

MARENGO CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
City Council Chambers
132 E. Prairie Street
Marengo, IL 60152
September 24, 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, and Todd Hall. Also present are City Administrator Joshua Blakemore, Chief of Police Richard Solarz, and Attorney John Murray. Alderman Steve Mortensen, City Engineer Tim Hartnett and Finance Director Jennifer Snelten were absent.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A resident spoke about a petition that is being signed around town regarding the poultry farm project. Once completed, it will be presented to the County Board.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION – *Hearts to Hands – Recognition of Marengo First Responders who have served in the military*

Three members of the Hearts to Hands group presented crocheted blankets to three members of the police department, Chief Rich Solarz, Sergeant Shaun Boeckh, and Patrolman Daniel McGinley; and to three members of the Fire Department, Captain Patrick Fanning, Paul Ortiz and Jeremy Miendel. Jeremy was absent, so Assistant Chief John Kimmel accepted the blanket for him. All of these individuals are former servicemen. The Hearts to Hands group refer to these individuals as Hometown Heroes.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (continued)

A resident questioned the Council about the sidewalks in the downtown area. He expressed concern that nothing has been done, and Mayor Koziol clarified that this had been discussed at a previous “downtown” meeting, and that the City is applying for a grant to get this accomplished.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – *September 10, 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, DeBoer, Miller, Hall, Smith, Hammortree and Martin

Nays: 0

Absent: Mortensen

The motion passed.

APPROVAL OF LIST OF BILLS

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Mike Miller, to approve the list of bills, with the exception of three invoices noted on pages 3, 5 and 11. These will be pulled for further review and explanations. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

NEW BUSINESS

a. Motion to Accept Easement Agreement for 21804 West Grant Highway

This agreement is being done to clarify that the City will continue to provide water to this property, in exchange for the granting of easement for the water main replacement project down West Grant Highway.

Alderman Matt Keenum made a motion, seconded by Alderman Todd Hall, to accept the Easement Agreement for 21804 West Grant Highway. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

b. Motion to Approve an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Tollway Authority, IDOT, and McHenry County regarding the Right-of-Way Acquisition for the I-90/Route 23 Interchange Project

This IGA formalizes the Tollway taking the “lead agency” role in Right of Way acquisition proceedings. It also restates the percentages of costs (50% Tollway, 25% IDOT, and 25% County). Paragraph 4 details the responsibilities of the City, and those have already been completed.

Alderman DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Michael Smith, to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Tollway Authority, IDOT and McHenry County regarding the Right-Of-Way acquisition for the I-90/Route 23 Interchange Project. The aldermen voted as follows:

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

c. Discussion and Direction on Wastewater Treatment Plant Loan Repayment Options

The IEPA notified the City that an error was made during the repayment process, and allowed their system to finance the construction period interest (CPI) in the amount of \$110,115.13. They presented two options to the City: (1) Lump Sum Payment made over the next 2 payments due on the loan or (2) amend the Debt Authorization Ordinance. After extensive discussion on this matter, the Council requested that Finance Director Snelten express our dissatisfaction with getting this notice, which is their error, and try and work out another option of payment of the amount that is owed, but with no further interest being applied to that amount. They also suggested contacting our state Senator and Representative for help, as well as seeing if our lobbyist could be of any help in this matter.

MAYOR’S STATEMENT AND REPORT

Mayor Koziol had nothing to report this evening.

DEPARTMENT HEAD AND STAFF REPORTS

Economic Development Consultant Teresa Nortillo presented a report to the Council, and took questions from the Council. She has office hours each Monday. She will be attending, along with Administrator Blakemore, the next Business Luncheon for the Marengo Union Chamber of Commerce on October 15th.

There are two conferences coming up. The first is the ICSC on October 17th & 18th – considered to be a “deal making show”. The second is on Oct. 26th, for the Chicago Industrial Properties Transportation and Logistics Conference.

Chief of Police Rich Solarz reported that the night shoot was completed. Officer Wajda is in the second week of the “shadow” program, and by October 8th he should be ready to go out on his own. Officer McGinley has passed his probation period, and is now will be working with Officer Hernandez. Chief Solarz will be on the radio from 10 a.m to 11 a.m. on September 25, 2018.

City Administrator Joshua Blakemore has received an update from Corey Brackmann regarding the Dunkin Donuts/pharmacy/liquor store project, and they should be breaking ground soon. After contact with Lou Zecchin, the final lift for Greenlee Street will be done this fall. The Council will be going into Executive Session this evening. The City will be advertising for the Director of Public Works position this week. The City has already advertised for the water department position. Justin Netzer’s last day with the City is this coming Thursday, as he has taken a position elsewhere. He briefly discussed the proposed amendment to the original agreement with 300 West/Arnold Engineering and the City. Strand Associates are still putting together a priority list, which is due in October. They are also assisting with the gas handling system, to make sure that everything was ordered properly. When questioned about properties outside the City limits that receive water, Administrator Blakemore noted that it is primarily businesses.

Attorney John Murray provided a document to the Council regarding the liquor license and the location of a church in the vicinity. The particulars (limitations) are spelled out in the document.

City Clerk Connie Boxleitner advised that anyone wishing to run for alderman, for the April 2, 2019 Consolidated Election may pick up a Courtesy Packet following the meeting recessing prior to going to Executive Session.

REPORTS AND STATEMENTS FROM CITY COUNCIL

Alderman Michael Smith, representing the 2nd Ward, tendered his resignation, effective immediately. He is moving to Texas. A copy of his statement is on file in the Clerk’s office.

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 discussion of Pending or Imminent Litigation pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (11), and Personnel pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1). The aldermen voted as follows:

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

*The Regular meeting recessed at 8:04 PM.
The Regular meeting reconvened at 8:43 PM.*

***NOTE: Alderman Michael Smith, having tendered his resignation as Alderman for Ward 2 effective immediately, did not go into Executive Session.**

ROLL CALL

Returning from Executive Session are Mayor John Koziol; Aldermen Nicole DeBoer, Brett Martin, Mike Miller, Matt Keenum, Dennis Hammortree and Todd Hall. Also present are Administrator Joshua Blakemore and Attorney David McArdle.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. *Motion to Approve an Amendment to an Agreement between 300 West, Arnold Engineering, and the City of Marengo*

Administrator Blakemore requested direction from the Council if they approve of the amendment, or if there are any changes they would like included. It was decided to table this item. He will refer this back to 300 West & Arnold Engineering, indicating that the City will not approve this amendment without the following three criteria being met: (1) a Letter of Credit, (2) the City attorney filling in the required information on sections 2 and of the property agreement, including the amount of the LOC, and (3) the City receiving from 300 West LLC a signed easement, with a subordination clause signed by its mortgagee, necessary for the City's water main replacement project, on a form approved by the City Attorney and Engineer.

Alderman Matt Keenum made a motion, seconded by Alderman Nicole DeBoer, to table this item. The aldermen voted as follows:

Ayes: DeBoer, Keenum, Miller, Hall and Martin

Nays: Hammortree

Absent: Mortensen

The motion passed.

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 8:49 PM.



Constance J Boxleitner
City Clerk

The City Council approved these minutes on October 8, 2018.