

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

MALTA CITY COUNCIL

MALTA CITY HALL

March 28, 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: Marilyn Taylor, Fire Chief Joshua Newman, Sheriff Jerry Lytle, Compliance Officer Michael Muñoz and Perrier Bibbs from PCN.

Mayor Demarais opened the meeting at 5:00pm.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

1. Mayor Demarais informed Council that he had talked with Steve Troendle from USDA about the Hi-Line Retirement Center building and his concerns about the building sitting empty at the Rural Water Conference.
2. Mayor Demarais informed Council that he had asked the Mayor of Townsend about the Assisted Living Facility operated by Emily & Tony Simonsen at the Rural Water Conference and the Mayor of Townsend had nothing but good things to say about them.

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 claims.

Councilperson Wiederrick moved to approve claim checks 28254 to 28267 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS, COMMITTEES & MEETINGS ATTENDED

1. PWD Truelove thanked Council for letting him attend the Rural Water Conference.
2. PWD Truelove reported that he had attended some very informative classes about the lead line inventory requirements.
3. Mayor Demarais informed Council that the EPA hoped to add additional unrealistic water testing requirement that would be impossible to meet.
4. PWD Truelove reported that he had the city crew working on the storm drains so the City could be prepared for the upcoming warm weather and snow melt.
5. PWD Truelove reported that the new Trafton Park sign was done and ready for installation this spring.
6. PWD Truelove reported that he hoped to start clearing snow from around stop signs and have the snow pile by the elementary school hauled away.
7. PWD Truelove reported that he had found a 1995, 5 yard dump truck for sale and the asking price was \$7,500. Mayor Demarais asked Clerk Bond to place the purchase on the next City Council Meeting Agenda.
8. Mayor Demarais informed Council that he had purchased a water leak detector for \$3,075.
9. Mayor Demarais informed Council that Carl Carlson from DEQ would be inspecting the leak in the water tank. Mayor Demarais outlined the different options for repairing the tank. Mayor Demarais stated that the City would have to look into short term and long term plans to fix the issue.

10. Mayor Demarais informed Council that he has been answering complains through social media and he was really happy with the outcome.
11. Clerk Bond presented Council with the current check register, current shut off list and the budget vs actual report.
12. Clerk Bond reported that a resident had asked her why the Compliance Department door was always shut. Compliance Officer Muñoz stated that there were kids in the hallway making noise and he can always be contacted by phone or email. After some discussion it was decided that the Compliance Department would have an open door policy.
13. Compliance Officer Muñoz presented Council with the stickers that he would be using to tag vehicles and updated Council on his vision for the Compliance Department.
14. Mayor Demarais stated the Compliance Officer Muñoz was doing an amazing job putting ads in the Phillips County News and Super Shopper and educating residents.
15. Fire Chief Newman reported that there had been two structure fires in the past month. One was a trailer house in Zortman and the other one was a shop east of town and both structures were a total loss.
16. Fire Chief Newman reported that the fundraiser went well and he was thankful that the Fire Department was able to store fire trucks in the City Shop and the Phillips County Transit Building during the hamburger feed.
17. Fire Chief Newman reported that next month he would be attending extrication training in Glasgow and there would be a wildland fire training in the next few months.
18. Sheriff Lytle asked Mayor Demarais and Compliance Officer Muñoz what the process would be for junk vehicles. Mayor Demarais stated that it would be a three strikes and you're out process. If the vehicle isn't moved it will be turned over to law enforcement.
19. Sheriff Lytle asked if the City or the Sheriff's Office would tow the vehicles in question or would the City tow the vehicles. Mayor Demarais stated that the towed vehicles would be place behind the Event Center because there were cameras behind the Event Center. PWD Truelove reported that in the past vehicles had been towed to the impound lot by the City Shop and there are cameras at the City impound lot. Mayor Demarais stated that Sheriff Lytle and Compliance Officer Muñoz would have to get together and outline the process.
20. Sheriff Lytle asked Compliance Officer to turn over the vehicle plate numbers or even better the vehicle VIN to the Sheriff's Office and the Sheriff's Office would send the letters and make sure all of the state statues were followed.
21. After much discussions about how to specifically proceed with the enforcement of city ordinances, Mayor Demarais stated that he, Sheriff Lytle, Judge Stahl, City Attorney Pekovitch and Compliance Officer Muñoz needed to get together and decide how to proceed.
22. Councilperson Wiederrick reported that Ag Day had went well at the Event Center.
23. Councilperson Wiederrick reported that she had been approached by a group that was interested in using the event center for their yearly banquet but it would over lapped with the time the Event Center was being used by the Little Wrestlers. Clerk Bond reported that groups like the Little Wrestlers using the Event Center for free are told, paying customers' have precedent over groups using the Event Center for free and if that happens they would roll up and remove their wrestling mats.
24. Clerk Bond reported that the City had received four applications for the janitor position and asked if it would be possible to have interviews this Thursday or Friday. Mayor Demarais asked for two Councilpersons to volunteer to attend the interviews. Councilpersons Wiederrick and Sintler volunteered. Clerk Bond would let everyone know what day and time the interviews would be taking place.
25. PWD Truelove reported that he was still working on the punch list for the Trafton Park Lift Station.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Mayor Demarais presented Council with Great West Engineering Task Order No. 3 – Amendment 3 - Malta Effluent Discharge Pipe & Ezzie’s Lift Station Improvements. PWD Truelove reported that the Robinson Pump House was pumping at 50% capacity and the pumps and control panel needed to be replaced which would be a higher priority than the Ezzie’s Lift Station. This was followed by much discussion about what needed to be done and Councilperson Wiederrick moving to table the Great West Engineering Task Order No. 3, Amendment 3 until the next meeting, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Wiederrick Aye, Sintler Aye, Hicks Aye, Rummel Aye. Motion Carried.
2. Mayor Demarais called on Bryan Benton. Mr. Benton presented Council with his 2023 lawn service contract. Mr. Benton stated that the 2023 contract was for \$13,820 which is \$300 more than the previous year. Councilperson Rummel moved to approve the contract, 2nd by Councilperson Wiederrick. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Rummel Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Sintler Aye, Hicks abstained. Motion Carried.
3. Mayor Demarais presented Council with letters supporting the proposed purchase of the Hi-Line Center Building by Emily & Tony Simonsen from Sheridan Montana for a Class A - Assisted Living Facility. Councilperson Wiederrick moved to have Mayor Demarais sign the letters, 2nd by Councilperson Hicks. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Wiederrick Aye, Hicks Aye, Rummel Aye, Sintler Aye. Motion Carried.

OTHER COMMENTS

1. None

With no other business, Councilperson Wiederrick moved to adjourn, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:13pm.

Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer