

## MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

## MALTA CITY COUNCIL

### MALTA CITY HALL

December 26, 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 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 not be running for re-election for his Montana Rural Water Board Seat this year.

Councilperson Sintler moved to approve the minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Rummel. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilperson Hicks moved to approve the agenda, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Wiederrick. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilpersons Rummel and Hicks presented claims.

Councilperson Wiederrick moved to approve claim checks 28804 to 28814, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Sintler. Motion carried unanimously.

### DEPARTMENT REPORTS, COMMITTEES & MEETINGS ATTENDED

1. PWD Truelove reported that some patching was done around town.
2. PWD Truelove reported that the blade was out last week.
3. PWD Truelove reported that a new transmission would be installed in Unit 45 the 2012 Freightliner garbage truck so there would be no garbage pick-up January 3 – 4, 2024. He hoped to have it back and running as soon as possible.
4. PWD Truelove reported that the new valve block for Unit 64 the 2020 Freightliner Garbage truck was still ten months out.
5. PWD Truelove reported that one of these evenings the new pumps would be installed in the water booster station. All of the valves have been exercised in preparation and he wanted to have everything dialed in before proceeding because the water would be shut off to the whole town while the new pumps are installed.
6. PWD Truelove asked permission for himself and Mayor Demarais to attend the Montana Rural Water Conference, March 22 – 24, 2024 in Great Falls. Councilperson Sintler moved to allow PWD Truelove and Mayor Demarais attend the Rural Water Conference, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Wiederrick. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Sintler Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Hicks Aye, Rummel Aye. Motion Carried.
7. Clerk Bond presented Council with the current check register, current shut off list and the budget vs actual report.
8. Clerk Bond asked Council if they wanted to proceed with the sale of the city lot that Laura Gouker had asked about purchasing. Clerk Bond reported that Council would have to pass a resolution of intent to sell and get a brokers opinion on the value of the lot before passing a resolution to accept bids for the lot. Councilperson Wiederrick stated

that the City's Zoning Ordinances should be looked at first and the buildable lot size requirement should be changed to accommodate tiny houses. This was followed by much discussion about forming a committee to go over the Zoning Ordinances.

9. Clerk Bond asked Council to give her their lists of item to be added to the HB 355 project list.
10. Clerk Bond asked Council's permission for herself and Compliance Officer Wright to attend the Association of Montana Floodplain Administrator's Conference, February 27<sup>th</sup> thru March 1<sup>st</sup> 2024 in Helena. Councilperson Hicks moved allow Clerk Bond and Compliance Officer Wright to attend the AMFM Conference, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Wiederrick. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Hicks Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Rummel Aye, Hicks Aye. Motion Carried.
11. Clerk Bond asked Council if they wanted to lease out the City's grazing lots this year. After much discussion Council agreed not to lease out any of the City property for grazing again this year.
12. Clerk Bond reported that the Local Government Center would be offering an online Municipal Handbook Training class January 30 – March 12. Clerk Bond stated that she had a copy of the handbook for Laura Pankratz and would be signing her up for the training. Clerk Bond asked if anyone else wanted her to sign them up for the training. Mayor Demarais asked Clerk Bond to sign him up for the training.
13. Councilperson Sinter stated that there were still trailers parked on the streets. Mayor Demarais stated that he would contact Compliance Officer Wright and see if he was aware of the violations.
14. Councilperson Wiederrick reported that the sewer line was being installed at the Matthew's building on Highway 2. Mayor Demarais stated that he would contact the contractor and make sure everything was being done correctly.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. None.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Mayor Demarais administered the Oath of Office to Ward 1 Councilperson Elect William Hicks and Ward 2 Councilperson Elect Laura S. Pankratz.
2. Mayor Demarais presented Council with the Great West Contract to complete the Water Preliminary Engineering Report for an estimated total of \$65,000. Councilperson Wiederrick moved to have Mayor Demarais sign the contract, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Hicks. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilperson Wiederrick Aye, Hicks Aye, Sintler Aye, Rummel Aye. Motion Carried.

#### **OTHER COMMENTS**

1. Mayor Demarais asked Clerk Bond to place "elect Council President" on the next agenda.
2. Mayor Demarais presented Councilperson Sintler with a plaque and thanked him for his eight years of service on the Malta City Council.

With no other business, Councilperson Wiederrick moved to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilperson Sintler. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:34pm.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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Clerk/Treasurer