

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

MALTA CITY COUNCIL

MALTA CITY HALL

August 9, 2022

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: Patty Patterson & Justin McMillan from Montana Department of Transportation, Park & Rec Director Sally Wright, Assistant Park & Rec Director Kristina Benner 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 Sintler. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Councilpersons Wiederrick and Sintler presented claim warrants.

Councilperson Rummel moved to approve claim checks 27826 to 27860 2nd by Councilperson Hicks. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilperson Wiederrick moved to approve July 2022 payroll, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Motion carried unanimously

DEPARTMENT REPORTS, COMMITTEES & MEETINGS ATTENDED

1. PWD Truelove reported that the two campers that had taken up residency in Trafton Park had been evicted. After having to leave Trafton Park they had taken up residency on an empty lot in town. The land owner had them leave after the city presented him with a letter requesting their removal and a copy of the City Ordinance.
2. PWD Truelove reported that the pool had passed its yearly inspection.
3. PWD Truelove reported that the pool would be closing for the season on Saturday August 13th and the Pool Manager would be at the next meeting with the end of the season report.
4. PWD Truelove reported that Liquid Engineering had inspected the water tanks. The big (450,000 gallon) tank had a good report and the smaller (176,000 gallon) tank had a few comments.
5. PWD Truelove reported that he had not heard back from the insurance adjuster about the replacement of the damaged bathroom at Trafton Park.
6. Councilperson Hicks asked PWD Truelove to check the sprinklers at the St. Mary well house because parts of the lawn were brown. PWD Truelove stated that he would have them checked.
7. Clerk Bond presented Council with the July financials, current check register, current shut off list, July payroll overtime, vacation, sick leave reports.
8. Clerk Bond reported that Bear Paw Development had contacted her about placing them on the next agenda for a CDBG Community Needs Assessment.
9. Clerk Bond asked Council what day and time would work best for a budget work meeting. After much discussion, it was decided that 10:00am on Monday August 15th would work best.
10. PRD Wright updated council on their past, present and future activities.

11. Mayor Demarais informed Council that Councilperson Wiederrick had painted the office in the north east corner of the Event Center that the city had agreed to let the new DES Coordinator use because Phillips County did not have any office space for her.
12. Mayor Demarais reported that work had started on the Trafton Lift Station Project.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Mayor Demarais called on Patty Patterson and Justin McMillan, Right Away Agents from the Montana Department of Transportation. Mr. McMillan reported on the 9.5 mile Highway 191 project from South Alkali Creek to 9th Street in Malta. The new highway would have twelve foot driving lanes, six foot shoulders and a eight foot walking/bike trail on the west side of the highway and twelve foot turning lanes were needed. Mr. McMillan informed Council how much right away MDT would be obtaining from the Malta Event Center Parking Lot and the MBIDD Property. Ms. Patterson stated that the project had been in the works for +/- 15 years and they hoped to let the project out around November 1st. The project would start next spring and they hoped it would be completed in one season. Mayor Demarais thanked Ms. Patterson and Mr. McMillan for attending the meeting and for the update.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Mayor Demarais presented Council with a Street Closure Application from the Mint Bar to shut down Front Street in front of the Mint Bar from 7:00pm to 1:30am on Friday August 19th and Saturday August 20th for a street dance. Councilperson Wiederrick moved to approve the street closure request, 2nd by Councilperson Hicks. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilperson Wiederrick Aye, Hicks Aye, Rummel Aye, Sintler Aye. Motion Carried.
2. Mayor Demarais presented Council with a Street Closure Application from the Lucky Bullet to close 1st Avenue between Front Street and 2nd Street East in front of the Lucky Bullet for a street dance on September 24th. Councilperson Sintler moved to approve the street closure request, 2nd by Councilperson Rummel. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Sintler Aye, Rummel Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Hicks Aye. Motion Carried.
3. Mayor Demarais presented Council with Resolution 1318 – Compliance Officer Job Description. Councilperson Hicks requested that working with the City Judge when issuing citations be added to the job description. After some discussion, Councilperson Hick moved to table Resolution 1318 until the next meeting so the requested changes could be made, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilperson Hicks Aye, Sintler Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Rummel Aye. Motion Carried.

OTHER COMMENTS

1. Mayor Demarais presented Council with a letter from the Senior Citizen's Center about the condition of the sidewalk/alleyway between the Senior Center and the VFW. Mayor Demarais questioned Senior Center Secretary Kari Hould about sections of the letter quoting him for saying something he had no memory of ever saying. Mayor Demarais stated that it was not the City's responsibility to repair businesses sidewalks. This was followed by much discussion of what would cause the cement to heave.
2. Mayor Demarais asked Kari Hould from the Phillips County News were she got her information from stating that the city would be replacing the bathrooms in Trafton Park for \$100,000. Mayor Demarais admitted stating that the city would not be ordering a pre-fabricated concrete bathroom because the price had increased to \$100,000. He also asked her about the reported information about the storm water in Hillcrest. Ms. Hould stated that she had a hard time hearing the recording because of the air conditioner and she would forward him a copy of her minutes.

With no other business, Councilperson Wiederrick moved to adjourn, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:50pm.

Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer