

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

MALTA CITY COUNCIL

MALTA CITY HALL

August 8, 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: Dennis Fitzgerald from Youth Dynamics, Willard Abrahamson, JR Abrahamson, Compliance Officer John Wright III, Shane Carnahan from PCMS, Rheiland Tharp from KMMR and Kari Hould from PCN

Mayor Demarais opened the meeting at 5:00pm.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

1. None

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

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

Councilpersons Wiederrick and Sintler presented claims.

Councilperson Rummel moved to approve claim checks 28511 to 28553 2nd by Councilperson Hicks. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilperson Wiederrick moved to approve July 2023 payroll, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS, COMMITTEES & MEETINGS ATTENDED

1. PWD Truelove reported that the sewer line replacement on 3rd Avenue was completed and the section of 3rd Avenue between 4th & 5th Street was being paved today. PWD Truelove reported because of the condition of the asphalt that section of 3rd Avenue had to be repaved curb to curb.
2. PWD Truelove reported that the City was still using the Wolf Point garbage truck and the paddle assembly had arrived for unit 45, the 2012 Freightliner garbage truck, and the lower bearing should be delivered tomorrow. He hoped to have unit 45 up and running by Thursday.
3. PWD Truelove stated that he couldn't thank Wolf Point's PWD Ward Smith enough for letting the City of Malta use their garbage truck and Council needs to send a thank you to Wolf Point. Mayor Demarais agreed because once he asked about the City of Malta borrowing a garbage truck PWD Smith had one ready to loan out in three hours.
4. PWD Truelove reported that the sweeper was out of service because it had lost its back wheel last week, the parts have arrived and it would be back sweeping this week.
5. PWD Truelove reported that the new stoves had arrived for the Event Center.
6. PWD Truelove reported that he had two digs planned, a service line repair and one to repair the service line to the Veteran's Park sprinkler system.
7. Councilperson Hicks asked if there were any issues with the sprinklers in the city parks. PWD Truelove replied that Riverview Park had issues and hopefully they were fixed.
8. Councilperson Sintler informed PWD Truelove that the lawn at the Women's Club House was looking rough. PWD Truelove stated that he was not aware of anything and he would look into it.
9. Clerk Bond presented Council with the July financials, the current check register, current shut off list and the payroll vacation, sick leave & overtime report.

10. Clerk Bond asked Council what day would work best for them to have a budget work meeting. After some discussion it was decided to have the work meeting at noon on Tuesday August 15th.
11. Compliance Office Wright reported that he had sent out 24 letters in June and all were in compliance except for two and he was waiting on advice from City Attorney Pekovitch before proceeding.
12. Compliance Officer Wright reported that he had sent out 14 letters in July and two were still out of compliance.
13. PWD Truelove reported that the Montana National Guard had started moving into the Event Center on Monday August 7, 2023 and they would be staying through August 17, 2023.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Mayor Demarais called on Mr. Willard Abrahamson. Mr. Abrahamson stated that he had received a letter about all of the vehicles parked on his property. He stated that they were not junk vehicles because with a little work they were all drivable and the City Ordinance does not take into consideration vehicles that have permanent plates.
Mr. Abrahamson informed Council that his street was not being addressed by the City. He plows his own street during the winter and extra sanding is needed at the Dairy Queen intersection during the winter. Motorhomes are getting stuck in the large holes in the alley south of Al's Mini storage and he has had to pull them out. PWD Truelove stated that he would look into the condition of the alley and have some gravel added if needed. Mr. Abrahamson stated that there not a street sign on his street. Mayor Demarais stated that he was not aware of this because it was never reported and he would have PWD Truelove order a new street sign.
Mr. Abrahamson stated that as for the junk vehicles he could not afford land out of town in which to store the vehicles. Compliance Officer Wright brought up the tall grass and weeds around the junk vehicles. Mayor Demarais informed Mr. Abrahamson that Council had passed the Decay Ordinance and it was being enforced. JR Abrahamson stated that they had 20-25 running vehicles which was a lot of vehicles and a lot of them are classic vehicles. Councilperson Wiederrick stated that if the vehicles had flat tires and dead batteries they were not running vehicles. Mr. Abrahamson stated that he keeps his vehicles off the street so he can plow during the winter. Mayor Demarais stated that Compliance Officer Wright was enforcing City Ordinances and would continue to enforce them. Mayor Demarais read item five from the first page of Ordinance 456. "Junk Vehicle" means any motor vehicle, including components parts that is not lawfully and validly licensed and remains inoperative and incapable of being driven. This includes motor vehicles with permanent registration the otherwise meet the criteria. Mr. Abrahamson stated that many people are upset about the Decay Ordinance. Mayor Demarais stated that a lot of people are happy because they want to see the community cleaned up.
Mr. Abrahamson brought up a dispute he had with his aunt years ago about his boundary line which in his opinion the city attorney never follow through on.
Mr. Abrahamson stated that now he has to spend money buying tires and batteries to get the vehicles running.
JR Abrahamson asked if the City could install new reflective truck route signs because the current signs are really old. Mayor Demarais stated that he would have new signs purchased and installed.
JR Abrahamson stated that he had observed cars parked too close to the corners making it difficult for semi-trucks to negotiate the corners. Mayor Demarais stated that he would see if the Sheriff could increase enforcement.
When asked for contact phone numbers JR Abrahamson listed out multiple phone numbers to use if the City needed to contact himself or his father.
Mayor Demarais thanked the Abrahamson's for attending the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Mayor Demarais called on Shane Carnahan from Phillips County Motor Sports. Mr. Carnahan asked Council if PCMS could use the City Hall Gymnasium for their annual banquet. Mr. Carnahan stated that he didn't know why he had to ask Council because they have the banquet every year. Clerk Bond stated that it is a requirement for parties wishing to lease the city hall gymnasium for events that require the tarp to be put down on the gymnasium floor. They are required to be placed on the City Council Agenda and present a plan for council's approval of why they need to use the City Hall gymnasium vs the Malta Event Center. Mr. Carnahan stated that the PCMS would be having the FFA setup and clean up after the banquet again. Mr. Carnahan reported that the set up in the gymnasium works best for the PCMS being able to set things up on the stage so everyone can see whereas everything in the Event Center is one level. Mr. Carnahan informed Council that as a person that is bringing revenue into the City of Malta, the banquet would bring revenue into downtown Malta because the attendees would go to the downtown businesses after the banquet and spend money and if it was held at the Event Center they would go back to their trailers at the race track. After some discussion Councilperson Rummel moved to allow PCMS to use the City Hall gymnasium for their banquet on September 16, 2023, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Rummel Aye, Sintler Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Hicks Aye. Motion Carried.
2. Mayor Demarais presented Council with the Proclamation – Declaring August 14, 2023 Myrtle Hould Day in honor of her 100th Birthday. Councilperson Hicks moved to approve the proclamation, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Hicks Aye, Sintler Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Rummel Aye. Motion Carried.

OTHER COMMENTS

1. Councilperson Rummel welcomed Mr. Tharp from KMMR to the meeting. This was followed by much discussion about him purchasing the radio station in the future.

With no other business, Councilperson Wiederrick moved to adjourn, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:43pm.

Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer