

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

MALTA CITY COUNCIL

MALTA CITY HALL

November 23, 2021

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: Sheriff Jerry Lytle, Deputy Sheriff Marie Buchfeller and Mark Foss from PCN

Mayor Demarais opened the meeting at 5:00pm.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

1. Mayor Demarais informed Council that there would be a zoom meeting on December 3rd with the DNRC people to discuss how we can approve on the City's ARPA Competitive Fund Application.

Mayor Demarais closed the regular meeting and opened the public hearing at 5:01pm.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Demarais stated the reason for the public hearing was to receive public comment on Ordinance 455 - An ordinance amending Ordinance 451 the Floodplain Management Ordinance. Clerk Bond read out loud the changes that would be made to the Floodplain Ordinance.

With no public comment, Mayor Demarais closed the public hearing and reopened the regular meeting at 5:05pm.

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 27357 to 27373, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS, COMMITTEES & MEETINGS ATTENDED

1. PWD Truelove reported that there would be a dig on 9th Street West to repair a leaking pit meter.
2. PWD Truelove reported that the Christmas decorations were set up in Veteran's Memorial Park and he would light them on the day after Thanksgiving.
3. PWD Truelove reported that he usually closed Trafton Park after the first major snow fall which hasn't happened yet. PWD Truelove asked Council if they had a preference when he closed Trafton Park. After some discussion Council agreed that he could make that call.
4. PWD Truelove asked Council if they wanted to move forward with the improvements to the Women's Club House. After much discussion it was decided to put the project on hold until all the updates were completed on the Malta Event Center.

5. PWD Truelove reported that Trafton Lift Station was still running with one operational pump. PWD Truelove reported that Lakeside would be in Malta on Monday to set up a bypass which would cost around \$5,000 - \$7,000 a month which would be cheaper than the sewage backups that would take place if lift station failed. PWD Truelove stated that the Lift Station replacement project should be shovel ready by April. Mayor Demarais stated that he hoped the City could get ARPA Funds to finance the project. Council agreed that the bypass was needed.
6. Clerk Bond presented Council with the current check register, current shut off list and the expenditure and revenue actual vs budget reports.
7. Clerk Bond reported that she had attended a zoom meeting on recreational marijuana in Montana, a summary of the law after I-190 and HB 701. Clerk Bond stated that in Phillips County where I-90 did not pass marijuana shops would not be allowed.
8. Sheriff Lytle introduced new Deputy Sheriff Marie Buchfeller to Council. Sheriff Lytle presented Council with the law enforcement statistics for January – September 2021. Sheriff Lytle reported that the statistics were in line with last year's.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. None

NEW BUSINESS

2. Mayor Demarais and Council had a phone meeting with Mr. Harold Lance from AMKO about refinancing the City's sewer lagoon USDA Loan. Mr. Lance reported that the City of Malta could potentially save \$1,206,736.11 and pay off the loan six years earlier if the loan was refinanced. After his presentation Mr. Harold asked Council if they would vote to approve AMKO to collect information from Clerk Bond and use the information to get bids to refinancing the loan. Mr. Harold reported that he would present the bids to Council and they would have to decide if they wanted to proceed with the refinancing or not. Mr. Harold stated that there would be no cost to the City unless they decide to refinance the loan then the fees would be rolled into the new loan. After some discussion, Councilperson Hicks moved to approve to have AMKO collect bids for the refinancing of the USDA loan, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Hicks Aye, Sintler Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Rummel Aye. Motion Carried.
1. Mayor Demarais presented Council with Ordinance 455, an Ordinance amending Ordinance 451 the Floodplain Management Ordinance. Councilperson Rummel moved to adopt Ordinance 455, 2nd by Councilperson Wiederrick. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Rummel Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Sintler Aye, Hicks 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 6:07pm.

Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer

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Councilperson Wiederrick moved to approve claim checks 27357 to 27373, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Motion carried unanimously.

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