

**CITY OF MAROA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY JULY 11, 2022**

ROLL CALL: Was taken by Clerk Parrott at 6:30 p.m. Alderwoman Bogle, Alderman, Brown, Grider, Riley, West, Greutman, Administrator Agee, Clerk Parrott, Attorney Wise, and Mayor Wilkey were all present. Treasurer Bohlmann was absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Was led by Mayor Wilkey.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: **Pastor Cunningham** has some concerns with the property on where the duplexes are supposed to be going in and would like to know what is going on with that. Alderman West stated that he has noticed it as well and would get Ted on that immediately.

John Leach- has some concerns with the dog park and the community garden going in over in the space which he calls the green space between Jackson and Madison and Chestnut and Oak. He thinks people around there should be asked first. Mayor stated that will happen.

Andrew Weatherford- he is an attorney in Decatur. He lives in Forsyth his wife teaches in Maroa and he is running for Judge in Macon County, and he just wanted to come in and introduce his self-tonight to everyone. He has been practicing a little over twelve years. Has two little girls in the school district. He represents municipalities such as us and does some criminal work as well.

Tim Lawkoski- has concerns about the Gregory residence. Koonce stated there was an ordinance served by mail. Waiting on a status on that. Koonce stated it is an open investigation and it is being worked on.

Patrick Sullivan- stated that the softball tournament starts next week. There are six teams, and it will be double eliminations. So, there will be three games per night. Unlike last year the last game will start at 8. So, he will need someone to show how to turn lights on. Bogle stated she will help him out with that.

Lane Fredrickson- wanted to know about the new speed limit signs and why they were extended clear out passed his house. (Lives out by Four Winds) Mayor stated one was to try to get golf carts to be able to go all throughout town. Ted Agee stated also that out at Four Winds they were having issues with traffic with trailers and camper coming in and out and with the speed limit going down it made it safer. Mayor stated he is willing to look into though if needed to make a change.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Wood Street and Main Street** – Ted on main street we were talking about six and half foot for sidewalks on each side and centering the road. Matt the engineer stated in the past we were pursuing for ITEP grants for improvements for bike/ walk more and we had looked at that more on Wood Street. We kind of looked at adding Main Street since that is needed. He thinks it will be a 4-4 ½ million project and thinks there are still massive things to work out. He stated August 1 is when he believes that grant cycle is going to open up with grants due mid-September. Matt stated if you wanted to reduce then you would have to make accommodations. But Ted stated they had also discussed changing the project may not change the grant difference at all. Also, if you limit some of the things then you risk the chances of taking some of the points off of the grant. Mike stated he does not think we will get the grant with out the bike path.
Mayor stated he thought we were further ahead in the game than he thought we were. So, they will make a decision in the next few days and get back with him. He asked council if everyone was in agreement with that. All was in favor of getting back with him in a few days with their decision.
- **City Hall repair updates** – Ted stated we are going to do carpet ourselves. The gentleman working on the room is putting the ceiling in today. Within probably a couple of weeks that room he is working on should be done.

- **GFL Discussion** – Mayor stated this is where we are at on this situation. GFL is purposing for us to resign our contract that we are in. We are in no hurry for that, but they have offered us two of the 95-gallon cans. Kenny holt from GFL is here tonight and stated that also we will provide the curbside service with the two cans and the recycle can. Still get the two clean up. Also added 25 tons of free landfill for the city. The rates are \$18.25 and that would start October 1st and that goes up four percent each year in the five-year contract. The mayor stated that is what we have been discussing for the last to months.

Mayor stated we told the citizens we would bring this to your attention tonight and then we could move forward with this. Blake West stated he was tagged on social media to bring this forward to the representative to GFL. Blake stated this is the entire discussion as of noon today. So, I am handing this over to you to make sure the proper person gets this and reads over these comments about the service.

Mike asked the question if we don't have a contract how much does someone usually get charged for garbage. Kenny said he knows at one town they get charged at least \$28.00 a month but that is the cheapest. Mike stated and with this new contract in a five-year time the most is going to be \$21.35 a month.

- **Fall Rummage Sales and Clean-up Dates-Change-** We already had them set but Eric from GFL called Crystal and due to GFL not knowing they already had previous arrangements dates need to be changed. Crystal stated GFL stated they could do cleanup on October 8th. We asked Kenny Holt from GFL if we could have them pickup on the Friday as well like they did at Spring clean-up as well. Kenny stated yes, they could send there extra guys out on the Friday on the 7th as well too. So asked council if changing dates for Fall Rummage sales to September 29th, 30th, and October 1st would be good. Council agreed on the dates.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Swear in new Chief of Police and new Officer-** Mayor stated we had seven candidates and for him this decision was probably the most important decision he has been involved in. He knows how important it is to a town that loves each other and wants to know they are protected and wants someone who cares and wants someone who will become a Maroa guy. We have chosen Mr. Partick Siemsen.

Patrick Siemsen stated he has been in laws enforcement for 30 years. Ex-Army, National Guard, Veteran. Served with the Homewood Police Department for twenty-seven years. During that time, he had a really great career. He had a lot of great career opportunities. He was the Detective Sargent of the Investigation of Home Investigations Unit. He oversaw over hundred police officers. He got his two-year, three-year degree and his master's in criminal justice and public administration. He also had the opportunity to attend Northwestern to do the executive leadership program for executive law enforcements. He also has been assigned to the Illinois State Police major crime task force. Also has worked at school districts being in charge of all the SRO's and the security at the schools. He is also a college professor.

The mayor's first question to him was why you would want to come to the city of Maroa. Patrick stated he does not want to bring Cook County here. But what he wants to do his is his experiences there good and bad there bring here to help us. He stated he wants to do small town. He stated Shannon is about half the size of this town and in his year there and that is the type of law enforcement he wants to do. He wants to get in the community were people shake hands with him get to know him and he gets to know them. He stated he is already looking for a place here and will be moving here.

Mayor stated this was a two-round interview with Chief Wilkey, himself, Ted and Blake. Each interview was about an hour to hour and half. It's important and they have five Chief's in how many years. Many a hundred I don't know but this was an important decision. We knew people would be worried about him being from Cook County but after talking with him and knowing he wanted to get out and shake hands with people and get to know people we knew he would be the right one.

Mayor stated his decision is to appointment Patrick Siemsen and asked for councils' approval. All was in favor. Mayor asked Patrick to step forward to be sworn in. Clerk Parrot swore in Chief Patrick Siemsen.

Through that process it was super important to pertain our Sergeant Billy Koonce he has been here 17 to 18 years. Glad to keep Koonce!

Also, during the interview process we were able to pertain an officer, Sarah Heatherton. Sarah stated she was born and raised in Decatur. She is married and has two young children. She has worked at the Decatur Police Department for almost sixteen years. She left there and went to the courthouse for a couple of months and figured out that was not for her and now she is here. She was driven here due to her kids. She wanted them to come to our school district and she loves the small community. Mayor asked her to step forward to be sworn in. Clerk Parrot swore in Sarah Heatherton.

- **Appointments-** Mayor announced the new appointments for each committee.
POLICE- (C) Blake West, Monty Greutman
PERSONNEL- Entire Council, (c) Ted Agee
FINANCE- (c) JT Grider, Michael Brown, Matt Riley
WATER & SEWER/STREETS & ALLEYS- (c) JT Grider, Monty Greutman, Matt Riley
BUSINESS/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT- (c) Angela Bogle, Blake West, JT Grider
BUILDING/PARKS & RECREATION- (c) Blake West, Matt Riley, Angela Bogle
FESTIVAL- (Freedom Festival) Blake West, (Harvest Fest) Angela Bogle, (Christmas Fest) JT Grider
- **Auditor Date (Middle of September)** – Crystal stated the auditors need a date picked for when to meet to go over the audit. That they will be here the 11th and 12th of August to do the field portion of it. But needs to be either third or fourth week of September. Council will decide on a date and get back with Crystal.

POLICE REPORT: Koonce stated should have received it Friday. The ordinances he stated there should be three instead of two. Stated they have been short a body with illness and injury and have kept them from working so the numbers are down a little. Mayor asked him to discuss about animal control with possibly skunk calls. Koonce stated luckily Hoffman and his crew have been taking care of the skunks for them. Koonce stated they have dealt with a lot of dogs and cats. They usually stick with the domesticated animals but a lot of dog issues.

Chief Siemsen stated that there was a resignation over the weekend, and they are already looking to fill that position. Someone asked if there will be an SRO officer this year. Mayor stated yes there will be someone there.

Jason Bresford stated that he believes Chief Wilkey deserves a round of applause for stepping in like he did. Everyone agreed!!

ATTORNEY REPORT: She stated she knew that there are some building we are interested on getting torn down and taken care of. She will get started on that. Billy and her and Blake as well have talked about the ordinance violations. The mobile home seems to be going right.

Lindsey is going to file a complaint on nuisance compliant on maple with council's consent. Council was in favor.

ENGINEER REPORT: Spoke in old business

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: Did get Ryder's American Grille liquor license activation going.

ZONING/PUBLIC WORKS: Looking at drainage tile going down Wood Street. Probably going to put some number together to finish the project up.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Blake West had over 50 vendors signed up and with storms coming he had vendors call first thing in morning cancelling. 28 vendors showed up. The first storm came through and ended up with only five vendors. He was on the phone with the national storm center about seven to eight times throughout the day. He stated they were very great to work with they kept calling him throughout the day informing him of what the weather was doing. There was a storm coming in around the fireworks and the mayor and him made a decision and try to push the fireworks in. The band came prepared for outdoors but made it work for inside. All in all, it went ok. Petting zoo was a big hit, and the bouncing house was as well. Blake stated that even though with the weather the next day there were some vendors that called him and stated they had never been to an event as well organized as this was.

Young Park is moving along. The gazebo is going to be going in. There will be a teeter totter, swing set and slide as well.

Fall Festival committee needs to be getting together soon.

Grider stated that Decatur Ambulance Service is shutting down September 1st. He has been in contact with DeWitt County EMS and talking with the fire department to secure coverage for our community to make sure no emergency will go unhandled throughout all of this. Also, DeWitt County is very interested in expanding and he will be talking with Ted to see what we can do and possible see about them putting a station in Maroa.

Bogle stated at the beginning of June they held an event for the Veterans Memorial Fund raiser and believe they raised around \$350.00 to donate.

APPROVE BILLS: Alderman West made a motion to approve the bills and Alderwoman Bogle second the motion. Alderwoman Bogle, Alderman Brown, West, Riley, Greutman and Grider all was in favor. The motion to approve the bills was passed.

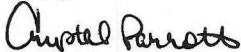
CLOSED SESSION: Alderman Grider made a motion to go into closed session at 8:03 p.m. and Alderwoman Bogle second the motion. All was in favor. The motion to go into closed session at 8:03 p.m. was passed.

ROLL CALL: Was taken by Clerk Parrott at 8:45 p.m. Alderwoman Bogle, Alderman, Brown, Grider, Riley, West, Greutman, Administrator Agee, Clerk Parrott, Attorney Wise, and Mayor Wilkey were all present. Treasurer Bohlmann was absent.

Alderman West made a motion to increase Sgt. Aaron Koonce's pay to \$26.50 an hour plus benefits for him and entire family starting July 11, 2022, and Alderwoman Bogle second the motion. All was in favor. The motion to increase Sgt. Aaron Koonce's pay to \$26.50 an hour plus benefits for him and entire family starting July 11, 2022.

ADJOURN: Alderman Grider made a motion to adjourn at 8:46 p.m. and Alderman Riley second the motion. All were all in favor. The motion to adjourn at 8:46 p.m. was passed.

Done By:



Crystal Parrott, City Clerk