

CITY OF MAROA  
FY 2021-2022 BUDGET HEARING &  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY JUNE 28, 2021

Meeting called to order by Mayor McCullough at 6:35 pm. Roll call taken by Clerk Walters. Alderwoman Bogle, Alderman Grider, Jackson, West, Wilkey, Harper, Administrator Ted Agee, Mayor McCullough, and Clerk Walters are present. Treasurer Modro-Peters is absent.

Alderwoman Bogle lead in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**BUDGET HEARING:**

-Alderman West to Administrator Agee and to Chief Gaddy that he noticed office expenses had gone up. Alderman West wanted to know what the increase was for. Chief Gaddy stated he has lots of certified mail going out and the increase of ink. Ted stated that there are maintenance programs that have increased. West stated that he did like that Agee did delete the donation part out of the budget because we cannot spend the money, we are not sure we are going to get. West also stated that he seen on the budget that there was \$1400.00 on making money on cannabis sales. Agee stated that we have been getting that already and West stated that he did not know that. Agee stated that it comes from the state.

-Alderman Wilkey stated to Agee that he thought there need to be a discussion about the sewer sales line that was bumped. Agee stated that they have been dealing a lot with the EPA on the system. On the finance side, we have not done anything with our sewer rates and knowing our sewer plant is 40 years old. Replacing a 40-year-old lift station and a majority of the sewer lines in this town were put in, in the 1930's. We got to start planning a head now. The only thing that will happen is these components will fail. We have to be able to maintain the system. Wilkey said four years ago we made an increase to the water rates and before that it was before Richard Young being on board here. Wilkey stated 2 increases over 25 years and never done anything with the sewer rates. So those have to increase. Need to come up with a 20 year or 40-year plan so you are not pinching everybody in 15 years when we have to do it. Also looking at billing on going from 1000 gallons to billing per 100 gallons and also with new meters charging for meter fee \$5.00 which goes into an account. The meters are good for 20 years. That way this money is sitting in an account and when need to replace meters we don't have to finance them the money will be sitting in an account. Also raise infrastructure to \$10.00. Alderman Harper stated your wanting to raise infrastructure, charge for meter, raise sewer and water all together. Agee stated if we want to maintain our sewer systems, yes. Alderman Harper wanted to know if filling swimming pools would get anything different on there bills. Agee stated that right now the way the billing is that it is cheaper to fill the swimming pools through the hoses rather than bulk water which makes no sense. With the new meters going in it will cut down on the water adjustments because we can flag the water

leaks because this system will read itself, several times a day. If there is a leak, we will be able to shut that meter off from the building. This way people are not waiting 30 days or so and finding out that they have a leak.

-PVC cost has gone up 300% stated Mike Hoffman.

-Alderman Wilkey stated, so our 2021 estimated sewer sales were \$120,666.98 and budgeting \$205,000.00 which is what are water sales are and have been for about 10 years at least. Agee stated that if he had to bet on the lift station failing, he would bet on it failing within 5 years.

-Alderman Wilkey stated that if his math is correct that sewer increase for everyone would be \$7.15 a month per customer on average. Alderman Wilkey wanted to know since these meters were already financed if we could hold off on the meter fee for at least a year to take some of the heat off-of the increase.

-Richard Young wanted to make sure he understood the increases on the amounts. Ted went over them with him.

#### CITIZENS COMMENTS:

-Jerry Fyke came to report that he has removed two homes to the dump and is still moving on cleaning things up. He will return to the next meeting.

-Matt Broadhacker Our city ordinances how do they work? Is it just case by case? Or is it nothing is done unless something is said in this room complaining or is wrote down on a piece of paper. Scott Gaddy stated as to what and Matt stated a couple years, I have come in complaining. I did go to Blake West a couple months ago and he has been trying to help. Neighbor filled in a ditch on a downhill side of me to extend his parking which should technically have a culvert because he is changing the flow of water slowing it down. While now I am having problems with my culvert and the water backing up into my driveway. That issue was supposed to be getting addressed and has not happened yet. I also complained about a deck that was put on property line. City ordinances say that 7 foot plus a variance and on the application, it says that the neighbors must agree, never heard a thing. I complained to Blake and JT. I said something to Ted, and he said it would be investigated. Well construction stopped for a little while, seemed like putting an 8-foot fence on the deck now making the fence 11 feet. Which I believe the ordinance is 6 ½ feet. Why is it that ordinances are only being enforced on certain people and not on others? My dog got loose, my neighbor came up here started complaining Billy came up, got to keep your dog in your yard we have a leash order. That is all it was but now my neighbors' yard now looks like a fortress looks like he has a watch tower in his back yard he has security cameras everywhere, my property value- what has happened to that. Gaddy stated those are building inspector matters those are not police matters.

Alderman Harper asked Mike Hoffman if he had something to respond to this complaint. Mike stated that it is not a permanent structure. Agee stated that there are others in town that have fences around there decks also. It is not illegal. If the council wants to change the ordinance,

then they would have to change it. But can not tell one person they can not do it and let someone else do the same thing.

Alderman West asked if this person had a building permit and Mike stated yes, he did.

Alderwoman Bogle stated what about the culvert issues? Alderman West stated he had talked to Mike about it, and he stated that they are getting fixed. Janet Broadhacker stated that the neighbor should be the one to pay for fixing the culvert since he was the one that caused the problem due to him wanting to expand his drive. That was by his choice.

Mike stated that Chris Doak is going to go look at it and see what needs to be done.

Grider said Gaddy needs to go over this week and let him know he has 30 days to get it fixed. If not fixed, then the city will fix it and the city will bill him.

-Janet Broadhacker wanted to know why the bills were estimated last month, Mayor McCullough stated it was because he was not here last month, and she said not only was here bill estimated I have my receipt where I paid it and it was not posted. Ted Agee stated there was a lot of bills that had that on there and the payments got crossed with the bills going out and all you have to do is call the office and get the correct amount. They have been taking calls all week. Simple fix just call them and they will get the actual amount for you. The bills read a couple days earlier due to the estimate process. Also, when are we going to get away from this PSN for our payments that is charging us to make payments? Clerk Walters stated that we do not charge that fee, PSN is the one that charges the fee. Broadhacker stated correct but when are we going to get a way from that. A couple of the council members stated they do not know of any company that does not charge and Agee stated that companies will not do the services for free, that is why they charge a convenience fee. Fiber optics to come to town when is that going to expand. Agee stated as soon as they get a response on the grant.

#### APPROVE:

Alderman Grider made a motion to approve the May open and closed minutes and Alderman West second the motion. Alderman Harper, West, Wilkey, Grider, Jackson all approved. Alderwoman Bogle was absent. May open and closed meeting minutes was passed.

#### APPROVE:

Alderman Wilkey stated to please add that he spoke with Illinois Municipal League Brad Cole. Alderman Wilkey made a motion to approve the June open and closed minutes and Alderman Grider second the motion. Alderman Harper, West, Wilkey, Grider, Jackson all approved. Alderwoman Bogle abstain. June open and closed meeting minutes was passed.

#### POLICE REPORT:

Chief Gaddy is present and states that he emailed his report out to all the council members. Also updated the ordinance violation list and dangerous buildings and emailed that out. Alderman Grider stated he had a question about the ordinance violation list and dangerous buildings. We have stuff on here from 2017, 2018, 2019. Gaddy stated he had column on there

that he is working on. Others they were issued fines and not paid. Clerk Walters also stated that need to find out all that are still on there through Midwest Collections. That have not contacted them yet. Not sure how she was handling that.

#### ATTORNEY REPORT:

Attorney not present tonight.

#### ENGINEER REPORT:

We have the MFT results for the consideration for later. We are also working with Mike for IEPA response for a couple questions that they had on the last inspection that they had. The city was not selected for the ITEP reward. Alderman Wilkey wanted to know the reasoning on why. He stated there was no reasoning as of right now. He stated once things settled down, he would be able to get in touch with them and see if there is anything we can do to try to improve that application. One thing is that he noticed is a Phase 1 Development Report and that seemed to have a heavy weight on the decision. Alderman Wilkey stated that was never discussed or brought to us. Wilkey stated are you suggesting we could have moved forward. Will stated it was brought to the city council last time we discussed and decided not to proceed with that at this point. Wilkey said refresh my memory on the date and it was stated it was about 3 years ago. Will also stated that there is a big price tag to go along with it and Bogle stated that is why we decided not to do it. Wilkey stated but that is something we should look into next year. Will stated in 15 to 16 months is when it should open again. Phase 1's is pretty much valid; you occasionally have to come back in and update.

#### ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

The outstanding revenue bond is \$464,927.00 needs to be voted to be paid. Alderman Wilkey wants to discuss the bathrooms first. Ann stated they were starting on the dry wall this week and then would be doing the paint and that the bathrooms would be done by July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Alderwoman asked what the estimated time frame was. Ann stated it was 3 weeks per bathroom. Ann stated it has gone over the estimated time frame. Alderman West asked why that is. Ann stated that the contractors were not wanting to work on top of each other in the short area. Also, most of them were a one-man crew and getting them to get here was an issue. West stated that he notices that when he is here at the city hall, he notices that they are only here for a couple hours a day and stated that is ridiculous and there should be some heat put on them. Ann stated there has been and payments have been withheld and will not be given until the job is done. Ann apologized for the inconvenience and stated that the materials should have been ordered first before the job was started. There was also asbestos in the walls and there was a slight delay getting that tested and abating it. Alderman West and Wilkey let it know that it was a big inconvenience during the Freedom Festival with no restrooms.

The Jefferson lift station waiting on the pumps. It is extended a little bit but have a supply chain issue. The concrete pad is going to go in next week for the generator to sit on and the building

to sit on. Looking at the first week in August to complete this project. The building will arrive the end of July.

The water tower electrical lines were installed today. Needed to have that done so the painting company could come in and wash the water tower. They should be doing that by the first part of next week. It will go down after the holiday on July 9<sup>th</sup>. There will be a temporary generator in place. Moving pressure tanks the 29<sup>th</sup> through out the town.

Water meter replacement began today, and they are working there way around town. They are holding off on the meters that are in the houses until August. Again, waiting on the supply chain issue for the radios that go inside the houses. Hopefully by August 1<sup>st</sup>, we will have them, and we will follow-up with that. Ann stated that they will send notices out once they have those and set up appointments to install those.

The Ameren Rebate for the lighting has been submitted for about \$7,000.00. It will be about another 60 days before we see that. The shields were installed on the water treatment plant the exterior lights, they were kind of glaring to some of the residents. Solar light was replaced at Spencer Park.

#### APPROVE:

Alderman Bogle made a motion to approve ordinance number 2021/06/28-1 and Alderman Grider second the motion. Alderman Harper, West, Wilkey, Grider, Jackson, and Alderman Bogle all approved. Motion to approve ordinance number 2021/06/28-1 was passed.

#### APPROVE:

Alderman Grider made a motion to reject all bids for MFT and Alderman West second the motion. Alderman Harper, West, Wilkey, Grider, Jackson, and Alderman Bogle all approved. Motion to reject all bids for MFT was passed.

Administrator Agee said it was discussed with him about adding gators, side by sides or atv's along with the golf carts/ utility license. If council would want this it would have to be changed in the ordinance. Mayor McCullough stated that they would have to have everything that the golf carts have, including the lights, turn signals, rear view mirror, etc. Gaddy mentioned state law stated that golf carts can not exceed 35 mph. Bogle asked if they were a lot of requests. Mike mentioned that wood street needs to be 35mph all the way.

Scott and Ted will do some research and draft an ordinance and go from there and give the council time to think about it since there is both sides right now thinking no and yes. This will give council more time to think about it and more time for research.

Mike stated that Ryan had a request to add a stop sign at Maple and Lincoln as well along with the speed being reduced on Wood. Wilkey stated Chris Groves stated they were coming out of the apartments and not stopping and flying by.

Agee stated next thing brought up was next months meeting needing to be moved. There are about five schedule conflicts with the date. Also, with the issue with the school board not being able to attend different meetings. Possibly moving it to the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month and with billing that would potentially work out better in our favor, with the way things come in.

#### APPROVE:

Alderman Jackson made a motion to approve moving July 26 meeting to August 2 and Alderman Grider second the motion. Alderman, Grider and Jackson, approved. Alderwoman Bogle, Alderman Wilkey, West, and Harper disapproved. Motion to approve moving July 26 meeting to August 2 was not passed.

#### APPROVE:

Alderwoman Bogle made a motion to approve moving July 26 meeting to July 19 and Alderman Harper second the motion. Alderman Harper, West, Wilkey, Jackson, and Alderwoman Bogle all approved. Alderman Grider disapproved. Motion to approve moving July 26 meeting to July 19 was passed.

#### APPROVE:

Alderman Wilkey made a motion for closed session under 5 I LCS 120/2 (1) at 8:20 pm and Alderman Grider second the motion. Alderman Harper, West, Wilkey, Jackson, Grider and Alderwoman Bogle all approved. Motion for closed session under 5 I LCS 120/2 (1) was passed.

#### BACK IN OPEN SESSION AT 8:52 pm:

Roll call taken by Clerk Walters. Alderwoman Bogle, Alderman Grider, Jackson, West, Wilkey, Harper, Administrator Ted Agee, Mayor McCullough, and Clerk Walters are present. Treasurer Modro-Peters is absent.

#### APPROVE:

Alderman Jackson made a motion to grant the administrator ten additional vacation days, \$2.00 an hour raise to the superintendent, and health insurance to the collector and Alderwoman Bogle second the motion. Alderman Harper, West, Wilkey, Jackson, Grider and Alderwoman Bogle all approved. Motion to grant the administrator ten additional vacation days, \$2.00 an hour raise to the superintendent, and health insurance to the collector was passed.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Alderman West request for a meeting for the parks and police on August 2 at 5 pm before the city council meeting. We need to talk about the capital expenses coming up and some minor upgrades to the park.

Also, James Turner is talking over the SRO position at the school starting at the school year this fall, so there is a part-time employee needed to fill James Turner's gap.

West stated we learned what we can do better for next year's events for the Freedom festival.

Grider suggested that starting this September to start planning for next year. So, we are way ahead of the curve.

West suggested on trying to find a way on getting electricity out to the north side of the building.

Agee stated that the circus proceeds they donated into the veteran's memorial was \$740.00. Bogle stated that we had another donation for the veteran's memorial that gave the check to Crystal to make sure it gets deposited from Stoy for \$500.00. There was a thank you card sent out for that donation from the committee and the city. We also have that \$500.00 check from the DAV. There was also a card sent for that one as well. Quick update the granite was ordered on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May, and they are 24 weeks out. Once they get that the etching and painting will take another couple weeks. Bogle is going to put them in touch with Ted because they want to come and see the layout of where the memorial is going. Possibly even have the pad of the concrete done before the granite gets here. Ted wanted to be clear that the flagpole was staying and that the rest was going to be centered around it. Bogle stated that Rhonda was working on for the next fund raiser for the veteran's memorial was a fun run on July 17<sup>th</sup>. Mike Hoffman asked if we were having a fall festival. Wilkey stated yes, that he needed to look into when the homecoming game was. Grider asked West if he had the list of vendors to be able to tap into that for the fall festival.

#### BILLS:

Wilkey stated that for the fireworks he thought we paid for that a year ago. He said if we signed a year contract, we would receive a 15% discount. Agee stated that he spoke to her, and she stated that they had not been paid yet.

#### APPROVE:

Alderman Wilkey made a motion to pay the June Bills except for the Patriot Pyro needs to be checked on first before paying and Alderman Harper second the motion. Alderman Harper, West, Wilkey, Jackson, Grider and Alderwoman Bogle all approved. Motion to pay the June Bills except for the Patriot Pyro needs to be checked on first before paying was passed.

Alderman West also wanted to add that he wanted to make sure that we offer Crystal the chance to go to the Illinois conferences in September. It will help with her position. Gaddy stated there was a class he was wanting to do, and West stated he was wanting to go also. West stated to Crystal to get the hotel dates and the classes that you would like to take and have ready for the meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Ted stated he would get the pricing of everything.

#### APPROVE:

Alderman Wilkey made a motion to adjourn. Alderwoman Bogle second the motion. Alderman Harper, West, Wilkey, Grider, Jackson, and Alderwoman Bogle all approved. Motion to adjourn at 9:17 pm, was passed.

