

MARENGO CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
City Council Chambers
132 E. Prairie Street
Marengo, IL 60152
June 11, 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, Nicole DeBoer, Dennis Hammortree, Todd Hall and Steve Mortensen. Also present are City Administrator Joshua Blakemore, Chief of Police Richard Solarz, Public Works Director Howard Moser, and Acting City Attorney David McArdle.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION – *UniCarriers Americas Corporation – Adoption of Prospect Street*

Mayor Koziol acknowledged UniCarriers representative, Stephanie Grabowski, and showed the sign that will be displayed at both ends of Prospect Street. UniCarriers is adopting Prospect Street as a community project.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A resident spoke regarding the proposed purchase that is on the agenda this evening, of a truck for the street department. Another resident questioned who is paying for the water line that will be down Ritz Road. Attorney McArdle advised that 300 West/Arnold Engineering will be paying to have the line installed, explaining that this has been the understanding from the beginning. This resident then spoke about a proposed solar farm outside the city limits, and was advised that the decision on approving it would be handled by the County.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – *May 29, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes*

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Matt Keenum, to approve the minutes from the meeting. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

Nays: 0

Absent: Smith and Martin

The motion passed.

APPROVAL OF LIST OF BILLS

Alderman DeBoer questioned 2 bills from the list: Page 1 – McHenry County Council of Governments annual dues, and Page 12 – Newman Traffic Signs. She was advised that the dues are in line with previous year's dues, and the cost for the traffic signs is for 2.

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 and Keenum
Nays: 0
Absent: Martin and Smith
The motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Motion to consent to Mayor's Appointments to Planning & Zoning Commission

Mayor Koziol advised that Peter Hunt did not renew his term on the PZC, which ended the end of April. He interviewed several individuals, and is recommending appointing Michael DeSerto to fill the term, which would expire April 30, 2023.

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Steve Mortensen, to approve the appointment of Michael DeSerto to the Planning & Zoning Commission. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

b. Motion to Approve an Ordinance Declaring Certain City Owned Property as Surplus

There was discussion by the Council regarding the disposal of the two centrifuges. Centrisys, the company that has the units, has offered to waive the invoices (one for \$4,400 for examining the units, one for \$9,000 for storage and one for \$6,000 for labor) if the City releases the 2 units to them. Attorney McArdle recommended getting a release signed by Centrisys, relative to all the invoices mentioned. Strand Associates recommendation was that spending money for repairs to the 13 year old unit, would not be the best use of the City's money.

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Matt Keenum, to approve an ordinance declaring certain city owned property as surplus, with disposition of the centrifuges being subject to the approval, by the City Attorney, of the documentation. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

PLEASE NOTE: Following the meeting, Alderman Hammortree indicated that his vote on this issue should have been a NO vote.

c. Motion to Approve an Ordinance Amending Chapter 25, Water & Wastewater Department, regarding water and sewer rates

Following the May 14th Council meeting, an ordinance is being provided that establishes an annual CPI adjustment to the water/sewer rates. The increase will be effective on meters read after June 1 and due in August. The ordinance amends the current rates by 1.7% - with subsequent years adjusted by the previous year's CPI, with an increase of not less than 1% and not more than 3%.

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Todd Hall, to approve an ordinance amending Chapter 25, Water & Wastewater Department, regarding water and sewer rates. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

Prior to his voting on this issue, Mayor Koziol stated: "This wasn't an easy thing to discuss. When they first approached me and said we have to do this, I said – Well, you don't want me in office any more do you. I fought tooth and nail about this. We talked about it last year. But when you really sit down and look at the numbers and what it's going to do, there is a light at the end of the tunnel right now. It's not the exit. It's a freight train, and we have to start doing something. We have to start making adjustments for costs that go up every single year. The employment costs go up, insurance costs go up. Everything goes up. We have to start making adjustments, and we have to start planning now. This \$14.00 is not going to actually solve all our problems, but it will solve the problems as time goes on. I vote yes."

A resident addressed the Council on her water bill. There is concern that she is being billed double (once for a residence and once for a business) charges on her property. It was recommended that she bring her bills to City hall and review them with the billing clerk.

d. Motion to Approve an Agreement with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 700
An agreement has been reached between the Teamsters Local 700 and the City. A copy of the particulars of the agreement was reviewed by the Council. The agreement is for 3 years.

Alderman Steve Mortensen made a motion, seconded by Alderman Nicole DeBoer, to approve an agreement with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 700. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

e. Motion to Accept a Proposal from Bonnell Industries for the Purchase of a Ford F550 in an amount not to exceed \$81,838, as per the FY 2018/2019 Budget
Public Works Director Moser is requesting to replace truck #4 (2001 Ford F550) with a new unit. Once the new truck is received, the City will sell truck #4 with any funds received to offset the purchase price.

Alderman Matt Keenum made a motion, seconded by Alderman Nicole DeBoer, to accept a proposal from Bonnell Industries for the purchase of a Ford F550 in an amount not to exceed \$81,838, as per the FY 2018/2019 Budget. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

MAYOR'S STATEMENT AND REPORT

Mayor Koziol noted that the proposed EDC Lobbyist (currently serving Woodstock and McHenry County Council of Governments) should be attending the first meeting in July to answer any questions from the Council. The list of candidates to fill the position of EDC Consultant is down to two. He also noted that Strand Associates would be in attendance on the 25th of June to update the Council on the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

DEPARTMENT HEAD AND STAFF REPORTS

Public Works Director Howard Moser was glad to report that Well 6 is in good shape and is up and running. Met with Schroeder regarding the milling of Eisenhower and Keppler Streets and that work should begin the end of this week, if weather permits. He received a response from Ovivo regarding the Sonalyzer testing, and that showed some improvement in the performance of the device.

Chief of Police Rich Solarz reported that last Thursday and Friday, the police department all went to the range and qualified on pistols and rifles. There was an incident on Beggs Lane, and the City was assisted by the Sheriff's Department in handling the problem. The painting of the police department is going well.

City Administrator Joshua Blakemore reported that the State of Illinois has passed a budget for this coming year. As the State has caught up with sales tax payments to the City, it is projected that we should receive 12 payments, as opposed to the 14 last year. Those payments will be reduced by 5%, probably. The toll-way project is currently at 60% regarding the review plan, and a request regarding two of the roundabouts, per information received from HR Green. IDOT approval is still pending regarding the Dunkin Donuts project, as well as the water main project. The Public Hearing on the solar farm project, regarding the zoning text amendment and annexation, will be on the 25th of June.

Acting City Attorney David McArdle had no report.

REPORTS AND STATEMENTS FROM CITY COUNCIL

Alderman Keenum mentioned he had been thinking of ways for the City to raise additional funds, and he posed the suggestion of possibly implementing a fee (similar to the tipping fees that are in place for gravel pits) on the proposed solar farm. There was concern expressed by some of the Council members that it was "pretty late in the game" to be asking for this.

A resident addressed the Council regarding her having attended some of the meetings that were held on a proposed solar farm elsewhere, and expressed concern that information that was provided at those meetings was not provided to the Marengo City Council.

Attorney McArdle recommended that the City contact the solar farm company, and explain that the Council meeting on the 25th will include a public hearing, with no vote on the issue that night, and that the possibility of fees will be discussed.

The Council agreed with the recommendation.

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 8:17 PM.



Constance J. Bokleitner
City Clerk

The City Council approved these minutes on June 25, 2018.