

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

MALTA CITY COUNCIL

MALTA CITY HALL

February 13, 2024

Officials present:

Mayor John Demarais

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: Taylor French, Compliance Office John Wright III and Kari Hould from PCN.

Mayor Demarais opened the meeting at 5:00pm.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

1. None.

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

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

Councilpersons Wiederrick and Pankratz presented claims.

Councilperson Hicks moved to approve claim checks 28858 to 28902, 2nd by Councilperson Rummel. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilperson Wiederrick moved to approve January 2024 payroll, 2nd by Councilperson Pankratz. Motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS, COMMITTEES & MEETINGS ATTENDED

1. Mayor Demarais informed Council that PWD Truelove would be leaving the meeting following his report because he would be working on the water booster station tonight.
2. PWD Truelove reported that the City Crew would be sanding the streets as needed.
3. PWD Truelove reported that the City Crew would start patching pot holes if the temperature rises above thirty degrees.
4. PWD Truelove reported that he will be installing a new valve at the water booster station tonight. PWD Truelove stated that they would be plumbing in two new pumps at the water booster station. He hopes to have the new pumps wired in and online next week. He stated that it would be nice to have two pumps operating instead of the old single pump set up.
5. PWD Truelove reported that the City Crew would start flushing fire hydrants on the south side of town and work their way north.
6. Mayor Demarais informed Council that there are issues with high manganese all along the Hi-Line and Malta has low levels in comparison.
7. Clerk Bond presented Council with January financials, current check register, current shut off list, payroll overtime, vacation & sick leave report, and the budget vs actual report.
8. Clerk Bond reported that the closest Municipal Summit would be taking place on May 15th at Fort Peck.
9. Clerk Bond reported that the Municipal Institute would be taking place May 5 – 9, 2024 at Fairmont Hot Springs. Clerk Bond asked Council's permission to for Deputy Clerk

Barrett and herself to attend the training. Councilperson Hicks moved to allow Deputy Clerk Barrett and Clerk Bond attend the Municipal Institute, 2nd by Councilperson Wiederrick. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Hicks Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Rummel Aye, Pankratz Aye. Motion carried.

10. CO Wright reported on the status of the compliance letters he had sent.
11. CO Wright presented Council with the amendments he would like to see made to Ordinance 422. Ordinance 422's section in question currently reads. The term "recreation vehicle" includes, but is not limited to, motor homes, campers, boat trailer and utility trailers. CO Wright would it to read "includes but not limited to, motor homes, campers, all trailers - boat, utility, enclosed, semi, and horse trailers."
12. Councilperson Wiederrick asked Zoning Administrator Demarais if he had made any progress about decreasing the size of buildable lots in the city and if he had contacted the Planning Board about the subject. Zoning Administrator Demarais stated that he was working on it.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Mayor Demarais called on Taylor French from the Phillips County CattleWomen Organization. Ms. French asked Council to allow the PC CattleWomen to hold their annual Ag Day Event in the City Hall Gymnasium on March 22, 2024. Ms. French listed multiple reasons why the Event Center did not work for Ag Day. The parking did not work, they could only fit a maximum of 28 vendors, the space was cramped, there wasn't space by the kitchen to have a sitting area, they had to have the pie contest in a side room and it did not raise as much revenue as it had in the past. Having the venue across from the Fire Hall worked best because people could purchase burgers from the firemen and then walk across the street to City Hall. Councilperson Rummel stated that he liked that she had presented solid reasons why Ag Day should be held in the City Hall Gymnasium. Councilperson Wiederrick stated the Event Center was purchased so events could be held there and the Specialty Fair worked well at the Event Center. Ms. French asked why the City allowed the Trunk or Treat to use the gymnasium and why they allowed Phillips County Motor Sports to use the gymnasium for their banquet. Councilperson Wiederrick stated that Trunk or Treat use of the gymnasium was a last minute decision because of the cold weather and Phillips County Motor Sports may not be using the gymnasium this year. Councilperson Rummel moved to allow the PC CattleWomen to hold Ag Day in the City Hall Gymnasium, 2nd by Councilperson Wiederrick. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilperson's Rummel Aye, Wiederrick Nay, Pankratz Aye, Hicks Aye. Motion carried.
2. Mayor Demarais informed Council that the Malta Chamber of Commerce had removed their request after looking at the Event Center.
3. Mayor Demarais presented Council with the Highway 2 Association's Dues request. Councilperson Wiederrick moved to pay the \$100.00, 2nd by Councilperson Rummel. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Wiederrick Aye, Rummel Aye, Pankratz Aye, Hicks Aye. Motion Carried.
4. Mayor Demarais present Council with Great West Engineering – Task Order No. 6 Amendment 1 – State Construction Grant Applications. Councilperson Rummel moved to have Mayor Demarais sign Task Order No. 6, 2nd by Councilperson Pankratz. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Rummel Aye, Pankratz Aye, Hicks Aye, Wiederrick Aye. Motion carried.

5. Mayor Demarais presented Council with Great West Engineering Task Order No. 7 – General Services. Councilperson Hicks moved to have Mayor Demarais sign Task Order 7, 2nd by Councilperson Wiederrick. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Hicks Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Pankratz Aye, Rummel Aye. Motion Carried.

OTHER COMMENTS

1. None

With no other business, Councilperson Wiederrick moved to adjourn, 2nd by Councilperson Rummel. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:54pm.

John Demarais - Mayor

ATTEST:

Lorie R. Bond - Clerk/Treasurer