

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

MALTA CITY COUNCIL MALTA CITY HALL

January 26, 2021

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: Doug Ost and Sophia Hebert from PCN

Mayor Demarais opened the meeting at 5:00pm.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

1. Mayor Demarais informed Council that after the last Council Meeting a Councilperson had given him a copy of Ordinance 444 concerning people living in camp trailers within the City Limits and was asked to do something about the people living in camp trailers. Mayor Demarais stated he did not and will not act on it because it was not brought to him during a Council Meeting.

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

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

Councilpersons Rummel and Hicks presented claim warrants.

Councilperson Sintler moved to approve claim checks 26750 to 26764, 2nd by Councilperson Wiederrick. Motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS, COMMITTEES & MEETINGS ATTENDED

1. PWD Truelove reported that he had put the digital speed sign on 2nd street east. The sign recorded 174 vehicles driving east towards the nursing home and 130 vehicles driving west with an average speed of 19mph. PWD Truelove stated that east end of 2nd street east was posted at 15mph and he thought it would be beneficial to extend the 15mph speed zone closer to 5th avenue. Councilperson Rummel suggested placing the new speed limit sign between the Malta Irrigation District and the old BLM apartments. After much discussion, Councilperson Sintler moved to extend the 15mph speed limit zone on 2nd street east, 2nd by Councilperson Hicks. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilperson Sintler Aye, Hicks Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Rummel Aye. Motion Aye.
2. PWD Truelove reported that there had been a dig on 3rd street east by a contractor upgrading a customer's service line from 3/4" to 1" and he had to be on site during the dig.
3. PWD Truelove reported that the city crew had filled a few pot holes and were waiting for additional fill.
4. PWD Truelove reported that gypsum was being delivered and he is still shopping for someone to spread it.
5. PWD Truelove reported that the new 300gal garbage cans had arrived.
6. Clerk Bond presented Council with the current check register, the current shut off list and the expenditure actual vs budget reports.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Mayor Demarais called on Councilperson Wiederrick. Councilperson Wiederrick informed everyone that she had given Mayor Demarais a copy of ordinance 444 about people living in camp trailers in the city. She had given the ordinance to Mayor Demarais after the meeting to avoid embarrassing him. Councilperson Wiederrick stated, "I am now asking you (Mayor Demarais) to enforce the Ordinance. It is the Mayor's job to enforce the Ordinances". Mayor Demarais informed Council that it was not the Mayor's job to enforce Ordinances and he would contact City Attorney Dan O'Brien about writing a letter to the individual. Mayor Demarais stated that last year an employee had gone over his head and over stepped the bounds of their position and sent a letter to the individual about violating the city ordinance by living in a camp trailer on his property. Mayor Demarais stated that he had to discipline the employee for sending the letter and that is why he did not enforce the violation. Councilperson Wiederrick stated that it was a violation of Ordinance 444, it was discussed last year and Mayor Demarais had told Council it was personal and he didn't want to enforce it. Mayor Demarais stated that it was not personal. It was not the Mayor's job to enforce Ordinances. Councilperson Wiederrick stated that the camp trailers are still on the property and now they've hauled in a larger one.

Next, Councilperson Wiederrick reported that she had received a dog complaint letter and asked PWD/Animal Control Officer Truelove if he would take care of it. PWD/ACO Truelove stated that he would.

Councilperson Hicks asked Mayor Demarais, "doesn't the City usually write a letter to the landowner about a violation." Mayor Demarais stated that he would not write or sign a letter and asked what was wrong with having the City Attorney write the letter. Mayor Demarais stated that it was not his job to enforce Ordinances. Councilperson Hicks asked Mayor Demarais, why the City had Ordinances if they weren't going to be enforced. Mayor Demarais stated that it was not his job to write letters to enforce ordinances. Mayor Demarais asked if Council wanted to either send a letter signed by them or have City Attorney Dan O'Brien send a letter. After much discussion about the letter, Clerk Bond asked Mayor Demarais if he wanted her to draft a letter from Council or how did he want to proceed. After more discussion, Mayor Demarais asked Clerk Bond to draft a letter for Council to sign.

NEW BUSINESS

1. 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 MMIA, 2nd by Councilperson Wiederrick. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Sintler Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Rummel Aye, Hicks Aye. Motion Carried.
2. Mayor Demarais called on Doug Ost. Mayor Demarais stated that he had jumped the gun to have him placed on the agenda and Mr. Ost would have to return when he had a plan to present and then Council could make a decision. Mr. Ost reported that he had received a quote from an engineering firm and had been in contact with county and the state highway department. Mr. Ost stated that he would like to do the project in stages. The project is now in the design mode and he is still looking into the cost of materials needed.

OTHER COMMENTS

1. None

With no other business, Councilperson Wiederrick moved to adjourn, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:44 pm.

Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer