

**CITY OF MAROA**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**MONDAY MAY 2, 2022**  
**MAROA CITY HALL**

**ROLL CALL:** Taken by Clerk Walters at 6:33 p.m., Mayor Wilkey, Attorney Wise, Administrator Agee, Clerk Walters, Treasurer Modro-Peters, Alderwoman Bogle, Alderman West, Grider, Riley and Harper were all present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Was led by Mayor Wilkey.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS:** Patrick from the Methodist Church stated he has coordinated with the Youth League about the softball tournaments. He stated the youth leagues schedule ends about the 13<sup>th</sup> of July, so he is thinking to have it either the weekend of July 18<sup>th</sup> or July 25<sup>th</sup>. Patrick wanted to know if the council preferred one of those weeks rather than the other. Mayor stated really no preference, but he would think the 18<sup>th</sup> due to vacations and the end of July is also the shut down period for the high school teams won't be able to practice. That last week of July so that's when most people take vacations.

Patrick stated he would put out some flyers and see what feedback he gets on the two weekends and see how many people he can get. But it will be one of those two weekends. Patrick stated that he thinks they will have more teams than last year.

Lindsey stated her middle son is playing on the Monticello team and there are six kids from the Maroa-Forsyth area. They have been playing all their double headers here at the north diamond. The people from Monticello were not looking forward to it. Monticello does not have diamonds they play at Cisco, Weldon, White Health. They said they really loved this field and liked coming to it.

**APPROVE MEETING MINUTES:**

- **March Open Minutes-** Alderman Grider made a motion to approve the March open minutes and Alderwoman Bogle has second the motion. All was in favor. The motion to approve the March open minutes was approved.
- **March Closed Minutes-** Alderman Grider made a motion to approve the March closed minutes and Alderwoman Bogle has second the motion. All was in favor. The motion to approve the March closed minutes was approved.

**POLICE REPORT:** Chief stated that they have given the notices to the people that were in violation of the ordinances and just about everyone of them have been in the process of getting the clean up done or are almost done. He stated traffic stops have been up just a little bit, a few animal control calls, still doing golf cart registrations still working on a few other things. He stated they will try and keep up on everything the council ask for and if not, they will try and give them and answer on why they didn't.

Mayor stated there were a lot of people in town yesterday and asked Sgt. Koonce if everything was ok. Koonce stated everything was fine. There were no complaints, no reports nothing that needed to be handled. Mayor also asked about downtown Friday action the last couple weeks if there have been any complaints. Koonce stated he has not been working Friday nights, but he knows there has not been any problems or complaints.

**ATTORNEY REPORT:** Lindsey stated to get the Green Wave ordinance and agreement on the agenda for next month. She stated they got a hold of her, and she let them know that was probably what was going to happen. But she had reviewed everything and looks good.

**ENGINEER REPORT:**

**ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:**

GFL-Eric Shangraw came tonight to go over our contract and try to go over a different proposal with once-a-week pickup and having everyone take garage to curbside so they can get out of the alleys. Everyone will get

two 95-gallon bins and a recycle bin if they want to do the recycling. In four years, the contract will change no matter what and they will go to this kind of contract and with doing it know we have a chance to get a better pricing if we do a new contract with them now. So, August 2022 would be \$18.25, August 2023 \$18.98, August 2025 \$19.74, August 2025, \$20.53 and August 2026 would be \$21.35 and seniors 65 years of age and older would get \$2.00 off those rates. In the initial layout everyone will get one cart and then everyone will have to opt in or out if they want the recycle or not then they will have to request the second cart for trash. Will check with citizens and see what kind of feedback we get and discuss next month.

On engineering side, the MFT bid opening is Thursday and stated to Mike can possibly do that online. The plan is to hold a special meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> because that would be the soonest, they can approve the bids for the MFT side of things. Have a budget meeting a week from now and get that done before.

Alderman Riley asked about the signs for the roads and Ted stated him and Mike were going to the county building to get some picked up and that Blake had a speed sign on a trailer coming soon. Riley stated he had just noticed that on Wood and Main Street that when kids were crossing to go to school that there were several kids crossing and cars flying down the road. West stated we are doing a demo on a camera like Decatur has a license plate reader. It will activate a police officer when there is a warrant for an arrest on a license plate that it reads or if we had a robbery come through town the camera might catch the license plate number of the vehicle.

**ZONING/PUBLIC WORKS:** Mike Hoffman stated that they were going to be flushing hydrants within the next few weeks. Mike stated at the next meeting to be ready to talk about the Miller property on Pine Street.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Website-** Mayor stated we are having a hard time getting on to the calendar to change things on it and having a hard time uploading some pictures on to the website as well. There are a few other problems with the web site so looking to get something that is user friendly for Crystal.

Blake stated that Crystal, Ted, J.T. and himself all did a demo on the computer with Immense Impact, and it was very self-explanatory and very easy to operate. Very new and modern. We were all impressed with the demo and the price. They will transfer all our information and will do the set up and then they will turn it over to Crystal. The only thing they don't have is the email where you would click to email one of us. But Blake got a hold of someone that can do that for us. That will not be any expense to us for that part. The total cost with the transfer for the website is \$1791.50.

Alderman West made a motion to move forward with website through Immense Impact, LLC. For \$1791.50 and Alderwoman Bogle second the motion. All was in favor. The motion to move forward with website through Immense Impact, LLC. For \$1791.50 was passed.

- **418 S. Wood-** April 27, 2022, Lindsey Wise got an order for demolition for the City to tear that property down. The mayor stated as a city we wanted to try and recoup some of that money but was unable to because of the situation. Lindsey stated the mortgage company released the mortgage and they had no interest in the property. The mortgagee released their liens and asked to be dismissed from the case and the property owners filed bankruptcy.

Mayor stated we had taken preparations for this knowing that this might be the case. The council approved up to \$15,000.00.

- **Landscaping-** Ted is going to get it marked out so Chris Doak can get in here and get the sod peeled back two inches deep so he can get the rock and plastic in place before they come do the concrete. The concrete edging, they would like to get it in before the 11<sup>th</sup> of May. Because they have a big project coming up that they have to do. Mayor stated the plan of attack is to have a dedication of that monument out front on Memorial Day. That is the goal we are going for. Up against the building will be rock and then when we get there, we will do some landscaping. Mayor stated you may also have noticed there is a new road over by the north diamond. Reason being it is dangerous with the road being right there behind the bleachers with the kids walking by right there. So new rock road was put in on the other side of bat cages. Eventually the concrete behind the city hall will be a parking lot. For right now there

will be barriers until it gets paved. The old existing rock road will be a walkway and for truck vendors when there are events.

- **Concession stands improvements-** Mike Hoffman stated there have been cabinets falling apart for some time and there has been leaking. The bottom of the cabinets was gone, and we developed mold. So, cabinets were torn out and then there was four different colors on the walls, so the walls were painted. Then they found the sewer pipe was broken under the cabinets under the floor so they busted the floor up to get to it and replaced the line going into the floor and ran a new water service and then found low-cost flooring to put in and it should last a really long time. Need to insulate the attic so the air from the air conditioner does not just go out. Also, while Ronnie was up in attic pulling out wires, he notices some leaking so that will need to be addressed.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **City Hall Repairs-** Mayor stated he does not like the fact that no one can see or hear Ted while we are having the meetings. So, we have been discussing doing renovations in the council room and the room to the north which used to be a classroom which is being used to store the Christmas tree right now. What we are going to try and do is put a conference room for example if you stand outside the door which we don't encourage you to do but during a closed session you can hear pretty much everything it is not private in here. So, during the closed session meetings we could go down there and use that, we could use it for training, for businesses that would need to host a luncheon or whatever would be welcome to use it as well. The room is set up just like the council room. So, where everyone is sitting right now would be a conference room with a long table and some media up front.

Alderman Grider stated they had talked about adding some TV's. So, he thought that we could use it also for an emergency operations center. Say something catastrophic happens here in town and place where we can all meet with state, federal and local and monitor what is happening in one location and see what is needed.

Mayor stated we are in desperate need of a secure fireproof filing safe. So, you would walk in and immediately turn right and that is where we would have that located. Probably where Jeremiah is sitting would be the cut off and the rest of the section would be an office for the City Administrator.

There would be drywall work done, drop the ceiling and take out the windows that are going to the hallway area right now in both rooms. This was planned for last year, but we were not ready for it yet. Mayor stated that this project is TIF eligible and that is his suggestion. He also stated that carpet is needed in both rooms as well and the desk here in the council room would be extended as well so the City Administrator would be sitting on the end and not in the back corner anymore. Mayor stated will still need furniture, conference table, and a desk. Probably add possibly \$5,000.00 for those and carpet.

Alderman Grider made a motion to approve the proposal from Hassinger Construction for the total of \$22,891.00 to come out of the TIF district and Alderwoman Bogle second the motion. All was in favor. The motion to approve the proposal from Hassinger Construction for the total of \$22,891.00 to come out of the TIF district was passed.

Alderman Grider made a motion to approve the expense of \$7,109.00 for the carpet and furniture to come out of the TIF district and Alderwoman Bogle second the motion. Alderman West was a nay and Alderwoman Bogle, Alderman Riley, Harper and Grider were all aye. The motion to approve the expense of \$7,109.00 for the carpet and furniture to come out of the TIF district was passed.

- **Permission to get quotes for a new operating system for the office-** Crystal stated Locis is not cloud based right now and we need a system that is. We have had a couple issues with them that a few entries were entered into the system double and caused issues with accounting. Training the other day was minimum and a call the mayor had with them did not go over so well either. Crystal stated that we checked with gov sense, and they stated we were way too small so need to find some other places to look into and make sure that they are compatible with sensus. But Crystal is wanting the councils blessing to get quotes and see what she can find.
- **Ordinance 2022/05/02-1: An Ordinance Authorizing an Agreement with RISE Broadband-**

This is the first half that will be coming out of the ARPA funds. ARPA is the America Rescue Recovery Act and we ended up with \$232, 000.00 that can only be used towards

water/sewer infrastructure upgrades and broadband projects. That's were the \$125, 000.00 come from that we agree to pitch in to get broadband into town. First half is due now is the project is underway and the second half is due at the end of the project. So, we will be cutting that check to get it out to them. We have got the first have of the APRA funds which is \$116,000.00 and will be getting the other half (\$116,000.00) in the next couple of months.

Right now, what they call phase one, they are installing the conduit and then they will pull the wire through and then they will probably start getting people going on the fiber. Communication with them has been great.

This agreement is for the base unit that is going out by the shed, and they need our authorization to get onto the property and get the base unit going. Power is going to run off the pole and into our building and then to them and the bill is going to RISE. We will have security lights that will benefit them as well there.

Alderman West made a motion to approve Ordinance 2022/05/02-1 and Alderman Grider second the motion. All was in favor. The motion to approve Ordinance 2022/05/02-1 was passed.

- **Ordinance 2022/05/02-2: An Ordinance Amending § 105-9 Video Gaming-** We have a new restaurant coming to town and would like to have video gaming and right now we are at our cap. We have sixteen out and our maximum is twenty and the new restaurant would like to get six. So, with this ordinance it takes the maximum from twenty to twenty-four and that total maximum number of terminals per establishment is six. So, that way if Crawford's decides to put two more in, he would be able to since he only has four right now.

Mayor stated the new restaurant that is getting ready to open wants to have video gaming Ted stated right now we are at our cap.

Alderman West made a motion to approve Ordinance 2022/05/02-2 and Alderman Harper second the motion. All was in favor. The motion to approve Ordinance 2022/05/02-2 was passed.

- **Ordinance 2022/05/02-3: An Ordinance Authorizing the Creation of A ARPA Fund Bank Account-**This is to allow the bank to open an account for the ARPA funds.

Alderman West made a motion to approve Ordinance 2022/05/02-3 and Alderman Grider second the motion. All was in favor. The motion to approve Ordinance 2022/05/02-3 was passed.

- **Ordinance 2022/05/02-4: Establishment of a New Business Grant-** Alderman Grider stated after talking to the mayor and administrator he drafted up this ordinance to start a new business here in town to get new business in town. This would come out of the business district fund. We would award two grants and will not each exceed \$10,000.00. The application period is the month of May.

Mayor stated right now we have the Façade grant right now which is used signage or anything out front of their building. Grider stated this is strictly for new businesses and is not for business that are already established. It's trying to help new businesses get started in our community. This is a once-a-year thing and once you apply for it you can never apply again. There would be fine details in the applications. This ordinance is just to establish it. They would have to show what they would be purchasing with it and then we would have to have verification of that. Just because they apply for the grant does not necessarily mean they will get it. They would have to be registered they would have to have their articles of organizations.

Alderwoman Bogle made a motion to approve Ordinance 2022/05/02-4 and Alderman Grider second the motion. Alderman Harper was a nay and Alderwoman Bogle, Alderman Riley, West and Grider were all aye. The motion to approve Ordinance 2022/05/02-4 was passed.

**BILLS:** Alderwoman Bogle made a motion to approve the April/May bills along with the ones that were added in late and Alderman riley second the motion. All was in favor. The motion to approve the April/May bills along with the ones that were added in late was passed.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Blake stated he was going to get with Angie and Lenny to figure out a date to get together for a Festival Committee. The vendors have slowed down and currently he has thirty-two craft vendors signed.

Grider stated what he has is for personal and it is regarding the new time clock system we have been looking into. They have stopped returning his calls and he is just waiting to hear back from them. We are wanting to get away from paper sheets and have actual records.

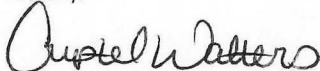
Mayor stated right now we have a manual time clock, and it says eight hours and that is the time clock. Grider stated that with either of these two systems that they would be able to clock in from their phone for from a computer. It adds more protection not only for us but for the employees. That way if they were to get hurt on the job, they have proof that states they worked at that certain time.

**CLOSED SESSION:** Alderman Grider made a motion to go into Closed Session under 5 I LCS 120/2 (c) (1): The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees or appointees of the public body at 8:04 p.m. Alderman West second the motion. All was in favor. The motion to go into Closed Session under 5 I LCS 120/2 (c) (1): The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees or appointees of the public body at 8:04 p.m. was passed.

**ROLL CALL:** Taken by Clerk Walters at 8:41 p.m., Mayor Wilkey, Attorney Wise, Administrator Agee, Clerk Walters, Alderwoman Bogle, Alderman West, Grider, Riley and Harper were all present.

**ADJOURN:** Alderman Grider made a motion to adjourn at 8:42 p.m. and Alderman Riley second the motion. All was in favor. The motion to adjourn at 8:42 p.m. was passed.

Done By:



Crystal Walters, City Clerk