

Marengo Village Council

P.O. Box 310

Marengo, OH 43334

Minutes of the Council Meeting on November 8, 2017 at 7:00pm at Village Hall

Present: Mayor Mike Baker

Council Members: Cherri Burwell
Robert Beck
Ron Margraff
Becky Margraff
Earl Bennett
Michael Anderson

Village Clerk: Hilary Ostrom

Mayor Mike Baker called the meeting to order.

Minutes: Cherri Burwell moves to approve the minutes with corrections from October 11, 2017 meeting; Becky Margraff seconds; Motion passes.

Bills: Cherri Burwell moves to pay bills except Bennett Distributing; Becky Margraff seconds; Roll Call 5 yes 0 no; Motion passes. Cherri Burwell moves to pay Bennett Distributing; Robert Beck; seconds; Earl Bennett abstains; Motion passes.

Public: No public comment

Old Business: Mayor Baker discussed with Council different billing for sewer usage since there has been request from Village residents/businesses for a reduction in their billing. He proposed basing the rate on usage for residential with a base amount and usage for business as well. Mayor Baker gave examples of properties that has asked for sewer reduction and their water usage currently. Council discussed not being able to go retroactive before August 2017 due to the sewer loan not being paid off before then. Council discussed charging one unit, \$38.50, per approx. 1500 gallon of water usage of a property. There would be a minimum usage regardless if the sewer is being used. Council discussed allowing property owners to request in writing a reduction in their sewer billing. Council discussed with Village Solicitor ordinance changes to change sewer rates. Village Solicitor believes a new ordinance would need to be written but the old ordinance can be used as a model. Council discussed if sewer usage can be changed under the current ordinance. Council asked Village Solicitor if they can raise or lower usage with current ordinance. Current ordinance is based on EDU (equivalent dwelling unit) and basing on usage is not the same as basing on EDU. Council discussed researching other Villages to see how they charge their sewage. Mayor Baker asked how the EDU's are established for residential, business and institutional in the current ordinance.

Zoning: Mayor Baker introduced Dale Healy to Council. He is recommending Dale as the new Zoning Inspector. Dale stated he has 44 years zoning experience and 25 years' experience in construction. Council agreed to have Dale Healy be the Zoning Inspector.

Park: Mayor Baker got pricing on street lights for the park. The expense would be \$10.50 month for flood light, \$9.95 a month for street light, 16.18 a month for a zoom light. Mayor Baker discussed lighting at the park with Council. Council also discussed putting electric in at the pavilion. Electric company will

maintain light bulbs. Council discussed light locations. Mayor Baker wanted to thank Don and Cheri Burwell for the signs they donated to the park. Council discussed posting some park rules. Council also discussed the plaque for the Veterans at the park.

New Businesses: Mayor Baker spoke informed Council Dave Gale was going to be off for medical. The person who runs Sparta's sewer would be able to help out if needed while Dave is out. Tyler Gale can help with the sewer plant while Dave is out as well. Mayor Baker also discussed with Council the possible need to have someone help plow snow. Mayor Baker is requesting to Council to approve Perry Spangler to fill in for snow plowing as needed. Cheri Burwell moves to hire Perry Spangler and Tyler Gale at \$13.50 an hour to work as needed for the Village; Robert Beck seconds; Motion passes.

Return to Old Business: Council continued to discuss sewer rates and usage. Village Solicitor informed Council that if they operate within the current ordinance they can change units billed. Council continued to discuss ordinance. Ordinance states number of businesses, residences, etc. in the Village at the time the ordinance was written in 1992. Council discussed that reviewing water usage does show there has been a change in usage for some properties, but the Council does not want to base sewer on water usage. Mayor Baker stated paving will probably not be done this year due to weather. Council discussed how they would bill for sewer and determine usage. Council discussed how the Village determined EDU of businesses in the ordinance. Council discussed they need to determine a charge per unit and what constitutes a unit. Council discussed keeping current sewer rate. Council reviewed current sewer expense for some businesses in the Village. Council discussed using occupancy load to determine possible usage. Council discussed difference between residential and business usage. Council discussed that now is a good time to review sewage usage and rates since loan is paid off. Council discussed the cost of writing a new ordinance and what needs to be researched to develop the ordinance. Council discussed how the Village would handle people who aren't paying sewer and adding that to an ordinance if a new one is created. Hilary will assess past due residential accounts.

Grants: Village was awarded \$14,496 by Ohio Department of Natural Resources. This will be for NatureWorks project. Joe Clase discussed applying for future grants for the Village. Park grants would need to be applied for in Spring but worked wouldn't be completed until 2019. Joe Clase is also working on cleaning up zoning code with some Council members. Ron Margraff will continue to meet with Joe as long as it takes to finish up zoning code process. There is a need to look at current zoning code. Joe Clase can look at sewage grants, sidewalk grants, neighborhood revitalization, etc.

Ron Margraff moves to adjourn; Cheri Burwell seconds; Motion passes