

## MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

## MALTA CITY COUNCIL MALTA CITY HALL

June 1, 2020

Officials present:

Mayor John Demarais

Councilpersons Ward I: David Rummel

William Hicks

Councilpersons Ward II: Bonnie Wiederrick

Clerk/Treasurer: Lorie Bond

Public Works Director: James Truelove

Others present: Jenifer Anderson, Kari Hould, Denvry Tuss, Dara Wilke, Grant Messerly, Shaye Garfield, Lawrence Garfield, Shilo Messerly, Dodee Oxarart, Eric Wilke, Linda Brown, Julie Moore, Janice Reichelt and Pierre Bibbs from the Phillips County News.

Mayor Demarais opened the meeting at 5:00pm.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

1. None

### NEW BUSINESS

1. Mayor Demarais informed all in attendance that it would take at least a month to complete all the work on the swimming pool bathhouse. Mayor Demarais stated that the pool house project was delayed because changes had to be made to the original plans to meet all of the ADA guidelines. Mayor Demarais reported that \$16,829.24 of the \$40,000.00 donated by the Hiline Future Foundation had been spent so far. Next, Mayor Demarais opened the floor for public comment.

Jenifer Anderson asked if the City had invoices for all the expenditures of Hiline Future donated funds. Clerk Bond stated, yes. Ms. Anderson stated that the original bid for the renovation of the bathhouse was for \$40,000.00 and wanted to know if the City had a better idea of what the project would cost now. Ms. Anderson asked if COVID had effected the project. Mayor Demarais stated that Zane Doney was off the project for two weeks and during that time the plumbers would not work on the project.

Dara Wilke stated that she would like to see the pool open and 15 – 16 kids had signed up for swim team this year. Ms. Wilke reported that the Malta swim meet had been cancelled. Ms. Wilke asked if the pool was not opened for the summer when would the renovations be completed. Mayor Demarais asked why the swim team numbers were down. Lawrence Garfield informed everyone that the pool had been going downhill for years and that was the reason. There was a divisional meet here years ago and the water was a mess. No one wants to come to our pool. Mr. Garfield stated that once there was a mayor that backed the pool, not now. Mayor Demarais stated that the pool was built in the 50's and we are doing the best that we can. Mr. Garfield stated that the water is getting worse and worse. He remembered when there were 75 kids in swim team. It's the water that keeps the kids off the team. Sometime down the road the City will have to build a new pool and if you build it they will come.

Shilo Messerly listed the opening dates for other city pools in the area. Mayor Demarais stated that the bathhouse project had slowed everything down. Ms. Messerly asked if the pool could be opened without the bathhouse. Mayor Demarais answered, no.

Ms. Anderson stated that at the 2015 meeting the Hiline Future Foundation was told that \$325,000 had been set aside for a new pool. Clerk Bond stated that the funds may have been budgeted towards a new pool that fiscal year but, budgeted to something else the next year. Councilperson Wiederrick stated that the city has always lost money on the pool and any business needs to break even. Maybe we need a year to heal and be fiscally responsible. Ms. Anderson stated we need the pool, kids like the pool. Councilperson Wiederrick reported the City is behind schedule and would still need to hire lifeguards and it would be expensive to open the pool for such a short time. Mayor Demarais stated if we don't open the pool maybe the money saved could be put towards additional improvements to the pool. Ms. Anderson asked if the money would be there. Linda Brown asked why the pool would only have to be open for one month if it was opened. High school kids could work as lifeguards longer. The City always closes the pool in August and that leaves the high school lifeguards with no job. The pool could be open in the evenings after school starts. Mr. Garfield asked if the pool remained closed this year would the City start another project that would keep the pool from opening next year. Mayor Demarais stated that he hoped it would be open and wouldn't start a project that would leave us in the same position. Ms. Anderson stated that the Hiline Future Foundation will need an official detailed plan of what will be done and when before they will donate any more money to the pool.

PWD Truelove reported that he would need the month of June to complete the bathhouse. PWD Truelove stated that the project needed an ADA certified plumber on the project and the plans need to be approved by the state.

Councilperson Hicks asked if the pool was opened the City would have to follow the COVID-19 guidelines set by the Governor and he asked if the City would have the workforce to meet the guidelines. This was followed by much discussion about the COVID restrictions and work that still needed to be completed on the pool so it could be opened to the public. Ms. Anderson from the Hiline Future Foundation again stated that she wanted an official detailed plan of updates that would be made to the pool.

Finally, Councilperson Rummel moved to open the pool as soon as we can, hopefully by July 1<sup>st</sup> and to keep it open as long as we can, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Hicks. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilperson Rummel Aye, Hicks Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Sintler Aye. Motion Carried.

With no other business, Councilperson Rummel moved to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Sintler. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:20pm.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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Clerk/Treasurer