

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

MALTA CITY COUNCIL MALTA CITY HALL

November 14, 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: Laura Pankratz, Marilyn Taylor, Tony Simonsen, Fire Chief Joshua Newman, Jonathan Weaver from Great West Engineering and Kari Hould from PCN

Mayor Demarais opened the meeting at 5:00pm.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

1. Mayor Demarais informed Council that he would be attending a Bear Paw Development meeting at the end of the month.

Clerk Bond reported that Kari Hould from the PCN had pointed out two errors in the draft minutes that were emailed out on November 9th. Clerk Bond stated that she had changed the meeting start time from 9:00am to 5:00pm and added an “h” to were to make it where in other comments #1 and she had provided Council with a new draft of the minutes in their Council Packets.

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

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

Councilpersons Wiederrick and Sintler presented claims.

Councilperson Rummel moved to approve claim checks 28698 to 28749, 2nd by Councilperson Hicks. Motion carried unanimously.

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

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Demarais stated the purpose of the public hearing was to receive public comments concerning Ordinance 457 – An Ordinance Enacting a Code of Ordinances for the City of Malta, Montana; Revising, Amending, Restating, Codifying and Compiling Certain Existing General Ordinances of the City of Malta. Clerk Bond report that City Attorney Lee Pekovitch and herself had worked on the recodification of the city codes for almost two years, it was a long process. Clerk Bond reported that a lot of the codes from 1920 – 1940 had been eliminated. Clerk Bond stated that at some point the City must have had their own sanitarian because there were Ordinances about forbidding having a toilet in the same room where food was being cooked for sale and no storing raw meat on the floor to name a few. There were also Ordinances regulating minors in pool halls, motion picture houses, banning hypnotists and the serving alcohol were dancing takes place. Mayor Demarais informed Council that changes had been made to the fireworks ordinance making it legal to put off fireworks in town on the third and the Fourth of July.

With no public comment, Mayor Demarais closed the public hearing and reopened the regular meeting at 5:07pm.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS, COMMITTEES & MEETINGS ATTENDED

1. PWD Truelove reported that there had been a dig since the last meeting to repair a water line hit during a boring project.
2. PWD Truelove reported that the City had received a letter from DEQ about the significant finding on the small water tank and the City will have 30 days to furnish DEQ with a letter of action to explain the City's plan to correct the violation. PWD Truelove stated that he would be working with Matt Mudd from Great West Engineering on the plan of action. Mayor Demarais stated that the water tank was built in the 1940's and it could take 3 – 5 year to get the funding and build a new water tank.
3. PWD Truelove reported that new pumps would be installed in the water booster station and the pumps would be installed during the night starting at 11:00pm.
4. PWD Truelove reported that he would have a crew member out picking up leaves when the manpower was available.
5. PWD Truelove reported that he had received a new shipment of patch and would have someone out patching potholes.
6. PWD Truelove reported that the sweeper is out and will be out sweeping as long as the weather will allow.
7. PWD Truelove reported that Barry Damschen had inspected the landfill and everything looked okay except for the need for more fill dirt.
8. PWD Truelove reported that Trafton Park will be closed after hunting season and the Christmas lights will be put up after Thanksgiving.
9. PWD Truelove reported that the bulk water station had been vandalized and the repair parts should arrive sometime next week.
10. Clerk Bond presented Council with the current check register, the current shut off list, the October over time, vacation & sick leave report and copies of the deer resistant plant brochures received from FWP.
11. Clerk Bond reported that she would be attending multiple zoom meetings/training this week. Floodplain, TEAMS and ARPA.
12. Clerk Bond reported that she had attended a Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting last week and had met Amanda, the new DES Coordinator.
13. Clerk Bond reported that Deputy Clerk Barrett had found Doggy Stations ranging from \$600.00 to \$210.00 and after comparing the different stations the \$210.00 one would be the best choice for the price. Clerk Bond asked if Council still wanted to purchase two new stations for Trafton Park. Council agreed that doggy stations should be purchased.
14. Mayor Demarais reported that the Specialty Fair at the Malta Event Center had went well. They liked having the kitchen and the vendors parked behind the building or on the north or south sides of the parking lot.
15. Fire Chief Newman reported that City Fire Truck 2 would be going in for repairs because someone had driven off with the air hose still attached to the truck damaging the connector. While the truck was in for repairs an automatic air release will be installed. Having an automatic air release would keep this from happening again.
16. Fire Chief Newman reported that he would be turning in bills for training, patches for new employee's turnouts and the annual pump test.
17. Fire Chief Newman reported that the Fire Departments chainsaw needed to be replaced and a new saw would cost \$400.

18. Fire Chief Newman reported that the house fire training that took place at his house was a success and they were going to start doing walk throughs in the different businesses around town to get an idea of what to do if there is a fire.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Mayor Demarais called on Laura Pankratz. Ms. Pankratz stated that she was here as a private citizen. Ms. Pankratz informed Council that she had found two grant possibilities for trail maintenance through Fish Wildlife & Parks. The recreational trail program grant would provide \$75,000 to purchase a mower and would require a 20% match. The trail steward program grant would provide \$75,000 to hire seasonal help to mow and maintain the trail and would require a 10% match. Ms. Pankratz informed Council that last year both Glasgow and Fort Benton had received \$75,000 grants. After much discussion about Malta Trails and the City of Malta, Mayor Demarais stated that he would meet with Ms. Pankratz and work on a presentation for the next Council meeting. Mayor Demarais asked Clerk Bond to add sponsoring a Malta Trails Grant Application onto the November 28th agenda.
2. Mayor Demarais called on Tony Simonsen from Rivers Bend Assisted Living. Mr. Simonsen informed Council that he had purchased the old Hi-Line Retirement Center building which is a big building and building had many issues because it had sat empty for a long time. He stated that he had issues with the water & sewer bill. He was okay this the water charges because they are metered and run between \$112 & \$160/month. However, the sewer rate is \$513/month and he is only licensed for 12 beds and he wanted the sewer charges to be based on how many beds the facility is certified for. Mayor Demarais stated that he would like to work with him but the sewer rates and multipliers are set in stone and to make changes the city would have to have public hearings, send out notices to all the city property owners with sewer accounts about changes to the sewer charges and adopt a resolution with the new sewer rates. The city would also have to make sure the new sewer rates would bring in adequate revenue. Mr. Simonsen stated that he did not want the rates changed he wanted the multiplier changed to match how many certified beds he had and the original multiplier was based on 41 beds. Mayor Demarais stated that the City Attorney said that the above steps would have to be taken if changes were made to the sewer rates/multipliers. Mr. Simonsen stated that he only wants to pay for what he's licensed for. Mr. Simonsen next stated that he was not happy with Rivers Bend's garbage charges either and would like his garbage rate lowered also. Mayor Demarais stated that Council and he would review the sewer and garbage rate Resolutions but it would not be a fast process.
Next, Mr. Simonsen informed Council that at present time the Rivers Bend Assisted Living facility could not accept Medicaid Waiver residents and asked the City to write a letter of support for the Rivers Bend facility to receive Medicaid Waiver funds. Mayor Demarais stated that the City would provide a letter and thanked Mr. Simonson for attending the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Mayor Demarais called on Jonathan Weaver from Great West Engineering. Mr. Weaver presented Council with copies of the Draft Milk River Levee Accreditation Feasibility Study. Mr. Weaver informed Council that the Levee was built by the Army Corps of Engineers in 1997 and was built to withstand a 200 year flood. In 2006 the Corp certified the Levee and FEMA credited it. Due to the new mapping the levee needs to be recertified. Mr. Weaver went through the report with Council. Mr. Weaver ended his presentation by stating that he felt good about the levee getting recertified because it was

built for higher flow than exist at present time and it was built to withstand a 200 year flood.

2. Mayor Demarais presented Council with the first reading of Ordinance 457 – An Ordinance Enacting a Code of Ordinances for the City of Malta, Montana; Revising, Amending, Restating, Codifying and Compiling Certain Existing General Ordinances of the City of Malta. Councilperson Hicks moved to adopt Ordinance 457, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Mayor Demarais call for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Hick Aye, Sintler Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Rummel Aye. Motion Carried.
3. Mayor Demarais presented Council with the following list of outstanding checks from February 11, 2019 through June 28, 2022.

<u>Check</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Date Issued</u>
25226	Dvorshak	\$32.00	02/11/2019
25672	Malta Royals	\$26.02	08/27/2019
26215	Dina Saino Meneely	\$18.00	05/26/2020
26321	Tye Jones	\$ 10.00	07/14/2020
26534	Malta Fire Relief	\$81.15	09/22/2020
27037	Andrew Snyder	\$50.00	06/22/2021
27171	Matt Norville	\$20.00	08/24/2021
27750	Cheyenne Score	\$15.00	06/28/2022
27757	Terri Blunt	\$20.00	07/12/2022
16546	Kelbie Nelson	\$8.77	06/28/2022

Councilperson Rummel moved to cancel all check except the check to the Malta Fire Relief which will be reissued, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Rummel Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Hicks Aye, Sintler Aye. Motion Carried.

OTHER COMMENTS

1. None

With no other business, Councilperson Wiederrick moved to adjourn, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:40pm.

Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer