

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

MALTA CITY COUNCIL MALTA CITY HALL

February 8, 2022

Officials present

Mayor John Demarais

Councilpersons Ward I: David Rummel

William Hicks

Councilpersons Ward II: Bonnie Wiederrick

James Sintler

Clerk/Treasurer: Lorie Bond

Public Works Director: James Truelove

Others attended: Virgil Taylor, Delsi Witmer, Scott & Gina Simanton, Pam Smith Wolsey, Mary Hendrickson, Barry Damschen, Jerey McEwen and Mark Foss from PCN.

Mayor Demarais opened the meeting at 5:00pm.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

1. Mayor Demarais informed Council that he had attended the PhillCo Annual Meeting on January 27, 2022

Councilperson Hicks moved to approve the minutes, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilperson Wiederrick moved to approve the agenda, 2nd by Councilperson Rummel. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilpersons Wiederrick and Sintler presented claim warrants.

Councilperson Rummel moved to approve claim checks 27473 to 27502, 2nd by Councilperson Hicks. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilperson Sintler moved to approve January 2022 payroll, 2nd by Councilperson Wiederrick. Motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS, COMMITTEES & MEETINGS ATTENDED

1. PWD Truelove reported that sander truck was back in service.
2. PWD Truelove reported that the low level alarm on the Robinson Lift Station kept going off and he was in the process of getting it fixed.
3. PWD Truelove reported that he had tagged two vehicles to be towed if not removed from the city streets and he had issued a yard abatement to a property owner to appear in court.
4. PWD Truelove reported that the perimeter of the new Trafton Lift Station building had been dug (50'x65') and he was looking for pit run for fill.
5. PWD Truelove reported that the sign thanking Hi-Line Futures for their donation for the pool house remodel was done and it would be on display in the pool house.
6. Clerk Bond presented Council the January financials, current check register, current shut off list, December payroll overtime, vacation, sick leave reports and the CD Report.
7. Clerk Bond presented Council with a letter to Bear Paw Development asking them to assist The Judith River Foundation (Great Plains Dinosaur Museum) with planning, grant writing. Clerk Bond reported that Council had agreed to provide the letter at the August 24, 2021 Council Meeting. Clerk Bond asked if they were okay with Mayor Demarais signing the letter. Council agreed that the letter looked good and Mayor Demarais should sign it.
8. Clerk Bond reported that the monthly Malta Levee conference call with the DNRC had taken place on January 26, 2022 and during the call Tony from the Army Corp of

Engineers estimated that it would cost \$250,000 - \$750,000 for the Corp to complete a risk assessment on the Malta Levee. After the meeting Clerk Bond had contacted Jonathan Weaver from Great West who was also on the conference call about the price quoted by the Corp. Clerk Bond wanted to know if the price could be reduced if using a private engineering firm. Clerk Bond presented Council with a proposal from Great West Engineering to conduct a Levee Accreditation Feasibility Study for \$50,000. The proposal also contained an option for Great West to prepare a CDBG Planning Grant Application to fund the study. The CDBG Grant would require a 75/25 cost share, if the city received the grant the city's match would be \$12,000. Clerk Bond stated that the first round of grant applications needed to be in by March 1st so Great West would like to start working on the grant application ASAP. Clerk Bond asked Council if they wanted to have Great West Engineering proceed with the Levee Accreditation Feasibility Study and CDBG Planning Grant Application. Councilperson Rummel moved to contract Great West Engineering to complete the grant application and the study, 2nd by Councilperson Hicks. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Rummel Aye, Hicks Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Sintler Aye. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Mayor Demarais called on Virgil Taylor. Mr. Taylor stated that he has property east of the City's box bin and he is tired of picking up boxes and debris that had blown from the box bin. Mr. Taylor stated that the box bin was an eye sore and ask why it wasn't removed since all cardboard is hauled to the landfill anyway. PWD Truelove stated that he will try to get the bin emptied. Mr. Taylor stated that once it is emptied it fills back up quickly and the mess continues to spread again. Delsi Witmer reported that she drives by the City Landfill multiple times a week and it is a mess and needs to be cleaned up also. Mayor Demarais thanked Mr. Taylor for attending the meeting and said he would work on resolving the issue.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Mayor Demarais presented Council with Daniel Dahl's proposal for the City to purchase his +/- 6221 square foot lot located by the Trafton Park Arena (legal description S18, T30 N, R 30 E, Lot A1 of Tucker's). Councilperson Rummel reported that he had contacted Mr. Dahl and the least he would accept for the property would be \$2965.00. Councilperson Hicks asked if the City really had a use for the parcel. Councilperson Sintler reported that he had contacted Trafton Arena Committee President Jerrey McEwen and he had stated that the Arena Committee would be interested in the parcel. Council agreed that they wanted to wait until they had spoken with Mr. McEwen to make a decision.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Mayor Demarais called on Barry Damschen. Mr. Damschen introduced his new sub-contractor Mary Hendrickson. Mr. Damschen asked Council to approve his use of a sub-contractor. Councilperson Sintler moved to approve the use of a sub-contractor, 2nd by Councilperson Wiederrick. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Sintler Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Rummel Aye, Hicks Aye. Motion Carried. Mr. Damschen updated Council about the DEQ's request that two additional test wells be added to the City Landfill site. After meeting with DEQ it was concluded that the City would add one additional test well and cap off an existing test well that contained stagnant water. Mr. Damschen estimated that the drilling of the new well would cost about \$10,000 and the testing and reporting would cost about \$3,000. Mr. Damschen stated that he would present Council with a contract amendment once he had firm

