

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

MALTA CITY COUNCIL MALTA CITY HALL

August 24, 2021

Officials present:

Mayor John Demarais
Councilpersons Ward I: David Rummel
William Hicks
Councilpersons Ward II: James Sintler
Clerk/Treasurer: Lorie Bond
Public Works Director: James Truelove

Others attended: Marty Demarais, Anne Boothe, Park & Recreation Director Sally Wright, Assistant Park & Recreation Director Kristina Benner and Mark Foss from PCN

Mayor Demarais opened the meeting at 5:00pm.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

1. Mayor Demarais informed Council that he was back and doing okay after his gallbladder surgery.

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

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

Councilpersons Rummel and Hicks presented claim warrants.

Councilperson Sintler moved to approve claim checks 27163 to 27174, 2nd by Councilperson Rummel. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Demarais closed the regular meeting and opened the public hearing at 5:03pm.

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 2021/2022 street maintenance tax assessment would be for \$118,432.37.

With no questions or comments, Mayor Demarais closed the public hearing and opened the next public hearing at 5:05pm.

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 2021/2022 street lighting tax assessment would be \$105,828.06.

With no questions or comments Mayor Demarais closed the public hearing and opened the regular meeting at 5:07pm.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS, COMMITTEES & MEETINGS ATTENDED

1. PWD Truelove reported that he had made it through the pool year. Everything went well and looked good except for pump failure. PWD Truelove stated that he would be draining it tomorrow.
2. PWD Truelove reported that the Old Armory had been used for the first time. It was used as an evacuation center during the mandatory evacuation of the Zortman area because of the Pine Grove Fire.

3. PWD Truelove reported that the frequency drive went out on the lagoon blower again and it was not under warranty. PWD Truelove reported that a power spike had caused the failure. PWD Truelove stated that he would order a new one from a different company and have phase protection installed.
4. PWD Truelove reported that power had been off in the Hillcrest area last week because a power pole had burned up.
5. PWD Truelove reported that Legg Well House was off line over the weekend because the soft start had failed and needed to be replaced. PWD Truelove stated that he would have phase protection installed so it would not happen again.
6. PWD Truelove presented Council with the pool income report furnished by Pool Manager Cederberg.
7. Mayor Demarais informed PWD Truelove that he had received a text that the swings at Trafton Park had been tangled and asked if he could have the city crew untangle them tomorrow.
8. Clerk Bond presented Council with the current check register, the current shut off list and a list of the twenty lawn letters that were sent out recently by Deputy Clerk Barrett.
9. Clerk Bond reported that Gina Lamb had stopped by the office and asked if it would be okay for the volleyball parents to paint horseshoes and volleyballs on 7th & 8th Streets from Central Avenue to the High School again this year. Council was okay with them doing the painting city streets again this year.
10. Clerk Bond reported that Deputy Clerk Barrett had researched what other cities/towns' landfill fees were. Clerk Bond stated that city currently charges \$20.00 if the load is under a ton and \$40.00 if the load is over a ton plus miscellaneous charges for tires and appliances. Clerk Bond reported that Deputy Clerk Barrett and she liked the Glendive and Miles City landfill rates the best, they charge 2.5 cent/pound. Clerk Bond stated that she thought this would fairly distribute the cost of each load. Clerk Bond recommended that the City keep the tire charges and continue to take yard and household waste at no charge. Mayor Demarais asked Clerk Bond to bring a spread sheet comparing the current rates and the proposed rates to the next Council Meeting.
11. Mayor Demarais reported that 200gal garbage cans are being used for grass clipping and they were no longer available. Mayor Demarais stated that Council would have to decide how to deal with collecting grass clipping in the future.
12. PRD Wright updated council on their past, present and future activities.
13. Mayor Demarais reported that the sponsor days at the pool were a great success. Clerk Bond reported that in prior fiscal years the pool had brought in around \$6,500 and this past fiscal year it brought in \$20,000.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Mayor Demarais called on Anne Boothe and Marty Demarais from the Great Plains Dinosaur Museum/Judith River Foundation Board. Ms. Boothe presented Council a letter from the Great Plains Dinosaur Museum Board of Directors. Ms. Boothe reported that the GPDM had seen record visitation and gift store sales. Ms. Boothe stated that the GPDM Board would like to expand the museum and were looking into grants to help pay for a Preliminary Architect Plan (PAR). Ms. Boothe asked the City to help by requesting that Bear Paw Development help them in the future with grant applications.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Mayor Demarais presented Council with Resolution 1304, the annual street maintenance assessment for \$118,432.37. Councilperson Hicks moved to adopt Resolution 1304, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilperson Hicks Aye, Sintler Aye, Rummel Aye. Motion Carried.

2. Mayor Demarais presented Council with Resolution 1305, the annual street lighting assessment for \$105,828.06. Councilperson Rummel moved to adopt Resolution 1291, 2nd by Councilperson Hicks. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilperson Rummel Aye, Hicks Aye, Sintler Aye. Motion Carried.
3. Mayor Demarais presented Council with Resolution 1306, the annual underground sprinkler assessment for \$3,009.71. Councilperson Sintler moved to adopt Resolution 1292, 2nd by Councilperson Rummel. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Sintler Aye, Rummel Aye, Hicks Aye. Motion Carried.
4. Mayor Demarais presented Council with Resolution 1307. The annual garbage assessment for \$294,968.00. Councilperson Hicks moved to adopt Resolution 1307, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilperson Hicks Aye, Sintler Aye, Rummel Aye. Motion Carried.
5. Mayor Demarais presented Council with the current CD Renewal Report. Clerk Bond reported that a CD for \$200,000 and a CD for \$50,000 were maturing on September 1, 2021 and the CDs were earning .28% interest. Clerk Bond recommended that Council not renew the CDs which would probably earn .20% interest if renewed and use the funds to pay for the Old Armory Building. Clerk Bond reported that the City had the funds to purchase the building but did not want to stretch the cash reserve too thin. Clerk Bond stated that the City could put funds aside to purchase new CDs in the future. Councilperson Sintler moved to cash out the CDs, 2nd by Councilperson Rummel. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Sintler Aye, Rummel Aye, Hicks Aye. Motion Carried.

OTHER COMMENTS

1. Councilperson Hicks asked Mayor Demarais if he knew anything about the ARPA funds he had talked about when the City first contemplated buying the Old Armory. Mayor Demarais stated that he had not heard anything.
2. Mayor Demarais informed Council that he would like to put an ad in the paper asking for suggestions on what to name the Old Armory. Mayor Demarais wanted to have a contest to name the Old Armory and offer a prize to the winner.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. None

With no other business, Councilperson Rummel moved to adjourn, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:59pm.

Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer