

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

MALTA CITY COUNCIL MALTA CITY HALL

July 26, 2022

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 attended: Janet Berg, Bonny & Doug Ost, Rheiland Tharp, James Knudsen and Kari Hould from PCN.

Mayor Demarais opened the meeting at 5:00pm.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

1. None

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

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

Councilpersons Rummel and Hicks presented claim warrants.

Councilperson Wiederrick moved to approve claim checks 27802 to 27825 2nd by Councilperson Rummel. Motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS, COMMITTEES & MEETINGS ATTENDED

1. PWD Truelove reported that there had been two digs since the last meeting, one on 4th Street East and another on 1st Avenue West.
2. PWD Truelove reported that there had been issues at the Ezzie's Lift Station. One of the pumps had a mop head wrapped around its impeller and is now back on line and the other pump is not operational at this time and he is currently looking into how much it would cost to replace the pumps.
3. PWD Truelove reported that he had a dog call last week. A woman had been flown out to Billings from the Phillips County Hospital and her dogs were left in her car. Not knowing when she would return he removed the dogs from the car and kenneled them at the City Shop. The woman picked up the dogs later in the week and everything went well.
4. PWD Truelove reported that the tennis court had been crack sealed and rolled.
5. PWD Truelove reported that the insurance claim on the Trafton Park Restroom was still open and he hoped to have it rebuilt in the next two months.
6. Clerk Bond presented Council with the current check register and the current shut off list.
7. Clerk Bond reported that Cary Woodruff from the Frost Science Museum in Miami Florida had inquired about having an excavation crew stay in Trafton Park for a month. Clerk Bond stated that they would pay the five dollar a day camping fee for the duration of their stay and he had been advised that it would be best if they camped on the east side of the park by the Boy Scout House because of all the activities that were taking place in the park in August. Clerk Bond reported that he had inquired about electricity and Boy Scout Troop 1429 Secretary/Treasurer Glenda Knudsen mentioned the possibility of them using electricity from the Boy Scout House. Clerk Bond asked Council if they were okay with the extended stay at Trafton Park and the crew using the electricity from the Boy Scout House. After some discussion, Council had no issue with the crew staying in Trafton Park and they would be billed for the additional electricity used.

8. Clerk Bond reported that 4-H had used the City Hall Gym last year for some of their pre-fair judging and Council had waived the user fees. This year they would like to use the Event Center and Clerk Bond asked Council if they would waive the user fees again this year. After some discussion, Council agreed to waive the fees.
9. Clerk Bond reported that she had been contacted by Jim Brandley from MMIA about Malta hosting a Child Abuse Prevention Program Seminar. Clerk Bond asked Council if they were okay with hosting the seminar at the Event Center. Council agreed that the Event Center would be a great place to host the seminar.
10. Clerk Bond asked Council's permission for Mayor Demarais, PWD Truelove, Deputy Clerk Barrett and herself to attend the Montana League of Cities and Towns Conference in Kalispell October 4th – 7th. Councilperson Rummel moved to allow them to attend the conference, 2nd by Councilperson Wiederrick. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilperson Rummel Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Hicks Aye. Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Mayor Demarais opened the 5:15pm zoom meeting with Alexis Riggs from RKF Properties. Ms. Riggs gave Council an update of Family Dollar's plans for the old Promise's property south of the City of Malta. Ms. Riggs informed Council that they were only buying one acre on the north side of the property and were planning on connecting a one inch water line and a four to six inch sewer line to city water and sewer. Mayor Demarais informed her that the current property owner would have to sign a waiver of annexation before any utility hook ups could be made. Doug Ost informed Council that the complete parcel contained three and a half acres and he was still working on some construction items. The Highway 191 expansion project had slowed everything down and DEQ approval had taken longer than expected. There had been one delay after another. Mr. Ost stated that a Family Dollar would be a good addition to the community. Mayor Demarais thanked Alexis Riggs and Bonny & Doug Ost for the update and for attending the meeting.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS, COMMITTEES & MEETINGS ATTENDED

11. Councilperson Wiederrick asked Mayor Demarais when the new DES Coordinator was moving into the office at the Event Center because she would like to paint the office first. Since no one had moved into the office yet Councilperson Wiederrick stated that she would paint the office later in the week.
12. Mayor Demarais informed Council that a Trafton Lift Station pre-construction meeting would be taking place tomorrow.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. None.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Mayor Demarais presented Council with Resolution 1316 – A Resolution of intent to declare personal property owned by the city to be surplus property and to authorize the disposal of the property. Councilperson Hicks moved to adopt Resolution 1316, 2nd by Councilperson Rummel. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Hicks Aye, Rummel Aye, Wiederrick Aye. Motion Carried.
3. Mayor Demarais presented Council with Resolution 1317 – 2022/23 wages for employees and elected officials. Mayor Demarais reported that the resolution did not include a raise for elected officials and employees received at least a fifty cent an hour increase. Councilperson Wiederrick moved to adopt Resolution 1317, 2nd by Councilperson Rummel. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Wiederrick Aye, Rummel Aye, Hicks Aye. Motion Carried.
4. Mayor Demarais presented Council with the agreement between owner (City of Malta) and contractor (Lakeside Excavation, Inc.), construction contract for the Trafton Lift Station. Councilperson Rummel moved to have Mayor Demarais sign the agreement, 2nd by Councilperson Wiederrick. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Rummel Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Hick Aye. Motion Carried.

5. Mayor Demarais present Council with the Dorsey & Whitney Engagement Letter for the Trafton Sewer System Revenue Bond for the stated fee of \$12,000. Councilperson Hicks moved to have Mayor Demarais sign the engagement letter, 2nd by Councilperson Rummel. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Hicks Aye, Rummel Aye, Wiederrick Aye. Motion Carried.
6. Mayor Demarais presented Council with his plans for hiring a Compliance Officer. Mayor Demarais stated he wanted to hire a Compliance Officer that would work ten hours a week at \$15.00/hour. Mayor Demarais stated that he did not want to continue doing the duties because it was time consuming and tedious but he would continue completing the duties until a Compliance Officer was hired. Clerk Bond reported that a job description would have to be adopted before anyone could be hired. Mayor Demarais stated that he would have it completed by the next Council Meeting. Mayor Demarais informed Council that he had sent out three more junk vehicle letters. Councilperson Wiederrick asked if any of the violations had been resolved. Mayor Demarais stated that a couple of them had been resolved. This was followed by much discussion, about junk vehicles and what would happen if a ticket was issued and the person still failed to comply. Councilperson Wiederrick moved to proceed in hiring a Compliance Officer, 2nd by Councilperson Hicks. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilperson Wiederrick Aye, Hicks Aye, Rummel Nay. Motion Carried.

OTHER COMMENTS

1. Councilperson Wiederrick asked Clerk Bond about the status of the Community Decay Ordinance. Clerk Bond reported that the City Attorney Pekovitch had reviewed the Ordinance and everything looked good except for a few typos. Clerk Bond stated that she will advertise the public hearing August 7th & 17th and the first reading would take place at the August 23rd meeting and the second reading would take place at the September 13th meeting and it would take effect thirty days later.
2. Rheiland Tharp from the Phillips County EMS reported that the PC EMS was looking into the possibility of adding a loft in the Ambulance Barn. Mayor Demarais stated that he would have to get the approval of State Building Inspector Yancey Beston before proceeding with the project.

With no other business, Councilperson Wiederrick moved to adjourn, 2nd by Councilperson Rummel. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:09pm.

Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer