

## MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

## MALTA CITY COUNCIL

### MALTA CITY HALL

January 10, 2023

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: Fire Chief Joshua Newman and Kari Hould from PCN.

Mayor Demarais opened the meeting at 5:00pm.

### COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

1. Mayor Demarais informed Council that the City had received three applications for the Compliance Officer Position and asked two Councilpersons to volunteer to attend the job interviews and help with the hiring process. Councilpersons Hicks and Sintler volunteered.
2. Mayor Demarais informed Council that he had to be in Helena on January 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, so Council President Wiederrick would have to run the next Council meeting.

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

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

Councilpersons Wiederrick and Sintler presented claims.

Councilperson Rummel moved to approve claim checks 28119 to 28150 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Hicks. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilperson Wiederrick moved to approve December 2022 payroll, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Sintler. Motion carried unanimously.

### DEPARTMENT REPORTS, COMMITTEES & MEETINGS ATTENDED

1. PWD Truelove reported that he and the City Crew were busy blading the rough spots in the downtown area and they would continue blading rough spots around town. PWD Truelove stated the crew would be working at one side of town at a time. Mayor Demarais requested that the crew avoid plowing snow on sidewalks.
2. Clerk Bond presented Council with the December financials, current check register, current shut off list, payroll overtime, vacation & sick leave report, CD Renewal Report and the budget vs actual report.
3. Clerk Bond asked Councils permission to attend the Association of Montana Floodplain Managers Conference in Billings February 28<sup>th</sup> – March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Councilperson Wiederrick moved to allow Clerk Bond to attend the Conference, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Sintler. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Wiederrick Aye, Sintler Aye, Rummel Aye, Hicks Aye. Motion Carried.
4. Clerk Bond reported someone had asked if the City was going to lease out its grazing land in 2023 or rest it for another year. After much discussion Council agreed that the grazing land should be rested for another year.
5. Fire Chief Newman presented Council with the Fire Department Statistics for 2022. The Fire Department had responded to a total of 63 calls, 9 calls within the City of Malta and 54 in Phillips County, 19 car wrecks, 4 structure fires, 10 wildland fires, 20 vehicle fires, eight equipment fires, eight mutual aid calls and three harvested crop call outs.
6. Fire Chief Newman presented Council with the \$6,915 quote for three sets of bunker gear and \$3,023 for boots for the new crewmembers.

7. Fire Chief Newman reported Fire Crewmembers Danny Paul Shores and Phillip Henderson would be retiring this year.
8. Fire Chief Newman reported that the department had purchased tools, a workbench and many additional items with donated funds.
9. Fire Chief Newman asked PWD Truelove if he could have another garbage can placed by the fire hall because they would be cleaning out the fire hall next weekend.
10. Mayor Demarais asked if the preparedness of the Fire Department affected the insurance rates for the city residents. This was followed by much discussion about how the response times are calculated down to the second. The time starts the minute the call is put out until the truck leaves the fire hall.
11. PWD Truelove reported that the generator for the New Trafton Lift Station had arrived, Northwestern Energy had a new pole set and still had to finish setting it up to meet the electrical needs of the new lift station. The building was ready to go and the new control panel should arrive on Friday and he anticipated the new lift station being on line sometime near the end of the January. PWD Truelove informed Council that the lift station was currently on generator power and he or one of the crewmembers would be checking on it regularly.
12. PWD Truelove reported that he had visited with the person who has submitted the most recent dog complaint and he could not identify the dogs that had attacked his dog.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. None

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Mayor Demarais presented Council with the 2023 committee appointments. Councilperson Wiederrick moved to approve all of the appointments, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Sintler. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Wiederrick Aye, Sintler Aye, Hicks Aye, Rummel Aye. Motion Carried.

1 Year Appointments:

Zoning Administrator

John Demarais

Bear Paw Development Board

John Demarais

Judith River Foundation Board

David Rummel

Law Enforcement Board

William Hicks

Phillips County Transit Board

James Sintler & 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

2 Year Appointments:

Planning Board/Board of Adjustments

James Sintler & Don Voegel

**OTHER COMMENTS**

1. None

With no other business, Councilperson Wiederrick moved to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Sintler. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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Clerk/Treasurer