

CITY OF MAROA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY FEBRUARY 7, 2022

ROLL CALL:

Was taken by Clerk Walters at 6:35 p.m. Alderman Wilkey, Grider, West, Harper, Riley, Alderwoman Bogle, Administrator Agee, Clerk Walters, Treasurer Modro-Peters, Attorney Wise and Mayor McCullough were all present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Led by Clerk Walters

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

Patrick Sullivan from the church wanted to talk about getting a pickleball tournament for the community like they did with the softball tournament last year. West asked what kind of equipment he would need. Patrick stated he would need nets and lines to mark the court. He said they could use tape to mark the lines like they did at the high school. He stated that people would have to furnish their own paddles. West stated to the mayor if he would like West to continue working with him through the park program and Mayor stated that would be fine.

West stated that we will have a Park committee meeting on March 7th at 6 p.m. and he will make sure that Patrick will be invited to that meeting so he can come up to that meeting so the pickleball tournament can be discussed further then.

Wilkey stated that might be able to borrow the equipment from the high school for the tournament.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Fiber (Internet)-**

Ted Agee stated that they sent a draft agreement and he forwarded it onto Lindsey Wise to go over. Lindsey stated it looked fine and covered all the bases. They stated that if the weather holds out, they could be looking at to install around March or towards the end of March. They were wanting to know which funds we could use since it is utility and prevailing wage and Ted and Lindsey discussed that and can use the TIF funds and ART funds and Lindsey stated if they are doing the work, we are fine.

Lindsey said in the agreement there was one area that was blank that talked about service obligations they said it would be available to every residential dwelling but then it went into the density of the number of dwelling units per linear mile then it was blank, so they need to fill that in and let us know on that.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Ordinance 2022/02/07-1 Variance for 421 N. Locust Street-**

Brad Wilkey stated on January 27th the Zoning Board had a meeting and five members present. The variance was brought before them by the person asking for the variance. The variance is for two feet four inches that it is too high for the use of his truck to take in and do his own maintenance. The board asked if he would be doing any outside business and he insured the board no it would be for his personal use and keeping his truck on the road. Brad stated several questions were answered. There was a map laid out and everything was so many feet away and everything was in compliance and with the alley was in compliance. The board took a vote it was 5-0 and everyone was in favor of.

Mayor McCullough asked how far it will be from the alley and Ted Agee stated he knew that his current garage was eight to ten feet and that Clifton wanted to stay back at least that if not more.

Alderman West made a motion to accept Ordinance 2022/02/07-01 and Alderman Harper second the motion. All was in favor. The motion to accept the motion for Ordinance 2022/02/07-01 was passed.

- **Gym-**

Clerk Walters stated she put the gym on agenda due to there is a lot of events going on in the gym besides just people renting for the event. People needing for multiple use. Such as bags, yoga and etc. I know for the school activities we do not charge. How does the council want to oversee these events? Do you want to change for usage or how do you want us to oversee these events? Wilkey stated he though the agreement was they were going to make a donation towards power. Walters stated there has not been one yet and into second month. Wilkey stated he would say something since that was the agreement for the bags. West stated there needs to be a strict policy that we follow. Youth league and school activities get it for free anything supporting the community should be free, but if someone is in here for hire and with a business they should pay for it, his is opinion. Walters also stated on the liability do we just need to have Cheri sign the form or does everyone in the class have to sign a form? Grider stated she would be the one to sign the form and she would be responsible for anyone in the class since it is her activity. West stated that we have the electrical and janitor expense that we need to consider. Walters stated it is a \$120.00 deposit for key rental and \$50.00 to rent the gym. West stated he would like to think about putting in a punch button control or a temporary swipe key and its time sensitive and then it cannot be used again. West wants Ted to look into how much that would cost and look into the janitor and other expenses for going towards gym for next meeting. Ted explained on the Yoga classes that they do not use the power she uses tealights for her classes. Richard Young stated he did not know with our door if a keyless entry would work and may have to look into that.

POLICE REPORT:

Gaddy stated he gave everyone his monthly report if anyone had any questions. West asked Chief to tell everyone a quick description of the new police officer is that we hired. Gaddy stated we did an interview last week he is a past DPD police officers and an officer up in Michigan is name is Jacob Gilbert. Our decision was to hire him that night. We hired him and we got him on the rode now and going through the training board to get him certified. Mayor McCullough wanted to know how long it usually takes to get certified. Gaddy stated he do not know. He stated that with COVID they are not in office full time. He stated he was fingerprinted last night and that will be back in a week.

ATTORNEY REPORT:

Stated that once they got the process servicer hired, they pretty much immediately got Josh and Laura Miller served for Wood Street. Laura is somewhere in Indiana and Josh is in Taylorville. Josh called Lindsey's office and stated that Laura got the house in the divorce and that he did not know anything about it. Then Lindsey got an email from Laura's attorney Andy Bourey he was her bankruptcy and divorce attorney, and he says that he filed for bankruptcy for her in 2019 and she did not retain the home and he talked about the foreclosure. Lindsey stated she knew about this it was scheduled for February of last year and canceled because of inclement weather. He said that she moved out in 2019 and that the mortgage company secured the property and that she signed it over. Lindsey stated she is waiting to get some documentation from him because there is no record that it shows that Lakeview Loan Servicing owns that property. Lindsey stated it really only matters that all parties have been served that we can proceed that we can get permission from the judge to tear down the property. It all depends on the money judgement. It all depends on if you want to go after someone to pay for it. Can proceed with the court date on

February 23rd at 10:30 a.m. Andy Bourey asked Lindsey if it is the municipality's position still based upon the circumstances, she has described then his client to proceed with this money judgement then Laura is going to hire him to enter the case. If the city will agree not to seek a judgement against her then he is not going to get involved. But Lindsey still wants to get documentation that it is in the hands of Lakeview. Lakeview does have an attorney now and his name is Craig Conquest. He filed an answer and wanted to know if he could have an extension. Lindsey stated that we finally found them and got a court date and she does not want to extend it because you have to have them served a week before. Lindsey stated that Lakeview would be the ones to have the pocket to go after to pay for it. Lindsey stated she will have to see what the judge lets her do on the 23rd. Lindsey stated she thinks the judge will give her the ok to tear down, but she will have to see who we can go after for the money.

Ted Agee stated he would like to get it torn down as soon as possible because he does not want anything to start growing again. So best to do while it is cold out.

ENGINEER REPORT:

No Report

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

Ted Agee stated we went over everything he had already.

COMMITTEE REPORT:

- **Movie Night**

West stated he wants to push that back to next month. He stated he did talk to Eagle Theater in Clinton (it was brought up in Committee meeting) and include them and see if they would want to participate or help out with someone the equipment, licensing free or maybe get a new movie out. West stated they are very interested. They are having a meeting with their owner of their company in three days.

- **Police Academy**

West stated we discuss this is the committee meeting that we are having a heck of a time getting trained police officers wanting to move to Maroa. We did talk about hiring brand new guys off the street that have interest in the police department and send them to the academy.

Chief stated it is roughly \$6500 to send someone to the academy. It depends on what academy we send them to.

West stated it would be a three-to-four-year contract and if they leave before that then they owe us a percentage of there expense that they used to go to the academy. Gaddy stated it is in the policy for four years.

West wanted to know what the boards thoughts were to approve the \$6500.00 for Chief Gaddy to go ahead and start advertising to create a list. Chief Gaddy stated that the only academy we will probably be able to get into is Southern Illinois due to everywhere else is reporting 16 to 18 months out. Chief stated that the State Police department are bringing them back to the academies to try and help out that is why they are full around here.

Alderman Riley wanted to know if there was a formal screening or testing that Chief Gaddy uses before hiring to send to academy. Gaddy stated we send them for a psychological exam and physical and drug screen.

Alderman Wilkey wanted to know when this would take place because right now in the budget there are zero dollars for this. Wanted to know if this would be in the next budget. Alderman West stated yes, he was just wanting to see if this were something the board would agree on doing so it could be put in the budget.

The board agreed with the academy.

Young Park-

Alderman West stated that Richard and Barb Young have graciously to donate the center island of Montgomery Park to the City of Maroa to be used as a pocket park. West stated he wanted to get a sign ordered right away to let people know what it is. West was thinking of a boulder with engraving on it. West stated he talked to Richard and Richard would like the park named Young Park and below the sign put donated by his wife and him. West got prices from Boulder Design in Rantoul. The price includes the delivery the engraving and installing the boulder permanently.

Alderman West made a motion to purchase from Boulder Design in Rantoul for Young Park for \$1880.00 the 3ft x 5ft 8" thick boulder. Alderman Wilkey second the motion. All was in favor. The motion to purchase from Boulder Design in Rantoul for Young Park for \$1880.00 the 3ft x 5ft 8" thick boulder was passed.

APPROVE MINUTES:

- **January Minutes-**

Alderman Wilkey made a motion to approve January meeting minutes with noted change on citizens comments to change there was to there were. Alderman Grider second the motion. All was in favor. The motion to approve January meeting minutes with noted change on citizens comments to change there was to there were, was passed.

APPROVE BILLS:

Alderwoman Bogle made a motion to approve the January/February bills and Alderman West second the motion. All was in favor. The motion to approve the January/February bills was passed.

CLOSED SESSION:

Alderman Grider made a motion to go into closed session and Alderman West second the motion. All was in favor. Motion to go into closed session was passed.

ROLL CALL:

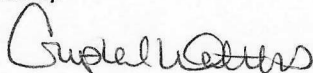
Was taken by Clerk Walters at 7:57 p.m. Alderman Wilkey, Grider, West, Harper, Riley, Alderwoman Bogle, Administrator Agee, Clerk Walters, Treasurer Modro-Peters, Attorney Wise and Mayor McCullough were all present.

Alderman Wilkey made a motion to direct City Administrator to authorize to pay out the worked overtime for plowing of snow. Alderman West second the motion. All was in favor. Motion to direct City Administrator to authorize to pay out the worked overtime for plowing of snow was passed.

ADJOURN:

Alderman Wilkey made a motion to adjourn at 7:59 p.m. and Alderman Grider second the motion. All was in favor. Motion to adjourn at 7:59 p.m. was passed.

Done By:



Crystal Walters, City Clerk