

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

MALTA CITY COUNCIL

MALTA CITY HALL

September 22, 2020

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: Janet Berg, Gina Lamb, Sheriff Jerry Lytle and Krista Fahlgren from PCN

Mayor Demarais opened the meeting at 5:00pm.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

1. Mayor Demarais informed Council that he would be having shoulder surgery sometime in the next ten days.

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

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

Councilpersons Rummel and Hicks presented claim warrants.

Councilperson Wiederrick moved to approve claim checks 26526 to 26547, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS, COMMITTEES & MEETINGS ATTENDED

1. PWD Truelove reported that last week a company out of Minnesota baled and hauled off the scrap iron at the landfill.
2. PWD Truelove reported that the annual sanitary survey had taken place and the report should arrive any day now. PWD Truelove stated that he had already made some of the needed corrections.
3. PWD Truelove reported that the crew had been busy blowing out the sprinkler lines in the parks, sweeping the city streets, blading and graveling the alleys.
4. PWD Truelove reported that there had been issues at the Trafton Lift Station and he had located and ordered the needed parts. PWD Truelove stated that his overtime would be higher than normal due to this.
5. PWD Truelove reported that the sewage lagoon had been winterized.
6. PWD Truelove reported that the crew would be flushing hydrants next week.
7. Mayor Demarais informed Council that the City would be purchasing 400 yards of gravel.
8. Councilperson Sintler asked PWD Truelove when he would have the speed monitoring sign out. PWD Truelove responded that he still needed one additional part to have it up and functioning again.
9. Clerk Bond presented Council with current check register and the revenue and expenditure actual vs budget reports. Clerk Bond reported that there had been 10 water shut offs on Monday and there were still 6 shut off.
10. Clerk Bond presented Council with the draft of the chicken ordinance and asked Council to let her know if they wanted any her to make any changes.

11. Clerk Bond reported that the County Health Nurse had called and asked to use the City Hall Gymnasium for their flu clinic on October 7th. They wanted to use the gymnasium so they could social distance. Clerk Bond asked Council if they were okay with waiving the rental fee for this event. Council agreed that the rental fees should be waived.
12. Clerk Bond reported that the Hiline Futures Foundation want to use the City Hall for a fundraiser on January 16, 2021 and asked if the City would waive the rental fees. Council agreed to waive the rental fee.
13. Sheriff Jerry Lytle presented Council with last quarter's law enforcement statistics. Sheriff Lytle reported that two deputies were attending the law enforcement academy so they were shorthanded.
14. Sheriff Lytle reported that there had been a post on Facebook and thing had blown up. Sheriff Lytle informed Council that he had called in the Montana Department of Justice to investigate.
15. Mayor Demarais informed Council that he was still working on the non-compliant shed issue.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Mayor Demarais called on Gina Lamb. Mrs. Lamb stated that she and other volleyball parents would like to paint horseshoes and volleyballs on 7th Street and maybe 8th Street from Central Avenue to the high school. Mrs. Lamb asked Council for permission to paint on the city streets as stated above. Councilperson Sintler moved to allow the volleyball parents to paint horseshoes and volleyballs on 7th Street and maybe 8th Street from Central Avenue to the high school, 2nd by Councilperson Hicks. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilperson Sintler Aye, Hicks Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Rummel Aye. Motion Carried.
2. Mayor Demarais informed Council that he had been contacted about making the old bridge over the Milk River by Trafton Park into a walking bridge. Mayor Demarais stated that he told the individual that they would have to get grants to cover the cost of the improvements, the City would only do in kind work. Mayor Demarais informed Council that Fort Benton sold planks to raise funds for their bridge improvements. Mayor Demarais explained his vision for the bridge and he would have an engineer look at the bridge on the 20th. Mayor Demarais asked Council if they wanted to move forward. The City does not own the bridge and would have to have an inter-local agreement with the County to make improvements to the bridge. After much discussion Council was okay with looking into the possibility of making improvements to the bridge.
3. Mayor Demarais asked Clerk Bond to explain the Employee Social Security Deferral Program to Council. Clerk Bond presented Council with a copy of the IRS Guidance: Employee Social Security Deferral she had received from WipFli CPA's & Consultants. The Social Security Deferral Program would allow employers to not withhold the employee's portion of the payroll Social Security deduction for the September 2020 – December 2020 payrolls. However the amounts not withheld would have to be paid back during the January 2021 – April 2021 payrolls. So in overview the employee would get less deductions for four months and have more deductions for four months. Clerk Bond explained that companies/cities could opt in or opt out. Clerk Bond reported that she had contacted the City's auditor at WipFli and the response was, "We are recommending clients to decline participation due to complexity and risk involved." Clerk Bond stated some of the unknowns. What

happens if an individual is not employed during the repayment period? What happens if their wages during January through April are less than during the deferral period? After some discussion Councilperson Wiederrick moved to participate in the Employee Social Security Deferral, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilperson Wiederrick Nay, Sintler Nay, Rummel Nay, Hicks Nay. Motion Failed.

OTHER COMMENTS

1. None

With no other business, Councilperson Wiederrick moved to adjourn, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:37pm.

Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer