

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

MALTA CITY COUNCIL

MALTA CITY HALL

December 13, 2022

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: Kari Hould from PCN.

Mayor Demarais opened the meeting at 5:00pm.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

1. Mayor Demarais informed Council that he had a call from a concerned citizen that had heard that the Phillips County Hospital was closing and wanted the Mayor to do something about it. Mayor Demarais stated that the City has no control over the hospital.
2. Mayor Demarais informed Council that he would be traveling to Washington DC in February as a representative of Montana Rural Water.

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 Wiederrick and Sintler presented claims.

Councilperson Rummel moved to approve claim checks 28055 to 28102 2nd by Councilperson Hicks. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilperson Wiederrick moved to approve November 2022 payroll, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS, COMMITTEES & MEETINGS ATTENDED

1. PWD Truelove reported that he is still responding to dog calls and issuing citations. PWD Truelove stated that he had issued a citation earlier today.
2. PWD Truelove reported that the City was regularly jetting the sewer line on the north side because grease is being dumped into the sewer system. PWD reported that the City would be purchasing a degreasing product to put in the sewer line and he would be working with the two businesses using the sewer line to eliminate the grease build up in the sewer line.
3. PWD Truelove reported that due to requests from residents wanting to ice skate the City Crew had attempted to fill the ice skating rink. Due to the soil conditions and unfavorable temperatures it was unsuccessful and 50,000 gallons of water had ran into gopher holes and soaked into the soil. PWD Truelove asked Council if they wanted him to attempt to fill the old skating rink by the city tennis courts. After discussing different options, Council agreed that the City would have to look into doing something different next year.
4. PWD Truelove asked if they were opposed to the City Crew moving the snow pile north of the swimming pool to City property located at the south end of 1st avenue east. PWD Truelove stated that there is no way to keep the children from playing on the pile which is in a high traffic area. Council agreed that the snow pile could be relocated on City property at the south end of 1st avenue east.

5. Mayor Demarais informed Council that he would be meeting with a group of residents that would like to start putting up a large City Christmas tree east of Veteran's Park again. Mayor Demarais stated that he would meet with the individuals.
6. Clerk Bond presented Council with the current check register, current shut off list, CD renewal list and the budget vs actual report.
7. It was reported that the Red Cross Blood Drive at the Event Center had gone well and the Red Cross Staff really liked the space it provided.
8. PWD Truelove updated Council on the Trafton Park Lift Station Project. PWD reported that the doors had been installed on the building, electrical work was being done, the generator should arrive towards the end of the month and Northwestern Energy still needed to install the new power pole.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Mayor Demarais informed Council that the Planning Board had approved the variance request by Kelly & Colleen Murray to build a 12'x5' deck on the front of their house with the stipulation that the steps off the deck are located on the east or west side. Mayor Demarais reported that the Murrays had appealed the Planning Board decision and wanted Council to allow them to build the steps off the front of the deck because locating the steps on the east or west side of the deck would require a lot of costly modifications. After some discussion, Councilperson Rummel moved to let the Murray's build the steps off the front of the deck, 2nd by Councilperson Hicks. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Rummel Aye, Hicks Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Sintler Aye. Motion Carried.
2. Mayor Demarais presented Council with Amended Plat of: Lots 3, 4 & 5, Block 3, Legg Addition, to Malta, Montana. Mayor Demarais informed Council that Melissa and David Dunbar had the three lots they owned surveyed into two lots. After some discussion about the City losing one buildable lot, Councilperson Wiederrick moved to approve the amended plat, 2nd Councilperson Sintler. Mayor Demarais call for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Wiederrick Aye, Sintler Aye, Hicks Aye, Rummel Aye. Motion Carried.
3. Mayor Demarais informed Council that it was time to select a business for fuel purchases in 2023. Mayor Demarais stated currently the City was purchasing fuel from Horizon Recourses and the next business in the rotation was Equity. Mayor Demarais noted that the City would still purchase diesel fuel from either Westside or Horizon because the diesel gravity fed pump at Equity takes so much time to fuel the vehicles. Councilperson Rummel moved to purchase fuel from Equity Co-op in 2023 with the exceptions stated above, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Rummel Aye, Sintler Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Hicks Aye. Motion Carried.
4. Mayor Demarais presented Council with the Phillips County – City of Malta Sidewalk Agreement. Whereas, the County agreed to provide \$20,000.00 in funds to MDT for Highway Project NH 61-4(25)147 and the City would be responsible for all maintenance of said sidewalks and paths. Clerk Bond reported that the County had already paid \$20,000 to MDT which was their part of the agreement. After much discussion, Councilperson Wiederrick moved to sign the agreement, 2nd by Councilperson Hicks. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilperson Wiederrick Aye, Hicks Aye, Rummel Aye, Sintler Aye. Motion Carried.
5. Mayor Demarais presented Council with the MMIA Sworn Statement in Proof of Loss for the Old Trafton Park Bathroom that was damaged and had to be removed due to safety issues. PWD Truelove reported that MMIA would pay the City \$4,898.68 this calendar year and the remaining replacement cost of the bathroom after the construction of the new bathroom was completed. PWD Truelove stated that at this time he had not found a contractor who would commit to rebuilding the bathroom. PWD reported that he had contacted MMIA to verify a few things and had not heard back from them yet. After some discussion, Councilperson Rummel moved to table the Sworn Statement of Loss to

the next Council Meeting, 2nd by Councilperson Hicks. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilperson Rummel Aye, Hicks Aye, Wiederrick 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 6:04pm.

Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer