

**MARENGO CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
City Council Chambers
132 E. Prairie Street
Marengo, IL 60152
March 26, 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.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A resident spoke to the Council voicing his concerns on the possible shooting range.

Mayor Koziol requested that any other persons wishing to speak about the possible shooting range, to please wait until after the presentation by D5, as information presented may answer some of their questions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – *March 12, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes*

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Todd Hall, to approve the minutes from the March 12, 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 an Ordinance Amending Chapter 35, Solicitors, of the Marengo Municipal Code

The changes being recommended to this ordinance involve increasing the application fee, as well as the penalty fee.

Alderman Michael Smith made a motion that was seconded by Alderman Matt Keenum, to approve an Ordinance amending Chapter 35, Solicitors, of the Marengo Municipal Code. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

Nays: 0

The motion passed.

b. Discussion and Direction Regarding the Potential Use of 131 East Prairie Street, McGill Building, as a Shooting Range

Administrator Blakemore opened the discussion. He explained that if this is to proceed, there would need to be a zoning text amendment made to allow for a shooting range as a special use in the B-1 zoning district. He introduced attorney Mark Saladin, Richard Lindner, business owner, Jennifer Lindner, operations manager and Jack Woods, sales manager. Jennifer Lindner handed out documents, and discussed each with the Council, explaining the various entities that they have built shooting ranges for. She also reviewed their criteria for building of the range, which would adhere to guidelines required by military installations. The hope is that with the influx of customers to their facility, other businesses in Marengo would benefit as well. The construction of the facility would be such that the noise level outside the building would be below the national standards – i.e. soundproof outside. She also discussed the proposed classes that they would be offering. There was concern expressed about the lack of parking at their facility, but they are planning on making use of the public parking lot behind City Hall.

Following their presentation, the public was invited to express their opinions. Several individuals came forward. Most were in favor of the facility, for various reasons. Some were not in favor of the facility, expressing concerns about parking, noise levels outside the building, property value of local properties being affected, the impact of having a shooting range in close proximity to a child care facility, and the possibility of someone coming from one of the bars to shoot. Mr. Lindner will be working with the City, and the Police Department to deal with those concerns.

City Engineer Hartnett recommended that Mr. Lindner have a parking inventory done around the facility, to give the Council and the PZC Board an idea of what is available. Mr. Lindner will check into this.

A straw-poll of the Council indicated that most were in favor of this business coming to Marengo. Attorney McArdle questioned if they (D5) would be ready by the next PZC meeting on the 16th of April. Attorney Saladin indicated that they would be ready. The proposed time frame for completing the facility is the first part of October, contingent upon getting everything accomplished.

c. Discussion and Direction Regarding Draft for Fiscal Year 2018/2019 Water/Sewer and other Miscellaneous Funds

Administrator Blakemore reviewed the various parts of the proposed 2018/2019 Water/Sewer budget. There is concern about a slight decrease in the coming year. Usage has decreased an average of 4.3% per year since 2014. The current fund balance shows 45.6 days of cash reserves. The projection for 2018/2019 is 48.1 days of cash reserves. He reviewed the breakdown of revenue and expenditures, as well as the replacement fund information and the capital construction fund. There was discussion regarding a rate increase, and comparisons were provided for both a 1% and a 2% increase. If the Council were to approve a rate increase, it would go into effect in August. Alderman Keenum suggested that if another rate increase is enacted, that it be in effect only until the oldest bond is retired. A spreadsheet showing the 20 year projected fund balance for the WWTP expansion fund was also reviewed. The approval of the budget for 2018/2019 is generally voted on during the 2nd meeting in April, to take effect on May 1st, 2018. There was discussion on how to handle the funding that is budgeted for Cemetery Board expenses. Also discussed was the possibility of establishing a Western TIF District.

d. Discussion and Direction Regarding West Grant Highway Water Main Replacement Project and Connection to Indian Trails

Public Works Director Moser presented information to the Council on the project. There are 3 options being considered. After weighing the pros and cons of each option, the consensus of the Council was to proceed with Option 2.

e. Motion to Approve an Agreement for Technical Services with Strand Associates for Wastewater Engineering Services

The proposed agreement for Technical Services between Strand Associates and the City of Marengo was reviewed by the Council. There were amendments made to the original agreement, and those have been agreed upon by both parties. It was noted that in their original proposal paperwork, the company had indicated a “cost per hour” of \$200.00, while the actual contract shows an hourly rate of \$163.00 to \$234.00. (*The information on hourly rate was verified, with the \$200.00 rate being applicable through June 30th, 2018.*) Attorney McArdle also noted that a footnote showing “Updated Annually on July 1”, would not be acceptable.

