

**MARENGO CITY COUNCIL  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
City Council Chambers  
132 E. Prairie Street  
Marengo, IL 60152  
September 10, 2018**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor John Koziol called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor John 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, Acting City Attorney David McArdle, City Engineer Tim Hartnett and Finance Director Jennifer Snelten. Public Works Director Howard Moser was absent.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

An attorney from Chicago, representing the owner of the property that will be used as a poultry processing plant, spoke to the Council about their other locations and their impact on the local communities. The attorney also clarified that the owner has not requested to be hooked up to city sewer, but did wish to continue to receive city water.

A resident questioned information on the City website involving tree removal and replacement on personal property of residents. Administrator Blakemore clarified that the trees that were removed were on the City easement, and the property owner had the option of replanting the tree on their personal property, at which time it would become the responsibility of the property owner to maintain.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – *August 27, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes***

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Todd Hall, to approve the minutes from the 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 Steve Mortensen made a motion, seconded by Alderman Todd Hall, 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 33, Liquor Control and Liquor Licensing, of the Marengo Municipal Code*

The current ordinance prohibits granting a liquor license within 100 feet of any church, school, hospital, etc. There was concern about property values due to a church going in next door to a downtown bar. A liquor license is non-transferrable from owner to owner. The current ordinance is written that if the owner of a bar (with a church next door) were to sell the establishment, the buyer would not be allowed to have a liquor license. The Council requested the attorney to include wording to allow the liquor commissioner (whenever the above situation may occur) to grant an exemption to this ruling.

The amended ordinance now includes (under 33.19 LOCATION RESTRICTIONS, NOTIFICATION) the wording: "Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary, the City local liquor control commissioner may, in his discretion, based on the circumstances, grant an exemption to the prohibition in this paragraph."

Alderman Michael Smith made a motion, seconded by Alderman Steve Mortensen, to approve an ordinance amending Chapter 33, Liquor Control and Liquor Licensing, 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. Motion to approve a resolution objecting to a proposed poultry processing use at 21804 W. Grant Highway*

The owners' attorney, Bernard Sitzen, verified that the property owner was not requesting to have sewer lines at his location, but was requesting they keep their current water service. The resolution is notifying the County Board that the City of Marengo objects to the Permitted Use being allowed.

Alderman Matt Keenum made a motion, seconded by Alderman Steve Mortensen, to approve a resolution objecting to a proposed poultry processing use at 21804 W. Grant Highway, deleting Item 2 (following the NOW, THEREFORE,..) The aldermen voted as follows:

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

*c. Motion to accept health insurance and benefits renewal proposal for 2018-2019*

Finance Director Snelten reviewed the renewal information with the Council. The health renewal premium shows an aggregate decrease of 3.08%. The dental renewal shows an increase of 12.02%. The renewal of the vision coverage (through Vision Service Plan) increased 58.82%. A competitive quote from EyeMed reduced that increase to 29.09%. Coverage with EyeMed is about the same. There will be an increase of 13.37% on the group life/ad&d premiums. The EAP (Employee Assistance Program) premium will remain the same.

Kathy Smith, with Invision Benefit, spoke to the Council about changes that will occur next year. At that time, the City will be required to transition to one of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) plans. With this transition, there will be increased co-pay and out-of-pocket expenses for all employees.

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Matt Keenum, to accept the health insurance and benefits renewal proposal for 2018-2019. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

**MAYOR'S STATEMENT AND REPORT**

Mayor Koziol had nothing to report this evening.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD AND STAFF REPORTS**

*Finance Director Jennifer Snelten* had nothing to report.

*Chief of Police Rich Solarz* had nothing to report.

*City Engineer Tim Hartnett* had submitted a written report on the various projects. There were concerns about how the WWTP was handling the heavy rains last week, but things appear to be holding up quite well. On October 9<sup>th</sup>, there will be a meeting between IDNR, the railroad and many others to go over maps and to look at the problems with storm water along Stevenson Street and other areas that have experienced flooding, and to determine ownership of the areas.

*City Administrator Joshua Blakemore* noted that the conservation district will be assisting in setting up the October meeting. He also noted that the WWTP appeared to be handling things well at this time.

*Acting City Attorney David McArdle* noted that the Council would be going into Executive Session.

**REPORTS AND STATEMENTS FROM CITY COUNCIL**

None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- a. Discussion of pending or imminent litigation pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (11)
- b. Discussion of personnel pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1)

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Matt Keenum, to go to Executive Session for the purpose of a discussion of pending or imminent litigation pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (11), and for a discussion of personnel pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1). The aldermen voted as follows:

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

*The regular meeting recessed at 8:40 PM.*

*The regular meeting reconvened at 10:15 PM.*

**ROLL CALL**

Roll call showed the following individuals returning from Executive Session. Mayor John Koziol; Aldermen Nicole DeBoer, Dennis Hammortree, Matt Keenum, Steve Mortensen, Michael Smith, Mike Miller, Todd Hall and Brett Martin. Also in returning are Attorney David McArdle, Chief Rich Solarz and City Administrator Joshua Blakemore,

**NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Motion for action to be taken on personnel matters being discussed in Executive Session.

Alderman Michael Smith made a motion, seconded by Alderman Brett Martin, to terminate the employment of Howard Moser, effective immediately. The aldermen voted as follows:


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

Nays: 0

The motion passed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Mike Miller, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 10:17 PM.

  
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Constance J. Boxleitner  
City Clerk

The City Council approved these minutes on September 24, 2018.