

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

MALTA CITY COUNCIL MALTA CITY HALL

March 26, 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: Marilyn Taylor, Matt Mudd from Great West Engineering, and Kari Hould from PCN.

Mayor Demarais opened the meeting at 5:00pm.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

1. Informed Council that he had attended the Montana Rural Water Conference in Great Fall and he had learned a lot.

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

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

Councilpersons Rummel and Hicks presented claims.

Councilperson Wiederrick moved to approve claim checks 28953 to 28967, 2nd by Councilperson Pankratz. Motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS, COMMITTEES & MEETINGS ATTENDED

1. PWD Truelove thanked Council for letting him attend the Montana Rural Water Conference.
2. PWD Truelove reported that the City Crew had finished roofing the shed behind the Event Center.
3. PWD Truelove reported that the City Crew had plowed the downtown area yesterday.
4. PWD Truelove reported that Ag Day had went well.
5. PWD Truelove reported that the sewer line in the alley west of Big Flat Electric was obstructed and the city jetter could not break through the obstruction. Because of this he had called in the Lakeside jetter and vac truck to clean out the sewer line and while the Lakeside was in town he had them clean out a couple more sewer lines.
6. Clerk Bond presented Council with the current check register and the current shut off list.
7. Clerk Bond reported that the City had been awarded a \$30,000 DNRC/RRGL Emergency Grant for the emergency force main temporary bypass.
8. Clerk Bond reported that a total of six people had showed up to the Local Government Review presentation by Dan Clark from the MSU Local Government Center. The six people consisted of Phillips County Clerk & Recorder Lynnel LaBrie, Phillips County Commissioner Richard Dunbar, Phillips County Commissioner Bruce Christofferson, City of Malta Councilperson Bonnie Wiederrick, City of Malta Councilperson David Rummel and herself.
9. Clerk Bond reported that registration for the Municipal Summits had opened. Clerk Bond asked Council to let her know which Summit the wanted to attend and who would

be driving so she could register everyone and have travel checks completed before the training.

10. Mayor Demarais informed Council that he would be having a Planning Board Meeting sometime because of a variance request.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Marilyn Taylor asked when the new force main project would be completed. Matt Mudd from Great West Engineering reported that securing funding takes a while and the project was still in the design phase.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Mayor Demarais presented Council with the request from Mary Shores/Malta Gardeners Group asking permission to hold a plant and seed share event in Veterans Park on May 25, 2024. Clerk Bond reported that Ms. Shores had asked about having baby chicks at the event. The chicks would be kept caged in vehicles during the event. This was followed by some discussion about chickens in city limits and it was decided that they could have baby chicks at the event as long as they made sure everyone knew that chickens were not allowed in the city. It was suggested that they put up a sign stating no chickens in city limits. Councilperson Rummel moved to allow Mary Shores/Malta Gardeners Group to use Veterans Park and to have baby chicks at the event, 2nd by Councilperson Pankratz. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilperson Rummel Aye, Pankratz Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Hicks Aye. Motion Carried.
2. Mayor Demarais presented Council with the Phillips County Coalition for Healthy Choices request to waive the fee for use of the City Hall Gymnasium for a sporting event on June 1, 2024. Clerk Bond reported that they would be playing laser tag, mini golf and virtual reality. Clerk Bond stated that they had originally wanted to use the Event Center but the Event Center was already booked for a wedding reception. Councilperson Wiederrick moved to waive the use fee, 2nd by Councilperson Rummel. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Wiederrick Aye, Rummel Aye, Hicks Aye, Pankratz Aye. Motion Carried.
3. Mayor Demarais presented Council with Resolution 1345 – A Resolution relating to financing of certain improvements to the wastewater system; establishing compliance with reimbursement bond regulations under the internal revenue. Councilperson Hicks moved to adopt Resolution 1345, 2nd by Councilperson Pankratz. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Hicks Aye, Pankratz Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Rummel Aye. Motion Carried.
4. Mayor Demarais present Council with the request from the Milk River Beef Builders 4H Club to waive the Event Center fees. The 4H Club would be holding a two hour workshop at the Event Center on April 12, 2024. Councilperson Wiederrick moved to waive the fees, 2nd by Councilperson Pankratz. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Wiederrick Aye, Pankratz Aye, Rummel Aye, Hicks Aye. Motion Carried.
5. Mayor Demarais presented Council with the Bear Paw Development request for the first half of the City's share funding for FY2024. Councilperson Pankratz stated that she had not had a good outcome when working with Bear Paw Development in the past and thought the City's money would be better spent if the City hired a local grant writer. After some discussion, Councilperson Rummel asked Councilperson Pankratz to bring back a report to Council about the advantages of hiring a local grant writer. Councilperson Rummel moved to pay the first half of the City's share funding for FY2024 to BPD, 2nd by Councilperson Hicks. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote.

Councilpersons Rummel Aye, Hicks Aye, Pankratz Nay, Wiederrick Aye. Motion Carried.

6. Mayor Demarais stated that it was time to decide to participate or not in the 2024 City Park Rest Area Program. Clerk Bond explained that the program reimburses the City for the electric bills, janitor supplies, janitor wages and any approved extra improvements to the rest area. Councilperson Hicks moved to participate in the program, 2nd by Councilperson Rummel. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Hicks Aye, Rummel Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Pankratz Aye. Motion Carried.

OTHER COMMENTS

1. Mayor Demarais informed Council that he had learned a lot about what happens when ear marks are added to legislative bills at the MRWS Conference and how ear marks take away from loan forgiveness.
2. Councilperson Wiederrick reported about the resent PhillCo Meeting she had attended.

With no other business, Councilperson Wiederrick moved to adjourn, 2nd by Councilperson Rummel. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:43pm.

John Demarais - Mayor

ATTEST:

Lorie R. Bond - Clerk/Treasurer