

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

MALTA CITY COUNCIL MALTA CITY HALL

March 22, 2022

Officials present:

Councilpersons Ward I: David Rummel

William Hicks

Councilpersons Ward II: Bonnie Wiederrick

James Sintler

Clerk/Treasurer: Lorie Bond

Shop Foreman: Eric Witmer

Others attended: Fire Chief Joshua Newman, Bryan Benton, Park & Recreation Director Sally Wright, Assistant Park & Recreation Director Kristina Benner and Mark Foss from PCN.

Council President Wiederrick opened the meeting at 5:00pm.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1. Council President Wiederrick informed Council that the Mayor Demarais could not attend the meeting because he was attending the Montana Rural Water Conference in Great Falls.

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

Councilperson Hicks 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 27556 to 27569 2nd by Councilperson Wiederrick. Motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS, COMMITTEES & MEETINGS ATTENDED

1. Shop Foreman Witmer reported that the large cardboard bin across from City Hall had been removed.
2. SF Witmer reported that the city crew had started patching pot holes, sweeping the streets and blading the alleys.
3. SF Witmer reported that city crew members Justin Anderson, David Jaynes and himself had repaired a water main break in the Town of Dodson. SF Witmer stated that a bill would be sent to the Town of Dodson. Council President Wiederrick informed Council that the Town of Dodson would be able to make payments on the amount due to the City of Malta.
4. SF Witmer reported that PWD Truelove could not attend the meeting because he was attending the Montana Rural Water Conference in Great Falls.
5. Clerk Bond presented Council the current check register and the current shut off list.
6. Clerk Bond presented Council with a copy of the quotes from Bruco to re-coat the City Hall gym floor and the upstairs dance room. Clerk Bond stated that she would put it on the next agenda.
7. Clerk Bond reported that Mayor Demarais had received a letter from PhillCo about an upcoming land sale and presented Council with copies of the letter. Clerk Bond stated that she had forwarded the request to City Attorney Dan O'Brien.
8. Clerk Bond reported that Lynnel LaBrie had inquired about renting City Hall Gymnasium for a graduation party on May 22nd. Clerk Bond stated that the Malta Event Center and other venues in town had already been booked and since Council wanted to quit renting

out the gymnasium for events that require the tarp to be put down she wanted to ask for their approval. Council agreed to let Lynnel LaBrie rent the City Hall Gymnasium on May 22, 2022.

9. Fire Chief Newman showed the Council the handheld radio that was purchased for the Volunteer Fire Department. FC Newman stated that the radio was purchased for \$177.00 and did not include a battery or antenna. FC Newman reported that he was having trouble finding radios to purchase and he hoped to locate the twenty radios needed for the department.
10. FC Newman reported that the helmets he had ordered would not arrive until next month. He had hoped they would arrive before the Ag Day so he could have them on display so the public could see what their money is spent on.
11. FC Newman reported that he had an opportunity to purchase a generator/pressure washer/air compressor for \$5,000 which usually goes for \$9,800. FC Newman stated that this would insure that the Fire Hall had electricity and heat if there was a power outage. FC Newman asked Council if they would be willing to pay \$1,500 towards the purchase. FC Newman reported that the County would pay \$1,500 and the remaining \$2,000 would be paid from the donation fund. Councilperson Hicks moved to pay \$1,500 towards the purchase, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Council President Wiederrick called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Hicks Aye, Sintler Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Rummel Aye. Motion Carried.
12. FC Newman reported that the City of Malta had a policy in place that the city firetruck could only be taken 5 mile out of town if needed. FC Newman asked Council if they want to update the policy. FC Newman stated that one of the city's firetrucks could be needed if there was a large structural fire in a neighboring community. After much discussion, it was decided that to ask for the Mayor's opinion at the next Council Meeting.
13. PRD Wright updated council on their past, present and future activities.
14. PRD Wright presented Council with a list of items needed for the gymnastic program totally \$1076.85. Councilperson Rummel moved to approve the purchases, 2nd by Councilperson Hicks. Council President Wiederrick called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Rummel Aye, Hicks Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Sintler aye. Motion Carried.
15. PRD Wright informed Council that the gophers at the parks are out of control and something needed to be done. After much discussion, Clerk Bond reported that the pest control contract for \$1,500 from BigSky Turfworx was received this morning and would be on the next agenda. Clerk Bond asked Council if they wanted to approve the contract today so BigSky Turfworx can start on gopher control ASAP. Councilperson Sintler moved to approve the Big Sky Turfworx pest control contract, 2nd by Councilperson Rummel. Council President Wiederrick called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Sintler Aye, Rummel Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Hicks Aye. Motion Carried.
16. Assistant PRD Benner informed Council that the City of Malta's ice skating rink this past winter was awful and unacceptable. The Town of Saco had a really nice skating rink this past winter and asked if she needed to contact Saco and find out how they were able to make their ice skating rink so nice. Assistant PRD Benner stated that maybe she should tell everyone from Malta to go to Saco if they wanted ice skate in the future. This was followed by much discussion about the soil at the current location and liner options.
17. Council President Wiederrick asked about Park & Rec's contracted service percentages because after paying out 75% to the contractor it doesn't leave much to cover the City's expenses. Council President Wiederrick stated that it is something that needs to be looked into. PRD Wright gave Council copies of the 2022 contractor pay scale and asked Council to look it over and make changes as needed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Council President Wiederrick called on Bryan Benton. Mr. Benton presented Council with his 2022 lawn service contract. Mr. Benton stated that the 2022 contract was for \$13,520 which is \$200 more than the previous year. Councilperson Sintler moved to approve the contract, 2nd by Councilperson Rummel. Council President Wiederrick called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Sintler Aye, Rummel Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Hick abstained. Motion Carried.
2. Council President Wiederrick presented Council with resolution 1311. A resolution requesting distribution of bridge, road safety & accountability program funds. Clerk Bond stated that the City would receive \$57,420.96 in funds. Councilperson Hicks moved to adopt resolution 1311, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Council President Wiederrick called for a roll call vote. Councilperson Hicks Aye, Sintler Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Rummel Aye. Motion Carried.

OTHER COMMENTS

1. Councilperson Rummel reported that he had attended the last Great Plains Dinosaur Museum meeting and they would be applying for a grant to help pay for the Preliminary Architect Report (PAR) for their project. Councilperson Rummel stated that the GPDM would be asking the City to sponsor their grant application.
2. Councilperson Hicks asked Clerk Bond to publish the animal ordinance in the newspaper and remind people to license their pets.

With no other business, Councilperson Wiederrick moved to adjourn, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:01pm.

Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer