

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

MALTA CITY COUNCIL

MALTA CITY HALL

January 24, 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: Matthew Mudd from Great West Engineering, Michael Muñoz, Glenda Knudsen and Kari Hould from PCN.

Mayor Demarais opened the meeting at 5:00pm.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

1. Mayor Demarais informed Council that the reason he needed to be in Helena was cancelled so he was able to make it to this meeting.
2. Mayor Demarais introduced the newly hired Compliance Officer Michael Muñoz to Council.

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

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

Councilpersons Rummel and Hicks presented claims.

Councilperson Wiederrick moved to approve claim checks 28151 to 28159 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS, COMMITTEES & MEETINGS ATTENDED

1. PWD Truelove reported card entry system and the surveillance camera had been installed in the Event Center. PWD Truelove reported that he was still learning the system.
2. PWD Truelove reported that he had received a call about a dog running at large and he had spoken with the dog's owner.
3. PWD Truelove reported that the city crew would be plowing when needed.
4. Clerk Bond presented Council with the current check register, current shut off list and the budget vs actual report.
5. Clerk Bond asked Council if they wanted to revisit the landfill fees again before the summer construction season. At present time for City Residents are not charged for household garbage & grass clippings however for demo etc... they are charged \$20 for loads under a ton and \$40 for loads over a ton. In her opinion the current fee scale favors people bringing in large loads. After some discussion, Clerk Bond said she would provide Council with charge update information again.
6. Clerk Bond reported that there were 12 -20 teens and no adults in the City Hall Gymnasium on Saturday January 21, 2023 and the little kid basketball hoop backboard was shattered. Clerk Bond stated that replacement backboards were no longer available and if they were they would cost \$500.00 each. The gymnasium was closed to the public on Sunday January 22nd until Council decides whether to reopen it or not. Five key fobs associated with the unaccompanied teens had been deactivated. The Malta City Hall Gym/Weight Room Rules signed by each of the membership holders states, "I understand that any of my family members 17 years and younger must be accompanied by an adult who has a membership" and "I understand if persons other than myself, persons not listed on my family membership, persons under 18 years of age are using my key fob to enter the City Hall/Weight Room, my key fob will be deactivated and my membership will be

terminated”. Councilperson Wiederrick stated that the teens involve in the breaking of the backboard should be punished and be required to pay for the replacement of the backboard. Then it was brought up that City Council had not required the individuals who had broken backboards in the past to pay for a new backboard. The first time the backboard was broken by an adult dunking on the kids hoop and the second time it was a pre-teen. Clerk Bond reported that she had placed a copy of the Malta City Hall Gym/Weight Room Application in everyone’s council packet and asked them to make their suggested changes to the form and bring it back to the next meeting. This was followed by much discussion about punishment and consequences. Mayor Demarais finally asked everyone to cool down and it was decided to reopen the gymnasium and to keep the deactivated key fobs off until the next Council meeting.

7. Clerk Bond reported that the Park & Rec had used the Old Gym for the Little Dribbler’s basketball games on Monday January 23rd because they did not have two youth basketball hoops at City Hall. Clerk Bond stated that the two damaged portable hoops needed to be replaced by Monday January 30th for Park & Rec’s Little Dribbler’s Program. Clerk Bond reported that after reading reviews and pricing hoops, portable basketball hoops with polycarbonate backboards were located at Walmart that were originally \$220.00 but marked down to \$175.00. Clerk Bond reported that the portable basketball hoops could be picked up at the Walmart in Havre tomorrow if ordered today. This way the portable basketball hoops could be used during Monday’s Little Dribblers games. Councilperson Rummel stated that the City should be purchasing items locally and not from Walmart. This was followed by much discussion that they needed to be purchased locally from Hardware Hanks or Farmers & Ranchers. Mayor Demarais stated that he would look in to purchasing the basketball hoops locally and report back at the next meeting. Clerk Bond stated that the portable hoops were needed by Monday January 30th and asked Council if they wanted Park & Rec to cancel Little Dribblers. Council stated that they did not want to cancel the program. Mayor Demarais stated that he had a plan. He would purchase backboards locally and have them retrofitted to the existing bases.
8. Mayor Demarais called on Matt Mudd from Great West Engineering. Mr. Mudd reported that the new Trafton Lift Station building was in place, the electric panels were set and Northwestern Energy had power to the building. Mr. Mudd reported that an upstream manhole still needed to be removed and a new bigger manhole needed to be installed. The Lift Station would be on bypass tonight, and he hoped to have the sewage flowing through the pumps in the new lift station tomorrow. Councilperson Rummel commented that this is the smoothest project he has seen so far. Mayor Demarais thanked Mr. Mudd for attending the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Mayor Demarais called on Girl Scout Leader Glenda Knudsen. Ms. Knudsen apologized that the girls from her Troop could not make it to the meeting because they had a school activity they had to attend tonight. Ms. Knudsen read a letter composed and written by Girl Scout Troop 3903 asking Council’s permission to place their, “Vote for Your Favorite Girl Scout Cookie Board” in City Hall. Ms. Knudsen showed Council the Girl Scout Cookie Board created by her Girl Scouts. Ms. Knudsen explained that the object of the board was to have people vote for their favorite Girl Scout Cookie and her Troop would post the results on Facebook. Council agreed to let the Girl Scout Troop 3903 place their Cookie Board outside of the City Clerk’s Office.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Mayor Demarais presented Council with Trafton Lift Station Draw 7 for \$158,111.69. Councilperson Wiederrick moved to approve Draw 7, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Wiederrick Aye, Sintler Aye, Hicks Aye, Rummel Aye. Motion Carried.
2. Mayor Demarais presented Council with Trafton Lift Station Change Order 4. Matt Mudd from Great West Engineering informed Council that the epoxy liner for the wet

well that was originally quoted was no longer available so they had to find an alternate liner. They found a spray on liner which is a better product that cost \$21,539 over the original budgeted amount. Councilperson Hicks moved to approve Change Order 4, 2nd by Councilperson Rummel. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Hicks Aye, Rummel Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Sintler Aye. Motion Carried.

3. Mayor Demarais informed Council that every year the City has to decide whether to continue with the MMIA Employee Benefit Program. Councilperson Sintler moved to continue with the MMIA Employee Benefit Program, 2nd by Councilperson Rummel. Mayor Demarais called for a toll call vote. Councilpersons Sintler Aye, Rummel Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Hicks Aye. Motion Carried.

OTHER COMMENTS

1. Matt Mudd from Great West Engineering informed Council that once Bob Church had a draft of the CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) completed he would present it to Council.
2. Councilperson Wiederrick reported that the Annual PhillCo Meeting would be taking place on Thursday January 26th at 6:00pm.

With no other business, Councilperson Wiederrick moved to adjourn, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:06pm.

Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer