

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

MALTA CITY COUNCIL MALTA CITY HALL

November 28, 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, Park & Recreation Director Sally Wright, Compliance Officer John Wright III 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 changing the order of the meeting depending when Luke Spencer representing the Malta Mustang Wrestling Club arrived.

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

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

Councilpersons Rummel and Hicks presented claims.

Councilperson Sintler moved to approve claim checks 28752 to 28770, 2nd by Councilperson Wiederrick. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilperson Wiederrick moved to approve October 2023 payroll, 2nd by Councilperson Rummel. Motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS, COMMITTEES & MEETINGS ATTENDED

1. PWD Truelove reported that Trafton Park is closed for the season.
2. PWD Truelove reported that the Christmas lights were up in Veterans Park.
3. PWD Truelove reported that extensive vehicle maintenance would be taking place this winter on the city's aging vehicles.
4. PWD Truelove reported that the City Crew was busy blading the alleys on the west side of town and hauling cover dirt for to the landfill.
5. Clerk Bond presented Council with the current check register and the current shut off list.
6. Clerk Bond reported that she had attended a zoom Town Hall Meeting put on by Montana League of Cities & Towns about House Bill 355. Under HB 355 the City of Malta qualifies for a grant for \$165,028 that would require a 25% match of the total project amount. Clerk Bond stated that they had stressed in the meeting that the 25% match would be for the total project amount if the grant money was put towards a \$2,000,000 project the match would be \$500,000 but if it was kept within the grant amount \$165,028 the match would be \$41,257. Clerk Bond asked Council and the Mayor to submit ideas for what the funds could be used for.
7. Clerk Bond reported that at present time the Sewer Fund contained a total of \$962,431.14. The majority of the funds were set aside in restricted accounts with \$74,003.74 in the unrestricted account. Clerk Bond stated that 5% of the total sewer

charges billed each month since 1989+/- was being put aside and now totaled \$612,295.18. Clerk Bond reported that she did not know what the funds were being saved for. Clerk Bond stated that a Resolution would be needed to move funds from the restricted account to the unrestricted account. Clerk Bond asked Council if they wanted to consider this and she could construct a Resolution approving the funds being moved to the unrestricted account to cover major sewer expenses when needed. It was decided that Clerk Bond would place the topic on the next Council Meeting Agenda.

8. Clerk Bond reported that she had received an email from Matthew Mudd from Great West Engineering that he would be attending the next City Council Meeting to discuss the funding of the Water Preliminary Engineering Report. Mr. Mudd had stated that the City had applied for and was awarded a \$15,000 DNRC planning grant and had applied for a \$40,000 MECP planning grant to help pay for the \$65,000 PER. At present time it is not known if the City would be awarded the \$40,000 MCEP planning grant. With the need to start on the PER as soon as possible Matt Mudd would be presenting Council with a contract to have Great West Engineering complete the Water PER.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Mayor Demarais called on Luke Spencer from the Malta Mustang Wrestling Club. Mr. Spencer thanked Council for letting the wrestling club use the Event Center in the past and ask Council if they would be willing to let the club use it again this year and waive the fees. This was followed by much discussion about what a great program it was for the community youth and that they had eighty five participants last year. Councilperson Sintler moved to waive the fees and allow the Malta Mustang Wrestling Club use the Event Center, 2nd by Councilperson Wiederrick. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Sintler Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Rummel Aye, Hicks Aye. Motion Carried. Councilperson Wiederrick just wanted to let him know they would have to roll up the mats and would not be able to use the Event Center if a paying customer rents the Center for an Event. Mr. Spencer thanked Council for letting them use the Event Center and waiving the fees.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS, COMMITTEES & MEETINGS ATTENDED – continued

9. PRD Wright reported that 60 kids had participated in Youth Basketball, 8 people registered for Low Impact Exercise, 8 kids had registered for Tiny Tots and 7 students had participated in Martial Arts.
10. PRD Wright reported that Malta Dance, Martial Arts, Tiny Tots, Tiny Dribblers, Kindergarten Basketball and Pickleball would start in January.
11. Compliance Officer John Wright III reported that he had sent out 7 lawn letters and they were all in compliance.
12. CO Wright reported that Ordinance 444 would be going into effect on December 1, 2023 and notices had been placed at the PCN & Super Shopper and posted at the Post Office reminding residents to remove their campers and RV's from the City Streets.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. None

NEW BUSINESS - continued

1. Mayor Demarais presented Council with the second 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 called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Hicks

Aye, Sintler Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Rummel Aye. Motion Carried. Mayor Demarais informed Council that the Ordinance would become effective in thirty days.

3. Mayor Demarais presented Council with the Milk River Beef Builders 4H's request to use the Malta Event Center for their Christmas Party and to have to fees waived. Councilperson Wiederrick moved to waive the fees, 2nd by Councilperson Rummel. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Wiederrick Aye, Rummel Aye, Hicks Aye, Sintler Aye. Motion Carried.
4. Mayor Demarais presented Council with the request that the City apply for two different FWP Grants. One for the purchase of lawn mower to mow the trails and one to hire a person to mow the trails. Mayor Demarais asked Council if they were okay with him asking Bear Paw Development to write the grant applications. Councilperson Rummel moved to proceed with the grant applications, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Rummel Aye, Sintler Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Hicks Aye. Motion Carried.

OTHER COMMENTS

1. Councilperson asked if anything had been done about the vehicle being parked too close to the corner on 2nd Street East on the truck route. Councilperson Wiederrick stated that it was difficult for the semis to make the turn with the vehicle parked the way it is.
2. Councilperson Wiederrick asked if anyone had put any thought into what to do about the River's Bend Assisted Living water charges. Mayor Demarais reported that they had paid their bill. Clerk Bond stated that it would be Council's decision to proceed or not. Council would have to go over the current charges and decide whether to restructure the water rates making sure they bring in the same income. Next, a resolution of intent to change the water rates would have to be adopted, all the residents with water accounts would have to be notified by mail of the change and a public hearing would have to take place and finally a resolution adopting the new rates would have to be adopted.

With no other business, Councilperson Wiederrick moved to adjourn, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:42pm.

Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer