

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

MALTA CITY COUNCIL MALTA CITY HALL

April 26, 2022

Officials present:

Mayor John Demarais

Councilpersons Ward I: David Rummel

William Hicks

Councilpersons Ward II: James Sintler

Clerk/Treasurer: Lorie Bond

Public Works Director: James Truelove

Others attended: Janet Berg, Delsi Witmer, Finn Witmer, Eric Witmer, Park & Recreation Director Sally Wright, Assistant Park & Recreation Director Kristina Benner and Mark Foss from PCN.

Mayor Demarais opened the meeting at 5:00pm.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1. None

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

Councilperson Rummel 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 27612 to 27631 2nd by Councilperson Hicks. Motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS, COMMITTEES & MEETINGS ATTENDED

1. PWD Truelove reported that he had met with Park & Rec and it was decided to have the existing basketball backboards at Trafton Park sandblasted and power coated instead of purchasing new ones. PWD stated that this option was a fraction of the cost of purchasing new backboards. PWD Truelove reported that the poles had already been primed and painted.
2. PWD Truelove reported that the city crew would start prepping the pool for paint next week and he hoped to have the pool open to the public on June 6, 2022.
3. PWD Truelove reported he had met with Judge Stahl about how to approach the messy yards in the City. PWD Truelove informed Council that he would compile a list, the Clerk's Office would send out letters giving the individuals ten days to clean up their yards. If the yards were not cleaned up by the deadline, a citation would be issued and Judge Stahl would set the fine.
4. PWD Truelove reported that there had been a dig yesterday and there would be another one tomorrow to replace failing curb stops.
5. PWD Truelove reported that the sweeper had been out and the city crew has been busy filling pot holes around town.
6. PWD Truelove reported that the wastewater lagoon was up and running for the summer season.
7. PWD Truelove reported that there was a need for a tilt trailer to transport the skid steer to work sites. PWD Truelove informed Council that a new trailer would cost between \$12,000 - \$15,000 depending on the length of the trailer (20' or 22'). After much

- discussion about the need, cost and uses of the needed trailer, Council agreed that a trailer should be purchased.
8. PWD Truelove reported DEQ had inspected the wastewater lagoon two weeks ago and he had a few corrections to make.
 9. Councilperson Hicks asked PWD Truelove about the gophers in the city parks. PWD Truelove stated that it was an ongoing battle and the city crewmembers were trying to decrease the population.
 10. Councilperson Hicks suggested installing a higher fence on the east side of the landfill to catch the blowing litter. This was followed by discussion of how to handle the blowing debris from the landfill.
 11. PWD Truelove reported that he had city crew members picking up litter around the fence line at the landfill. PWD Truelove stated that the landfill operator needed to be more proactive when covering the trash dumped in the landfill to decrease the amount of trash blown about by the wind.
 12. Clerk Bond presented Council the current check register and the current shut off list.
 13. Clerk Bond informed Council that the Montana League of Cities & Towns Conference would be taking place October 5 – 7, 2022 in Kalispell. Clerk Bond reported that round trip train tickets to Whitefish if purchased by 05-31-2022 would cost \$100.00 each. Clerk Bond stated if an employee drove to the conference the mileage reimbursement would be \$409.50. Clerk Bond reported that in past years the Mayor, Public Works Director, Clerk and Deputy Clerk attended the conference. Clerk Bond stated that train travel would be the most economical option. After much discussion about the conference, Councilperson Rummel moved to the purchase train tickets, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Rummel Aye, Sintler Aye, Hicks Aye. Motion Carried.
 14. Clerk Bond reported that the laptop used during the water meter readings had crashed and water usages had to be estimated. Clerk Bond presented Council with a \$4,811.70 quote from Northwest Pipe to update the Neptune reading system to a cloud based system and a \$1,500 quote from Black Mountain Software to create a file that would interface with the cloud based meter reading software. Clerk Bond reported that last fall after multiple computer failures causing the need to reinstall the Neptune program she had received a quote from Northwest Pipe for \$10,443.24 to upgrade to the cloud and at that price she did not pursue upgrading the system however the new quote is much lower. Clerk Bond stated that moving to the cloud based system would improve the meter reading process. After much discussion, Councilperson Rummel moved to upgrade the meter reading system, 2nd by Councilperson Hicks. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilperson Rummel Aye, Hicks Aye, Sintler Aye. Motion Carried.
 15. Clerk Bond informed Council that she had submitted the BaRSA Fund request (new gas tax) and the funds should be deposited sometime next week.
 16. Clerk Bond presented Council with the Municipal Summit schedule and asked Council to let her know which one they wanted to attend and she would sign them up.
 17. Clerk Bond asked Council's permission to close the City Clerk's office from 11:00am to 12:00pm on April 27th so she could take Deputy Clerk Barrett and Utility Clerk Knudsen to the PEO Luncheon for Administration Assistant Day. Council okayed the closure.
 18. PRD Wright updated council on their past, present and future activities
 19. Mayor Demarais asked Council if they were comfortable with the rental rate for the Event Center. After some discussion Council agreed to leave the rental rate as is.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Mayor Demarais called on Delsi Witmer. Ms. Witmer informed Council that back east in Pennsylvania, Hometown Hero Banners were a big thing and it was amazing to see all of the banners. Mr. Witmer reported that the banners would have to be sponsored and a photo of the hometown hero in uniform and military service information would need to be provided and the banners would cost \$150 - \$180 depending on the quantity ordered. This was followed by much discussion about the banners and sponsorship of the banners. Eric Witmer informed Council that they were here to ask Council if it would be okay to hang the banners on the city streets. Councilperson Hicks moved to allow the Witmers to hang the Hometown Hero Banners in Malta, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilperson Hicks Aye, Sintler Aye, Rummel Aye. Motion Carried. After more discussion, Councilperson Sintler moved that the City of Malta sponsor a banner for an individual whose family did not have the funds to sponsor a banner, 2nd by Councilperson Rummel. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Sintler Aye, Rummel Aye, Hicks Aye. Motion Carried.
2. Mayor Demarais presented Council with First State Bank’s Street Closure Application. First State Bank requested the closure of 1st Street East from Veterans Park to the Liquor Haven and South on 1st Avenue to the Closet from 8:00am to 2:00pm on June 4, 2022. Councilperson Hicks moved to approve the street closure, 2nd by Councilperson Rummel. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilperson Hicks Aye, Rummel Aye, Sintler Aye. Motion Carried.
3. Mayor Demarais presented Council with the VFW’s Street Closure Application. The VFW requested the closure of 1st Street in front of Veteran’s Memorial Park from 10:00am – 4:00pm on May 30, 2022. Councilperson Sintler moved to approve the street closure, 2nd by Councilperson Hicks. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Sintler Aye, Hicks Aye, Rummel Aye. Motion Carried.

OTHER COMMENTS

1. Councilperson Rummel asked Clerk Bond about the Sprinkler and Sidewalk Loan Programs. Clerk Bond stated that an application has to be submitted and approved by Council and the loans are for seven years at seven percent and the payments are assessed on their taxes.

With no other business, Councilperson Sintler moved to adjourn, 2nd by Councilperson Hicks. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:03pm.

Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer