

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

MALTA CITY COUNCIL MALTA CITY HALL

July 13, 2021

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: 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 MAYOR

1. Mayor Demarais reported that he had attended the grand opening of the new National Guard Readiness Center and there were a lot of people in attendance.

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

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

Councilpersons Wiederrick and Sintler presented claim warrants.

Councilperson Rummel moved to approve claim checks 27043 to 27095, 2nd by Councilperson Hicks. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilperson Sintler moved to approve June 2021 payroll, 2nd by Councilperson Wiederrick. Motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS, COMMITTEES & MEETINGS ATTENDED

1. PWD Truelove reported that the removable steps had been installed in the swimming pool and he had received nothing but positive comments about them.
2. PWD Truelove presented Council with the pool revenue report.
3. PWD Truelove reported that he had received a call from a local veterinarian's office this afternoon. Someone had brought in a cat that had been hit by a car in town and she stated that there had always been a standing agreement that the city would pay to euthanize (if needed) animals that were hit by cars within the city limits. Clerk Bond stated to the best of her knowledge the only time the city pays for an animal to be euthanized is when the city bring the animal to the veterinarian's office when ordered by the Judge to do so. No one present knew of such agreement and agreed that it was not the city's responsibility.
4. PWD Truelove reported that speed monitoring sign had been out on the west side of town.
5. PWD Truelove reported that the bus had been removed from the impound lot and was now located on private property and he had impounded another vehicle today.
6. PWD Truelove reported that the sweeper had completed sweeping the town and he would send it back out as needed.
7. Clerk Bond presented Council with the June financials, the current check register, the current shut off list, the June payroll overtime, vacation, sick leave reports.

8. Clerk Bond reported that she had sent out eighteen lien letters for delinquent accounts totaling \$19,405.40.
9. Clerk Bond asked Council if it was okay to take down the fish tank (COVID Plexiglas shields in the office decorated with tropical fish to look like a fish tank). Council agreed that it could be taken down.
10. Clerk Bond presented Council with a copy of the email exchanges she had with the insurance adjuster from MMIA about the reconstruction of the Trafton Park Bathroom. Clerk Bond reported that the damage to the bathroom happened on May 4, 2020 and the City had 18 months to complete the rebuild from that date. Clerk Bond stated that the insurance adjuster informed her that they would only pay \$11,652 towards the rebuild because the building was demolished before the MMIA gave the go ahead to demolish it. The insurance adjuster did not care about the building being a hazard. After much discussion PWD Truelove stated that he would contact MMIA and bring a firm quote of how much it would cost to reconstruct the bathroom to the next meeting.
11. Clerk Bond reported that the Montana League of Cities & Town (MLCT) were having a photo contest and ask Council to let her know if they had any suggestions.
12. Clerk Bond presented Council with a copy of the MLCT Municipal Summit schedule. The nearest Summit would take place in Glasgow on August 23rd. Clerk Bond asked Council to let her know if they planned to attend so she could sign them up.
13. Clerk Bond reported that the Chamber of Commerce had turned in a Street Closure Application for Crazy Days/Spring Festival on July 1st. It was too late to place it on the City Council Agenda so Mayor Demarais and Council President Wiederrick had approved it. Mayor Demarais informed Council that he had informed the Chamber that this was a onetime thing and in the future they would have to follow protocol.
14. Clerk Bond reported that there had been some clash between traveling basketball teams using the gym not wanting to share the gym with membership holders. Clerk Bond asked Council if they wanted to set a policy concerning traveling teams using the gym. Her thought was they should go half court and share. After some discussion it was decided that the P&R Department would work with the Clerk/Treasurer's Office to come up with a policy and present it at the next Council Meeting.
15. Clerk Bond reported that she had been contacted by KMMR and asked if the City would want to sponsor County Fair Ads which would cost the City \$69.00. Councilperson Rummel moved to sponsor radio ads about the fair on KMMR, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilperson Rummel Aye, Sintler Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Hicks Aye. Motion Carried.
16. Mayor Demarais reported that there was still an ongoing feud between the two land owners down the street. Mayor Demarais stated that he had informed them that it was a civil matter and the City would not get into the middle of it.
17. PRD Wright updated council on their past, present and future activities.
18. Councilperson Wiederrick asked PWD Truelove if they had sprayed the weeds on the city owned lots by the Nat'l Guard Readiness Center. PWD Truelove stated that he would spray the area's weeds. Mayor Demarais asked PWD Truelove to mow the area also.
19. Mayor Demarais stated that the City had not been contacted about the school using the City Pool for gym classes yet but he wanted to be proactive and ask Council if they were okay with it. Council agreed that the school should be able to use the pool.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. None

NEW BUSINESS

1. None

OTHER COMMENTS

1. Mayor Demarais asked Clerk Bond to place the old Nat'l Guard Armory on the agenda in the department and committees section. Mayor Demarais stated that he was still looking for ARPA funds to help pay for the building. Clerk Bond reported that the City had the money to pay for the building but it would lower the cash on hand below her comfort zone. Clerk Bond suggested the possibility of cashing in a one of the City's CD that were getting .20% interest to pay for the building and set up a plan for the City to repay itself until a new CD could be purchased.
2. Mayor Demarais reported that he had contacted the Phillips County Ambulance Service about moving out to the old armory site. Councilperson Hicks stated that he was in favor of keeping it in its current central location. Mayor Demarais stated that Malta Volunteer Fire Department could use the additional space in their building that is occupied by the Ambulance Service to park their wildland fire trucks.
3. Mayor Demarais reported that the parking lot at the old armory needs to be crack sealed and eventually have a seal coat applied. This would cost the City about \$11,000.
4. Mayor Demarais reported that Food Bank has inquired about moving into the old armory building. PWD Truelove stated that appliances needed to be put back into the kitchen because they were removed when the asbestos flooring was removed and replaced. PWD Truelove stated that the refrigerator needed a new thermostat and the freezer needed a new compressor and he would be getting an estimate on how much it would cost to have additional GFI plugins installed in the building.
5. PWD Truelove reported that he had called Central Montana Lock & Safe to have the locks changed and get an estimate on a security system.
6. Mayor Demarais informed Council that he would be attending the Rural Water Convention in Milwaukee the week of September 13th.
7. PWD Truelove asked Council if he could attend a water/wastewater training in Great Falls on July 20th. Councilperson Sintler moved to allow PWD Truelove to attend the training, 2nd to Councilperson Hicks. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilperson Sintler Aye, Hicks Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Rummel Aye. Motion Carried.
8. Councilperson Rummel reported that he had been contacted about knapweed growing on the City owned property east of the landfill. He had inspected with the county weed specialist and was told that it was too dry to spray it at this time. Mayor Demarais asked if he thought the City should shut down grazing on the property. Clerk Bond stated that at one point it was mentioned not to lease out any of the properties next year giving them all a chance to regenerate and give the City time to tackle the knapweed problem. After much discussion no decision was made.

With no other business, Councilperson Wiederrick moved to adjourn, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:02pm.

Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer