

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

MALTA CITY COUNCIL

MALTA CITY HALL

February 14, 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: Sheriff Jerry Lytle, Undersheriff Gerold (Rodger) Has The Eagle, Fire Chief Joshua Newman, Mary Hendrickson, Landfill Engineer Barry Damschen and Kari Hould from PCN.

Mayor Demarais opened the meeting at 5:00pm.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

1. None

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 Wiederrick and Sintler presented claims.

Councilperson Hicks moved to approve claim checks 28160 to 28205 2nd by Councilperson Rummel. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilperson Sintler moved to approve January 2023 payroll, 2nd by Councilperson Wiederrick. Motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS, COMMITTEES & MEETINGS ATTENDED

1. PWD Truelove reported that the new basketball hoops have been installed in the gymnasium and Crewmember David Jaynes did a great job.
2. PWD Truelove reported that he was having Spencer Electric retro fit the power box outside the Event Center so a generator can be hooked up to the building if needed.
3. PWD Truelove reported that the city crew were plowing around town.
4. PWD Truelove reported the city crew had a dig behind the Heritage Manor.
5. PWD Truelove reported that he and the Compliance Officer had met with the City Attorney and she advised them about what steps needed to be taken when giving residents notice about Ordinance Violations and needing to remove vehicles from the City Streets.
6. Clerk Bond presented Council with the January financials, current check register, current shut off list, payroll overtime, vacation & sick leave report and the budget vs actual report.
7. Clerk Bond reported that Terry Hotchkiss, the new Malta Red Cross Blood Drive Coordinator, had asked Clerk Bond to ask Council if it was okay if the Red Cross used the Event Center for all of their blood drives except for the one taking place in July because the Event Center does not have air conditioning. Council agreed that the Red Cross could use the Event Center for their blood drives and all fees would be waived.
8. Clerk Bond asked Council's permission for Deputy Clerk Barrett and herself to attend the Municipal Institute in Bozeman on April 30 – May 4, 2023. Councilperson Wiederrick moved to send Deputy Clerk Barrett and Clerk Bond to the Municipal Institute, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Wiederrick Aye, Sintler Aye, Rummel Aye, Hicks Aye. Motion Carried.

9. Clerk Bond reported that the City Clerk's Office had been contacted by Logan from JKL & Associates who was hired by Triangle to remove telephone pedestals in Phillips County. Logan wanted to know if the Malta City Landfill could take 600 tires because each pedestal has an old truck or tractor tire around it which needs to be removed and disposed of. Landfill Engineer Barry Damschen answered that the City Landfill did not have the room and could not take the 600 tires.
10. Clerk Bond asked Council if it would be okay if the Clerk's Office started working on a user agreement and cleanup list for groups that use the Event Center for free. Clerk Bond also asked Council if they would consider having groups that use the Event Center for free ask Council for permission every year instead of assuming they have free use of the building with no end date. Council agreed that it would be a good idea.
11. Fire Chief Joshua Newman showed Council one of the three new SCBA packs that the City had purchased for the Fire Department. Fire Chief Newman reported that SCBA packs had cost \$6650 each and the plan was to slowly replace the old SCBA packs by purchasing two to three each year. Fire Chief Newman stated that the department would keep the old packs to use for parts for the packs that haven't been replaced yet.
12. Fire Chief Newman reported that Fire Truck 1 had been out of service for two weeks and was now back in service. Fire Chief Newman stated that it had taken 30 hours to install the new part and rewire a section of wiring that was shorting out on the frame of the fire truck. Fire Chief Newman reported that they had saved the City a considerable amount of money by doing the installation and repair themselves. Everything was now operational and they would have it out next week spraying water out at the City Shop.
13. Sheriff Jerry Lytle introduced Undersheriff Gerold (Roger) Has The Eagle to Council. Undersheriff Has The Eagle gave Council a short presentation about his law enforcement background. Council thanked him for stopping by and stated that they had only heard good things about his service to the community.
14. Sheriff Lytle presented Council with the law enforcement statistics for October 2022 – January 2023. Sheriff Lytle reported that he had added traffic stops to the report.
15. Sheriff Lytle reported that they have been concentrating more on the drug trade and have been impounding vehicles used to distribute drugs. Sheriff Lytle stated that it was like putting out a fire with a glass of water. However, they would be teaming up with other counties to increase their effectiveness.
16. PWD Truelove reported that the old Trafton Lift Station had been removed and everything is flowing through the new lift station. PWD Truelove stated that a person from Flygt Pumps was on site today working on the telemetry and eventually he would be able to look up the status of the pumps on his phone.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Mayor Demarais called on Barry Damschen. Mr. Damschen presented Council with copy of the October 2022 Groundwater Sampling Report. Mr. Damschen reported that the landfill was looking good and the tonnage reports were about the same as last year. Mr. Damschen reported that he would like to get the new test well drilled at the landfill this summer. Mr. Damschen updated Council about the DEQ's request that the City drill a new test well at the landfill. Mr. Damschen stated that he was in the process of finding a certified driller to drill the new test well and once he receives a bid he would present it to Council. Mr. Damschen reported that he had noticed how much money the City's Landfill Closure & Post Closure account had lost in the past year and recommended the City take the funds out of the current financial company and invest the funds in a local bank and he explained the process the City would have to take. Mr. Damschen presented Council with his new 2023 contract for \$11,800.00. Councilperson Rummel moved to accept the 2023 contract, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilperson Rummel Aye, Sintler Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Hicks Aye. Motion Carried.

2. Mayor Demarais presented Council with the out of city garbage service request from Char McCready. Councilperson Hicks moved to approve the out of city garbage service request, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilperson Hicks Aye, Sintler Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Rummel Aye. Motion Carried.
3. Mayor Demarais presented Council with the Highway 2 Association's Dues request. Councilperson Rummel moved to pay the \$100.00, 2nd by Councilperson Wiederrick. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Rummel Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Hicks Aye, Sintler Aye. Motion Carried.
4. Mayor Demarais presented Council with Trafton Lift Station Draw 8 for \$92,548.08. Councilperson Rummel moved to approve Draw 8, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Rummel Aye, Sintler Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Hicks Aye. Motion Carried.
5. Mayor Demarais presented Council Resolution 1324 a Resolution Amending the City Hall Gymnasium & Weight Room Membership Agreement. After much discussion, Councilperson Hicks moved to adopt Resolution 1324, 2nd by Councilperson Rummel. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Hicks Aye, Rummel Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Sintler Aye. Motion Carried.
Mayor Demarais informed Council that the fobs belonging to the membership holders that were involved with the January 21st incident where the backboard was shattered were still off. After much discussion, it was decided to keep the fobs deactivated for a total of three months and then the membership holders would have to come before Council to request that their membership be reinstated.
6. Mayor Demarais presented Council with Resolution 1325 – A Resolution Amending the Employee Policy Manual. The City had been contacted by MMIA that the verbiage on page 14 of the Employee Policy Manual may violate the new carry concealed laws passed by state legislators last spring. MMIA recommend the City add the word “unauthorized” in front of weapons to comply with the current MCA or removing any reference to personal fire arms. The amended policy would read as follows: This policy prohibits employees from bringing *unauthorized* personal firearms or other weapons (including pepper spray, stun guns, batons, etc.) onto City of Malta premises. Employees are also prohibited from carrying *unauthorized* firearms or other weapons in City of Malta vehicles or in personal vehicles if conducting City of Malta business, with the exception of the Animal Control Officer. Councilperson Wiederrick moved to adopt Resolution 1325, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Wiederrick Aye, Sintler Aye, Rummel Aye, Hicks Aye. Motion Carried.
7. Mayor Demarais presented Council with a copy of an email from Matt Mudd from Great West Engineering asking the City to place planning grant application for water PER onto the agenda. The reason Mr. Mudd wanted it to be placed on the agenda is because on page 2 of the CIP it states the city is okay with Great West Engineering putting a planning grant application together for DNRC. Councilperson Rummel moved to have Great West Engineering move forward with the water planning grant, 2nd by Councilperson Hicks. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Rummel Aye, Hicks Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Sintler Aye. Motion Carried.
8. Mayor Demarais informed Council that the contingency left over after the Trafton Lift Station Project could be used to complete the DEQ required tie in of the sewage lagoon's effluent to the UV Building and to finish the outfall line project. Mayor Demarais presented Council with an estimate of how much it would cost to have Lakeside Construction to complete the Lagoon work after they complete the Trafton Lift Station Project. The estimate included \$25,000 to tie in the effluent line to the UV building and \$88,000 to install 341 feet of 18” PVC piping to complete the remainder of the 18” line to the highway. Councilperson Wiederrick moved to use the remaining ARPA funds to have Lakeside complete the lagoon effluent line tie in to the UV Building and the remaining section of the lagoon effluent discharge line, 2nd by Councilperson Hicks. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Wiederrick Aye, Hicks Aye, Sintler Aye, Rummel Aye. Motion Carried.

9. Mayor Demarais presented Council with Trafton Lift Station Draw 9 for \$118,926.06. Councilperson Rummel moved to approve Draw 9, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Rummel Aye, Sintler Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Hicks Aye. Motion Carried.

OTHER COMMENTS

1. Councilperson Wiederrick stated that she had noticed a few street signs laying on the ground. PWD Truelove stated that he was aware of the signs and would have the city crew put them back up.
2. PWD Truelove reported that a semi had taken out a hydrant by Horizon Resources and the City Crew would repair it at a later date depending on the weather.

With no other business, Councilperson Wiederrick moved to adjourn, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:46pm.

Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer