 17-8-2. Alderman Keenum requested that we split 17-5-1 from the rest, and vote on it separately. The Council agreed.

Alderman Steve Mortensen made a motion, seconded by Alderman Nicole DeBoer, to approve the zoning map update 17-5-1. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

Nays: Hammortree and Keenum

The motion passed.

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Matt Keenum, to approve the zoning map updates 17-5-2, 17-7-2 and 17-8-2. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

Nays: 0

The motion passed.

b. Discussion and Direction Regarding Draft of Fiscal Year 2018/2019 General Fund Budget

Administrator Blakemore reviewed the information regarding the 2018/2019 General Fund Budget, outlining the various areas. On the Fund Balance Work Sheet, it is projected that revenues for 18/19 should be \$4,196,976 and projected expenditures should be \$4,183,256. The draft FY 18/19 budget as presented would take the fund balance to 104.3 days at the end of the fiscal year. Under General Fund Revenues, the City is estimating the police pension property tax revenue to be \$300,348, and with an additional transfer made, should bring the total contribution to \$450,000. Property taxes are projected to increase nominally. Income tax revenue estimates were put together using the IML projections. Sales tax and Utility taxes should remain about the same. We are expecting a slight increase in the Video Gaming tax, but a decrease in Court Fines, Parking Fines, and Other Prosecution Fines, as well as Liquor Licenses. Gravel Pit Tipping fees are estimated, and when received will be placed in the Capital Improvement Fund.

Under General Fund – Expenditures, an increase of 15% has been built in to cover insurance premium increases. There is a slight decrease in the City’s IMRF contribution. There is an increase shown in the Community Function line item, which covers the Christmas tree lighting event, 4th of July fireworks show possibility, and Settlers’ Days. Website maintenance will have an increase as the current website host is retiring, and the City will be looking for a new host. Two new expenditures include funds for an Economic Development Consultant and for Lobbyist services. Mayor Koziol explained why this was being included at this time. He noted that we are budgeting for a PD vehicle, in the amount of \$27,000 and a one ton dump truck, in the amount of \$55,000. We will be budgeting \$55,000 for the street department for future fiscal years to cover additional vehicles that will need replacement. A contingency fund of 2% has been budgeted, in General Fund expenditures, in the amount of \$82,000.

There was discussion on how to best use the 17/18 remaining contingency fund, which is projected to be \$49,991. Those options included 1) transfer to police pension fund for 17/18, 2) transfer to Prospect Street fund, 3) transfer to Capital Improvement Fund and 4) transfer to Retirement Fund. There are also funds from 1) Kennedy Homes Contribution in the amount of \$40,000, and \$13,950 from Water’s Edge Golf Course Annexation Fees. The Council discussed the possible use of these funds. Finance Director Snelten spoke about the payroll fund surplus in the amount of \$14,500. There was discussion of drawing

the Fund Balance down from the current 104 days to 90/95 days, and using the additional monies for small projects that are needed to be done around town.

MAYOR'S STATEMENTS AND REPORTS

Mayor Koziol had nothing to report.

DEPARTMENT HEAD AND STAFF REPORTS

Finance Director Jennifer Snelten had no report.

Public Works Director Howard Moser reported on the IEPA Inspection that was done on the 2nd of February. The report was that everything was good with the inspection. Kudos to Justin, the waster/sewer foreman, for his great job. A Cross Connection Survey will be mailed out to all residents, asking for their help in updating records. Commercial accounts received the survey earlier, and that information has been updated. Howard has received a response from IDOT on the flashing beacon signs, and was informed that these specific signs are no longer approved by IDOT. He is now checking into pedestrian crossing signs that blink around the edge. The grinding of stumps is underway. He updated the Council on the digester gas build-up, and reported that the pilot light is lit and active. City sign foundation locations information was provided. The Sonalyzer is up and running. Representatives from Dryden, HR Green, Ovivo, and Klaus (the gentleman from Ultra-waves in Germany that designed the device) were all out and are working with staff to try and solve the problem with this device.

Chief of Police Rich Solarz advised that Officer Hernandez is in the "shadowing" phase of her training. The new applicant has passed the psych exam, and will be going in April for a physical. If everything goes as expected, he will be entering the June 5th Academy for training. He discussed the alarm that was installed on the T-1 Line that runs from downstairs to the water-tower.

City Engineer Tim Hartnett had submitted a written update on the various projects, and added information on various items.

City Administrator Joshua Blakemore noted that the Planning & Zoning Committee will be meeting next week regarding the Solar Farm project. Water sewer budget information will be presented at the next Council meeting for review and comments. Strand and Associates have submitted their general terms and conditions for review. Work is progressing on the easements needed for the water main project on Route 20.

Attorney David McArdle had no report.

REPORTS AND STATEMENTS FROM CITY COUNCIL

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

a. Discussion of Personnel Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1)

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Todd Hall, to go to Executive Session for the purpose of Personnel pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1). The aldermen voted as follows:

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

Nays: 0

The motion passed.

The regular meeting recessed at 8:22 PM.

The regular meeting reconvened at 9:20 PM.

ROLL CALL

Present following the Executive Session are Mayor John Koziol; Aldermen Michael Smith, Nicole DeBoer, Brett Martin, Mike Miller, Steve Mortensen, Matt Keenum, Dennis Hammortree and Todd Hall. Also present is Attorney David McArdle.

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Matt Keenum, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:21 PM.



Constance J. Boxleitner
City Clerk

The City Council approved these minutes on March 26, 2018.