

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

MALTA CITY COUNCIL MALTA CITY HALL

December 27, 2019

Officials present:

Mayor John Demarais

Councilpersons Ward I: William Hicks

Councilpersons Ward II: Bonnie Wiederrick

James Sintler

Clerk/Treasurer: Lorie Bond

Public Works Director: James Truelove

Others present: Norma Kelly, Ted Kelly, Tyanna Dunbar, Ann Remely and Brandon Millican

Mayor Demarais opened the meeting at 12:01pm.

Mayor Demarais opened the public hearing at 12:01pm.

PUBLIC HEARING

Brandon Millican asked if anyone had any questions about what he wanted to do. Ted Kelly stated that Norma and he thought it would be a hazard, would make it a blind corner and he thought it was not quite right. Mr. Millican stated that the addition of ten feet would leave twenty four feet of clear vision. Mr. Millican stated that there were eighteen places in town with less than twenty four feet of clear vision and there are many of the corners in town with worse obstructions. Norma Kelly stated that she was worried about the ambulance and the many cars exiting the driveway to the emergency room entrance at the Phillips County Hospital. Mr. Millican stated if people followed the rules it would not be an issue. Councilperson Sintler asked if the house was okay when he purchased the house. Mr. Millican said that the architect he had hired pointed out the inadequacies of the garage after he had purchased it. Mr. Millican told the architect that he may need to install a ramp in the garage and the architect said the garage would have to be extended. Mr. Kelly stated that the properties Mr. Millican had commented on were probably built before zoning was put into place. Mayor Demarais stated that zoning ordinances were put into place around the time that Cedarview was built. Tyanna Dunbar asked if anyone had written in voicing concerns about the variance. Clerk Bond stated that no one had written in and Councilperson Wiederrick stated that someone had contacted her with concerns. Mrs. Kelly again brought up her concerns about the ambulance. PWD Truelove said he was worried about the sight distance obstruction and the obstruction would be an immediate concern. Mr. Millican stated if people would follow the rules it would not be a concern. Mayor Demarais asked for public comment three times.

With no more public comment Mayor Demarais closed the public hearing and opened the regular meeting at 12:24pm.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

1. Mayor Demarais informed Council that Councilperson Rummel could not attend the meeting because there was a funeral today he had to attend.

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

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

Councilpersons Hicks and Wiederrick presented claim warrants.

Councilperson Sintler moved to approve claim checks 25914 to 25929, 2nd by Councilperson Wiederrick. Motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS, COMMITTEES & MEETINGS ATTENDED

1. PWD Truelove reported that the crew would be removing the large pile of snow by the city pool.
2. PWD Truelove reported that he hoped to have the new digital speed sign programmed and set up by the school this week.
3. PWD Truelove stated that the city crew has been busy sanding the city streets and plowing snow.
4. Councilperson Sintler asked if PWD Truelove could blade some of the rough icy streets in town. PWD Truelove said he would see what could be done.
5. Clerk Bond presented Council with the current check register and the current revenue and expenditure actual vs budget reports.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Ms. Dunbar stated that the roads are icy and people should drive as conditions will allow.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Mayor Demarais read his appeal of the Schorr/Millican Variance. Mr. Millican said that he has followed all of the rules. Mr. Millican stated that he doesn't have the time but he can make the time, if needed, to pull all of the approved zoning permits to see if they were done properly. He does not want to do this, but if this is not approved he will check all of the permits issued to see if they are all correct. He is not asking for anything special. Ms. Dunbar stated that there is a lot of stuff that is not pretty around this town and they take care of their houses. Councilperson Hicks stated that if he himself bought a house and wanted to expand it he would check the rules first. Mr. Millican stated that he is aware of the rules but if his mom ever lives there he would have to install a ramp. Mr. Millican stated that he doesn't know if his mom will ever live there. Councilperson Sintler asked Mr. Millican if he would have room if he removed the center column on the garage door and replaced it with one large garage door. Mr. Millican stated that it would not make a difference and his mother living there was just hypothetical. Councilperson Wiederrick moved to approve the Schorr/Millican Variance, 2nd by Councilperson Hicks. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilperson Wiederrick Nay, Hicks Nay, Sintler Nay. Motion Failed.
2. Mayor Demarais administered the Oath of Office to Ward 1 Councilperson Elect William Hicks and Ward 2 Councilperson Elect James Sintler.
3. Mayor Demarais presented Council with Resolution 1280, a resolution approving elected officials into the employee benefits program. Councilperson Wiederrick moved to adopt resolution 1280, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Wiederrick Aye, Sintler Aye, Hicks Aye. Motion Carried.
4. Mayor Demarais presented Council with the Bear Paw Development letter of support. Council person Sintler moved to have Mayor Demarais sign the letter, 2nd by Councilperson Hicks. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Sintler Aye, Hicks Aye, Wiederrick Aye. Motion Carried.
5. Mayor Demarais informed Council that it was time to select a business for fuel purchases in 2020. Mayor Demarais stated currently the City was purchasing fuel from Horizon Resources and the next business in the rotation was Equity Co-op. Councilperson Wiederrick made a motion to purchase fuel from Equity Co-op in 2020, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. With no further discussion, Mayor Demarais

called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Wiederrick Aye, Sintler Aye, Hicks Aye. Motion Carried.

6. Mayor Demarais presented Council with the levee certification letter. Councilperson Hicks moved to have Mayor Demarais sign the letter, 2nd by Councilperson Wiederrick. Mayor Demarais called for a roll call vote. Councilpersons Hicks Aye, Wiederrick Aye, Sintler Aye. Motion Carried.

OTHER COMMENTS

1. Mayor Demarais informed Council that the city was awarded a \$13,000.00 Tourism Grant through the Montana Office of Tourism to help with the refurbishment of the Stagecoach/Mud Wagon.
2. Mayor Demarais informed Council that there had been an issue during the water shut offs on December 23, 2019 and two individuals were charged with disorderly conduct.
3. Mayor Demarais informed Council that the PWD would start taking a city truck home and parking it at his residence every night. This will improve his response time when he is called out in the evening.

With no other business, Councilperson Wiederrick moved to adjourn, 2nd by Councilperson Sintler. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 1:28pm.

Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk/Treasurer