

## MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

## MALTA CITY COUNCIL

### MALTA CITY HALL

August 23, 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: Anne Boothe, Gail Mavencamp, Lorna Schumacher, Melodee Kavanaugh, Kristina Benner, Cheryl Moore, Mark Knudsen, Sean Kavanaugh, Marilyn Taylor, Mariah Marino, Tom Darrington, 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Hicks. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Councilpersons Rummel and Hicks presented claim warrants.

Councilperson Wiederrick moved to approve claim checks 27861 to 27878 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Sintler. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Demarais closed the regular meeting and opened the public hearing at 5:04pm.

### PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Demarais stated the reason for the public hearing was to receive public comment on Ordinance 456 - An Ordinance Defining Community Decay in the City of Malta, Montana; Establishing Policies and Procedures for the Abatement of Public Nuisances; Disabled or junk vehicles or junk to be in view of the public from any public right of way; Providing Penalties for Violation Thereof. Mayor Demarais fielded multiple question about what qualifies as junk and what the penalties would be.

With no more questions or comments, Mayor Demarais closed the public hearing and opened the next public hearing at 5:11pm.

### PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Demarais stated the reason for the public hearing was to receive public comment on the annual street maintenance assessment. Clerk Bond stated that the 2022/2023 street maintenance tax assessment would be for \$118,432.37. Kristina Benner complained about the storm water issues on her property.

With no more questions or comments, Mayor Demarais closed the public hearing and opened the next public hearing at 5:15pm.

### PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Demarais stated the reason for the public hearing was to receive public comment on the annual street lighting assessment. Clerk Bond stated that the 2022/2023 street lighting tax assessment would be \$105,828.06. Mark Knudsen asked whom he should contact about a rotten light pole. Mayor Demarais stated he should contact Northwestern Energy.

With no more questions or comments Mayor Demarais closed the public hearing and opened the regular meeting at 5:19pm.

#### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS, COMMITTEES & MEETINGS ATTENDED**

1. PWD Truelove reported that the pumps at the Dobson Lift Station had tripped which was caused by a plug in the inlet line ten feet from the lift station. Multiple mop heads and miscellaneous debris were found in the sewer line and PWD Truelove had no proof from where they came from. Mayor Demarais stated that this is the first time the inlet line had plugged to the best of his knowledge.
2. PWD Truelove reported that the pool was closed for the season and he had the sweeper out and he had ordered new garbage cans.
3. PWD Truelove asked Council if they had any objection to him pulling in the grass cans for the season and Council had no objection.
4. PWD Truelove reported that he would be reducing the mosquito sprayer's schedule depending on the weather.
5. PWD Truelove reported that Trafton Park would be congested due to the Trafton Lift Station Project.
6. PWD Truelove reported that the horseshoe pits in Trafton Park were being rehabbed.
7. Clerk Bond presented Council with the current check register and the current shut off list.
8. PRD Wright updated council on their past, present and future activities.
9. Mayor Demarais reported that the wet well base was set and they would be working on the second level this week. Mayor Demarais informed Council that Bob Church from Great West Engineering had stated that this is the third time in his thirty years as an engineer that a new sewage lift station had been built without a rate increase to the customers.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Mayor Demarais fielded multiple complains about the water pressure in individual's residents and wanting the city to correct the problem. Sean Kavanaugh stated that the water in his house on Hillcrest is just a drizzle and it is getting worse. He asked why some residence have good water pressure and others don't. Mariah Marino also from the Hillcrest area stated that due to the water pressure at her house she could only do laundry in the evenings. Anne Boothe stated that she had installed a booster pump and had good water pressure unless the power was out. Mayor Demarais reported that the city provides water to its residents and the water for Hillcrest comes from the Legg Well. PWD Truelove stated that manganese in the water built up in the residential water service lines and caused a decrease in the water flow and a booster pump would increase the water pressure. PWD Truelove recommended that they replace their service lines. Melodee Kavanaugh asked if the water meters were the cause of the low water pressure and if a new water meter would improve the water pressure. After much discussion, PWD Truelove stated that he would flush the water mains in the Hillcrest area the following day to see if this would increase water pressure and Mayor Demarais stated that residents could schedule a time to have their water meter's bladder cleaned out. This was followed by much discussion about the placement of the water mains and curb stops in the Hillcrest Subdivision. Mayor Demarais asked everyone to give it a couple weeks and let him know if there are any improvements after the water lines had been flushed and water meters bladders cleaned. Mayor Demarais thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Mayor Demarais presented Council with Resolution 1318 – Compliance Officer Job Description with the requested additions. Councilperson Wiederrick moved to adopt Resolution 1318, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Sintler. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Wiederrick Aye, Sintler Aye, Hicks Aye, Rummel Aye. Motion Carried.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Mayor Demarais opened all of the sealed bids for the city's surplus property, Clerk Bond recorded all of the bids and presented Council with the high bid for each of the surplus properties put up for bid. Councilperson Wiederrick moved to accept the high bids as present by Clerk Bond, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Hicks. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Wiederrick Aye, Hicks Aye, Sintler Aye, Rummel Aye. Motion Carried.
2. Mayor Demarais presented Council with Ordinance 456 - An Ordinance Defining Community Decay in the City of Malta, Montana; Establishing Policies and Procedures for the Abatement of Public Nuisances; Disabled or junk vehicles or junk to be in view of the public from any public right of way; Providing Penalties for Violation Thereof. Councilperson Hicks moved to adopt Ordinance 456, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Sintler. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Hicks Aye, Sintler Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Rummel Aye. Motion Carried.
3. Mayor Demarais presented Council with Resolution 1319, the annual street maintenance assessment for \$118,432.37. Councilperson Hicks moved to adopt Resolution 1319, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Sintler. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilperson Hicks Aye, Sintler Aye, Rummel Aye. Motion Carried.
4. Mayor Demarais presented Council with Resolution 1320, the annual street lighting assessment for \$105,828.06. Councilperson Sintler moved to adopt Resolution 1320, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Hicks. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilperson Sintler Aye, Hicks Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Rummel Aye. Motion Carried.
5. Mayor Demarais presented Council with Resolution 1321, the annual underground sprinkler assessment for \$3,009.68. Councilperson Rummel moved to adopt Resolution 1321, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Wiederrick. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Rummel Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Sintler Aye, Hicks Aye. Motion Carried.
6. Mayor Demarais presented Council with Resolution 1322. The annual garbage assessment for \$294,162.00. Councilperson Hicks moved to adopt Resolution 1322, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Sintler. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilperson Hicks Aye, Sintler Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Rummel Aye. Motion Carried.
7. Mayor Demarais presented Council with Great West Engineering task order 5 for the levee accreditation feasibility study. Councilperson Rummel moved to approve GW task order 5, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Hicks. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Rummel Aye, Hicks Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Sintler Aye. Motion Carried.
8. Mayor Demarais presented Council with Lakeside Excavation's Pay App #1. Councilperson Wiederrick moved to approve the pay app, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Sintler. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilperson Wiederrick Aye, Sintler Aye, Rummel Aye, Hicks Aye. Motion Carried.

#### **OTHER COMMENTS**

1. Malta resident Mark Knudsen stated that when traveling green lawns catch his attention. Mr. Knudsen informed Council that 42% of the properties on Central Avenue have brown lawns. The lawns would look better if they were green and maybe attract more people to Malta. Council agreed but there is no way to require residents to water their lawns.

With no other business, Councilperson Wiederrick moved to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Sintler. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:56pm.

---

Mayor

ATTEST:

---

Clerk/Treasurer