

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

MALTA CITY COUNCIL

MALTA CITY HALL

July 25, 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: Ted Sintler, Dennis Fitzgerald and Kari Hould from PCN

Mayor Demarais opened the meeting at 5:00pm.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

1. None

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

Councilperson Hicks 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 28491 to 28510 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS, COMMITTEES & MEETINGS ATTENDED

1. PWD Truelove reported that the City Crew had finished a dig on 7th Avenue West and there would be another dig on the east side of Veteran's Park to repair a the service line to sprinkler system.
2. PWD Truelove reported Legg Well House is back up and running.
3. PWD Truelove reported that unit 45 the 2012 Freightliner Garbage Truck needs a new pack assembly and unit 64 the 2020 Freightliner Garbage Truck has a hydraulic block seam leak that he is trying to figure out how to temporarily repair it because the replacement part is ten months out. He's trying to keep the truck on the road and he realizes that it is leaking large amounts of hydraulic fluid.
4. PWD Truelove informed Council that he had received an estimate of what it would cost to survey the lots south of Trafton Park. Matthew Morris from Morris Land Surveys put in a cost estimate of \$5,354.00. Councilperson Hicks moved to have Morris Land Surveys survey the lots south of Trafton Park, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Hicks Aye, Sintler Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Rummel Aye. Motion Carried. PWD Truelove stated that the earliest Mr. Morris would be able to survey the lots would be August 10th.
5. PWD Truelove reported that he and Councilperson Wiederrick had look at stoves at Art's Furniture to replace the old stoves at the Event Center and they had purchased two 36" dual fuel stoves. Councilperson Wiederrick stated that the stoves cost \$4,400.
6. PWD Truelove reported that the mosquito spray truck had not been out because of extreme high temperatures. Mayor Demarais stated that when it is over eighty degrees the mosquito spray is not effective.
7. PWD Truelove reported that 116 kids had been at the pool yesterday.
8. Clerk Bond presented Council with the current check register and the current shut off list.
9. Clerk Bond presented an email from Matt Mudd from Great West Engineering. The email stated that the City of Malta's combined water & sewer rates equaled \$79.50 and the combined rate needs to be at least \$84.70 to qualify for a MCEP Grant. So the City is \$5.20 short of the target rate and may want to consider a rate increase.

10. Clerk Bond reported that she had a copy of the newly codified city codes for each Councilperson and Mayor Demarais and they could get them after the meeting. Clerk Bond asked them to read through the codes and make note of what they would like to amend after the code is adopted.
11. Clerk Bond present Council with the last years Phillips County law enforcement budget.
12. Clerk Bond reported that as of July 1, 2024 third class cities would be required to record and post the audio recordings of their Council Meetings on their website.
13. Clerk Bond presented Council with a detailed pool report compiled by Deputy Clerk Barrett.
14. Clerk Bond reported the 4-H Clubs asked if they could use the Event Center again this year for their pre-fair judging and asked if Council would waive the fees. Clerk Bond stated that the judging would take place on July 31st this year. After some discussion Council agreed that 4-H could use the Event Center again this year and the fees would be waived.
15. Clerk Bond reported that the new cameras had been installed in the gymnasium and the weight room and the ones in the hallway would be installed later in the week.
16. Clerk Bond read a letter to Council from Kari Hould asking Council if they could do something special to honor Myrtle Hould's one hundredth birthday. After some discussion it was decided to have Clerk Bond compose a proclamation making August 14th Myrtle Hould day in honor of her 100th birthday and place it on the August 8, 2023 Agenda.
17. PWD Truelove reported the he was still waiting on the final punch list for the Trafton Park Lift Station Project.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Mayor Demarais presented Council with Resolution 1333 – 2023/2024 wages for employees & elected officials. Clerk Bond reported that Mayor Demarais decided to give a \$1.00/hour wage increase for all employees hired with in the last six months and a \$2.00/hour increase for all of the remaining employees. Mayor Demarais also, gave himself, each Councilperson and Judge Stahl a \$100.00/month salary increase. Councilperson Wiederrick moved to adopt Resolution 1333, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Wiederrick Aye, Sintler Aye, Councilperson Rummel Aye, Hicks Aye. Motion Carried.
2. Mayor Demarais presented Council Resolution 1334 – A Resolution calling for a general election. Councilperson Rummel moved to adopt Resolution 1334, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Rummel Aye, Sintler Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Hicks Aye. Motion Carried.
3. Mayor Demarais presented Council with Ross R. Stalcup, CRP, PC's audit contract for 2021-2022 for \$27,000, 2022-2023 for \$32,000 and 2023-2024 for \$28,500. Clerk Bond reported that a single line audit was required for 2022-2023 because the City had received more than \$750,000 in federal fund. Councilperson Hicks moved to approve the contract, 2nd by Councilperson Wiederrick. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Hicks Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Rummel Aye, Sintler Aye. Motion Carried.

OTHER COMMENTS

1. Mr. Dennis Fitzgerald introduced himself to Council stating that he was a case worker for Youth Dynamics in Malta and is now in charge of the Malta and Glasgow Programs.
2. Councilperson Rummel reported that Mayor Demarais had talked with Governor Greg Gianforte during his town meeting at Trafton Park. Mayor Demarais asked if the state had any programs to help municipalities build new pools. Governor Gianforte said it may be possible that the infrastructure funding could be increased on a state level.
3. Councilperson Sintler asked Councilperson Wiederrick if there was any movement on the Hi-Line Retirement sale. Councilperson Wiederrick stated that there was a delay because the building's roof needed \$200,000 worth of repairs.

With no other business, Councilperson Wiederrick moved to adjourn, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:38pm.

Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer