

## MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

## MALTA CITY COUNCIL MALTA CITY HALL

January 9, 2024

Officials present:

Councilpersons Ward I: David Rummel  
William Hicks

Councilpersons Ward II: Bonnie Wiederrick  
Laura Pankratz

Clerk/Treasurer: Lorie Bond

Public Works Director: James Truelove

Others attended: Kari Hould from PCN

Council President Wiederrick opened the meeting at 5:00pm.

### COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

1. None

Councilperson Rummel moved to approve the minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Hicks. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilperson Rummel moved to approve the agenda, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Pankratz. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilpersons Wiederrick and Pankratz presented claims.

Councilperson Hicks moved to approve claim checks 28815 to 28843, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Rummel. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilperson Pankratz moved to approve December 2023 payroll, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Rummel. Motion carried unanimously.

### DEPARTMENT REPORTS, COMMITTEES & MEETINGS ATTENDED

1. PWD Truelove reported that the new transmission had been installed in Unit 45 the 2012 Freightliner garbage truck and it only took a little over one day.
2. PWD Truelove reported that a new truck box had been purchased for Unit 34 a ¾ ton 2000 GMC Pickup.
3. Councilperson Pankratz asked PWD Truelove to report on the status of the FWP Grant Application. PWD Truelove reported that he had worked with Emilee from Bear Paw Development to tighten up the budget numbers and the match would be around \$8,500. Councilperson Pankratz informed Council that she had sat down with PWD Truelove and Emilee (via phone) from BPD about the Grants. At this time the city would only be applying for the RTP Grant which would provide funding for a mower and trailer for the mower. PWD Truelove reported that the city would seek in kind help and funds to help with the match from Malta Trails.
4. Clerk Bond thanked Council President Wiederrick for covering for the Mayor during his illness. Coming into the office to sign checks and going to Bank of Malta to sign CD paperwork.
5. Clerk Bond presented Council with the December financials, current check register, current shut off list, payroll overtime, vacation & sick leave report, the CD renewal report and the budget vs actual report.
6. Clerk Bond reported that Dan Clark would be in Libby to present a council training session on January 11<sup>th</sup> at 6pm and the training would be available on Zoom.
7. Clerk Bond reported that they haven't opened registration for the Municipal Handbook online training yet that will take place January 30 – March 12, 2024.

8. Clerk Bond reported that an online training for newly elected officials will be taking place on Fridays at 9:00am, January 26 – February 23, 2024.
9. Clerk Bond presented Council with information about the upcoming Local Government Review that will be taking place this year. Clerk Bond stated that Council would have to pass a resolution to place the Local Government Review on the primary election ballot so residents can vote whether to have a Local Government Review or not. Clerk Bond reported that she had provided Council with a draft of the resolution she planned on placing on the next agenda.
10. Compliance Officer Wright presented Council with a copy of Ordinance 442. CO Wright stated that he had received complains about tractor trailers/semi-trailers parked on city streets. CO Wright asked Council to help him clarify exactly what vehicles the ordinance applied to. Ordinance 442 states, “During the calendar from December 1 until March 1, no person shall stand or park any recreational vehicle on any street or alley for any purpose or period of time other than for the expeditious loading or unloading of such vehicles. The term “recreational vehicle” includes, but is not limited to, motor homes, campers, boat trailers and utility trailers.” Would tractor trailers/semi-trailers fall within Ordinance 442? Councilperson Rummel stated that he was against applying any restrictions to agriculture vehicles because Malta is an agricultural community and he did not want to harass or hinder people from making a living. When it was stated that Ordinance 314 (No vehicle shall be parked or left standing upon a city street or on city property for a period longer than five (5) days) could be applied to the situation. Councilperson Rummel stated his dislike of the ordinance because five (5) days was too short of a time and it was not right to require people to move their parked vehicles every five days. CO Wright stated that the City of Lewistown goes around marking vehicles and the curbs were they are parked on their city streets and people are given so many days to have their vehicles moved at least 18 inches. CO Wright reported that he did not want to do this. His actions are complaint driven and he would rather work with an individual than cite an individual for violating a City Ordinance. This was followed by a lively discussion about the vehicles hindering the plowing of city streets, where the semis were parked and the enforcement of City Ordinances. It was finally decided that CO Wright should ask Mayor Demarais for his opinion.
11. CO Wright reported that he had contacted two individuals about junk vehicles and they had been moved.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Council President Wiederrick called on Lara Gouker. Ms. Gouker stated that she was at the April 11, 2023 Council Meeting and had asked Council about purchasing the small city lot located next to her property and she understood that the city was interested in selling the lot to her. However, at the last Council Meeting it was decided to put the sale on hold. Councilperson Rummel explained that he had attended a training that had advised municipalities to look at their zoning and adjust their buildable lot size to accommodate small houses. Councilperson Rummel stated that it was not to the city’s advantage to have unbuildable lots. After much discussion about the lot size and utilities available on the lot, Council President Wiederrick stated that at the last meeting it was decided that Mayor Demarais who is also the Zoning Administrator would go to the Planning Board and the city would proceed from there. Council President Wiederrick thanked Ms. Gouker for coming to the meeting.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Council President Wiederrick informed Council that it was time to elect a Council President. Councilperson Hicks moved to elect Councilperson Wiederrick as Council

President. After some discussion, Councilperson Hicks withdrew his motion to elect Councilperson Wiederrick as Council President. Next, Councilperson Hicks moved to elect Councilperson Rummel as the Council President, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Pankratz. With no further discussion, Council President Wiederrick called for a roll call vote. Councilperson Hicks Aye, Pankratz Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Rummel Aye. Motion Carried.

2. Council President Wiederrick presented Council with the 2024 committee appointments. Councilperson Hicks moved to approve all of the appointments, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Wiederrick. Council President Wiederrick called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Hicks Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Pankratz Aye, Rummel Aye. Motion Carried.

1 Year Appointments:

Zoning Administrator

John Demarais

Bear Paw Development Board

John Demarais

Judith River Foundation Board

Laura Pankratz

Law Enforcement Board

William Hicks

Phillips County Transit Board

David Rummel

PhillCo Board

Bonnie Wiederrick

Trafton Park Arena Committee

Kelly Orahood, Guy Simanton, Ken Salveson,

Ted Brown, Jerry McEwen, Janni Wiese

Planning Board/Board of Adjustments

Alice Hofer, Bob Johnson, Dale Enerson

Phillips County Conservation Board

Gary Knudsen

Fire Chief

Joshua Newman

Assistant Fire Chief

Sean Estill

City Judge

Gayle Stahl

## OTHER COMMENTS

1. Kari Hould asked about the city's sidewalk fund. Ms. Hould was informed that the city has a sidewalk fund in which city residents can take out a seven year loan at seven percent to install or repair sidewalks on their property. Ms. Hould stated she was asking about sidewalk funds because, "I had been asked about supposedly the city had kept some \$50,000 left over from the 1995 High School fire insurance payment that was to go to sidewalks for safety reasons along the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Streets East from the grade school to the high school." Councilperson Hicks stated that back when the new high school was being built he had asked about having a sidewalk installed at his house on 7<sup>th</sup> Street West and he was told that they had ran out of funds. No one at the meeting had any knowledge of such funds held by the City or why the City would be involved or have access to the Malta High School insurance payment. Clerk Bond stated that she would look into it but she had no knowledge of such funds.

With no other business, Councilperson Wiederrick moved to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Rummel. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:14pm.

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John Demarais - Mayor

ATTEST:

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Lorie R. Bond - Clerk/Treasurer