Alderman Todd Hall made a motion, seconded by Alderman Nicole DeBoer, to approve the agreement for Technical Services with Strand Associates for Wastewater Engineering Services with all of the recommended cross-thru by Attorney McArdle, including the updated annually item. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

Nays: Hammortree

The motion passed.

MAYOR’S STATEMENT AND REPORT

Mayor Koziol reported that about 2 weeks ago, a meeting was held with community leaders to discuss various things going on that will hopefully make the City better. The plan for a proposed firework is going well. The proposed date is June 30th. The site may be at the High School.

DEPARTMENT HEAD AND STAFF REPORTS

Finance Director Jennifer Snelten noted that her reports were in the packet. She had attended the Illinois Public Function Fund Association meeting last week. She received information that she will share with the Council at a later date. She has received the property tax extension numbers from the County, with a projected percentage of 2.32%, which equates to an additional \$4800 over and above the 2.32%. The additional funds will be applied towards the Police Pension Fund, per the Council’s recommendation.

Public Works Director Howard Moser noted that the Sonalyzer is working, and he is waiting on additional information from Ovivo and Dryden. He updated the Council on the gas handling system, indicating that the estimated cost to make repairs to the system is about \$19,000. The City crew will be pouring the foundations for three of the new City welcome signs next week. CIP’s are being put together. He will be meeting with ComEd soon to review any cost savings procedures that could be incorporated at the WWTP.

Chief of Police Rich Solarz advised that the flooring project has started at the police department. He was pleased to report that Marengo has been moved up from 40th place (regarding training for a new hire) to having a spot available at this time. The current applicant (Jacob Wajda) has passed his physical exam, and will be taking the physical agility test tomorrow, and if he passes that, he will be starting the academy training on Monday.

City Engineer Tim Hartnett reported that he has reached out to Rachele, in Schaumburg, and she has approved the expenditures on Prospect Street, and should have the final invoice soon. A question was asked regarding the possible closure of Grossen Road, regarding the new interchange, and Tim talked briefly about correspondence that was sent to IDOT, the toll way and the County, regarding the possible closure. More information on this will be given to the Council when it is available.

City Administrator Joshua Blakemore has requested that NiCor attend the 2nd meeting in April, to talk about their system. Next Monday there will be a PZC meeting for the Dunkin Donuts project. He provided updated information regarding a claim for the hydrant that was struck, and the thought is that the claim will be denied.

City Administrator Blakemore Report continued

He recently had a meeting with Jim McConoughey, with the McHenry County EDC, wherein they discussed the RFQ for consulting services. Mr. McConoughey has agreed to help the City in pursuing this option. *Acting City Attorney David McArdle* had no report for open session, but requested that we add possible litigation to the reason for entering into Executive Session.

REPORTS AND STATEMENTS FROM CITY COUNCIL

Alderman Miller questioned if the new owner had obtained a permit for the removal of old paint from the building (McGill). Public Works Director Moser verified that they had obtained a demolition permit for the work being done inside, and added that typically no permit is required for the removal of paint. There was concern expressed regarding the removal of the paint and whether it was lead paint. Howard explained that he had been in contact with the representative for the former owner, Chuck Andrews, and also with the current owner, Rich Lindner, and both had submitted paint chips for testing, and it was determined that the paint was not lead.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a. *Discussion of Personnel Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1) and possible litigation*

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Todd Hall, to go to Executive Session for discussion of personnel and possible litigation. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

Nays: 0

The motion passed.

The meeting recessed at 9:44 PM.

The meeting reconvened at 10:20 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 are City Administrator Joshua Blakemore and 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 10:22 PM.



Constance J. Boaleitner
City Clerk

The City Council approved these minutes on April 9, 2018.