numbers. Mr. Damschen asked Council if they wanted to proceed with the drilling of the new well. Council agreed that Mr. Damschen should proceed with the test well changes. Mr. Damschen presented Council with his new 2022 contract for \$11,300.00.

Councilperson Rummel moved to accept the 2022 contract, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilperson Rummel Aye, Sintler Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Hicks Aye. Motion Carried.

2. Mayor Demarais called on RCAN & Malta Cattle Women representative Delsi Witmer. Ms. Witmer informed Council that her organizations are trying to get local beef into the schools and they need a place to put the freezers. PWD Truelove stated that the building behind the Event Center would have plenty of room for the freezers and the City could install more electrical outlets if needed. Councilperson Sintler moved to allow RCAN & Malta Cattle Women to place freezers in the building behind the Event Center, 2nd by Councilperson Hicks. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Sintler Aye, Hicks Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Rummel Aye. Motion Carried.
3. Mayor Demarais called on Scott & Gina Simanton owners of the historic building built in 1910 located at 101 South 1st Street East. Mr. Simanton informed Council that there had been a press release today announcing that their building had been nominated for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. This was followed by much discussion of past, present and needed improvements to the building. Mr. Simanton reported that they would be applying for a Montana Preservation Grant to fund the rebuilding of the cornices at the top of the building. Pam Smith Wolsey from PhillCo who is assisting the Simantons with the grant application reported that the reason for being part of a public meeting was to ask if there were any environmental concerns about the property. After some discussion, Council had no environmental concerns and Mark Foss from the Phillips County News stated that he could not find anything in the newspaper's archives. Mayor Demarais thanked Gina & Scott Simanton for attending the meeting and wished them good luck.
4. Mayor Demarais presented Council with the Highway 2 Association's Dues request. Councilperson Rummel moved to pay the \$100.00, 2nd by Councilperson Wiederrick. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Rummel Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Hicks Aye, Sintler Aye. Motion Carried.

OLD BUSINESS - Continued

1. Mayor Demarais noting that Jerrey McEwen from the Trafton Park Arena Committee had arrived at the meeting reopened the discussion of the purchase of the parcel of land from Daniel Dahl. After explaining the lay of the land and that the City owned the lot next to the parcel owned by Mr. Dahl, Mr. McEwen agreed that the Arena Committee could utilize the property and would help move and replace the existing fence. Councilperson Rummel moved to purchase the property, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Rummel Aye, Sintler Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Hicks Aye. Motion Carried.

Clerk Bond asked Council's permission to have the City Attorney write a letter to the adjacent landowner ordering them to remove their personal property from the City lot south of Trafton Park. Council agreed that a letter should be sent.

NEW BUSINESS - Continued


5. Mayor Demarais presented Council Resolution 1310, a resolution relating to up to \$3,500,000 Sewer System Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2022; Authorizing the Issuance and Private Negotiated Sale thereof. Clerk Bond reported that this was part of the refinancing of the Sewer Lagoon Loan. Councilperson Hicks moved to adopt

Resolution 1300, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Hicks Aye, Sintler Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Rummel Aye. Motion Carried.

OTHER COMMENTS


1. None.

With no other business, Councilperson Wiederrick moved to adjourn, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:42pm.



Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk/Treasurer