

**City of Martensdale**  
**Regular Council Meeting**  
August 7, 2017

Meeting called to order by Mayor Ralls.

Members present: Ryan Baker, Robert Wetzler, Scott Henson and Nathan Wheeldon.

Members absent: None

Attorney Robert Benton was present.

The consent agenda and July 13, 2017 minutes were presented, including the disbursement and revenue reports. There were an additional payable presented for the defibrillator for 13,085.58 and a new window air condition for the fire department for \$528.94 and \$750.00 for Ken Schultz for painting the exterior of city hall. Mayor Ralls stated he would rather have had the fire dept. come to the City to purchase the air conditioner instead of having Robert Seymour paying cash. Mayor Ralls said he would rather have it done the correct way. Mayor Ralls said there was also \$30.00 charged in sales tax, which the City is exempt from sales tax. S. Henson said they don't usually go out and purchase anything. R. Wetzler asked what way the hurry and S. Henson said they had equipment and computers that need to be cooled. Mayor Ralls asked to have the sales tax removed from the bill. R. Wetzler said he was okay with paying the sales tax this time. N. Wheeldon made a motion to accept the consent agenda, seconded by R. Baker. On a voice vote Mayor Ralls declared the motion carried unanimously.

The city clerk told the city council she would be transferring \$26,000.00 from the rescue account back into the general account for the checks wrote for the rescue defibrillator.

The city clerk told the city council that a check written to Hydro Klean in May has not been received yet. To stop payment on that check the cost is \$25.00. N. Wheeldon made a motion to stop payment on the previous check and issue a new one; seconded by S. Henson. On a voice vote Mayor Ralls declared the motion carried unanimously.

The city clerk asked the city council if the resident income survey has been completed. The city council has not completed it yet, but will get this done as soon as possible.

The city clerk discussed our current Email service with Windstream for the City and said it doesn't always work and even trying it on a different computer at a different location you are very limited and it doesn't always work. The clerk asked if we could change the City's email to a Gmail account so it could be checked at any time. R. Baker made a motion to change the City's E-mail to a Gmail account; seconded by N. Wheeldon. On a voice vote Mayor Ralls declared the motion carried unanimously.

The city clerk discussed our Kum & Go account and because of their due dates and our meeting dates our account is always past due and we are being charged a late fee and at times the account is not available until the payment arrives. The city clerk asked the city council's permission to have their payment deducted automatically from our general checking account once it is approved by the city council. Mayor Ralls asked if we would still receive a paper copy of all charges and the city clerk said yes. R. Wetzler made a motion to approved the automatic payment; seconded by S. Henson. On a voice vote Mayor Ralls declared the motion carried unanimously.

Robert Seymour said the city streets needed 6 tons of cold patch as he used the last we had on Burlington Ave., and he adjusted the amount of seal coat of existing streets to offset the cost.

Fire Dept. Report: Scott Henson said there were 22 EMS calls and 1 fire call. He said that brake work will be needed on a truck and that the AED in the fire truck and the defibrillator in the rescue squad were all set up and ready to use.

The city special elections for the vacancy council seat of Adam Vandekamp's date were discussed. The dates the auditor office gave the city clerk were Aug. 22, Aug. 29 or Sept. 12, the same date as the school board election. R. Wetzler made a motion to have the special election on Sept. 12; seconded by R. Baker. On a voice vote: Wetzler, Aye; Baker, Aye; Wheeldon, Aye; Henson, Nye. Mayor Ralls declared the motion carried with the majority-voting Aye.

Mayor Ralls discussed the water readings and asked when the scanner for the readings was purchased. Mayor Ralls said his bill was high for last month's bill and other residents have contacted City Hall complaining that they believed their bills were too high. Robert Seymour said the scanner was purchased about 3 years ago and stated that it reads according to the touch pad.

Caleb Kaupman and Gary Bronze from McClure Engineering were present to discuss the financing of the sewer project. He stated that the Mayor and city clerk contacted him stating that the council had made a motion to go with the SRF loan instead of the USDA. Caleb wanted to explain that the SRF loan has its own requirements and construction programs and the City would still have to make interest payments with that financing. Mr. Kaupman told the council he believed the USDA grant funds was better for the City and having the interim financing going through a local bank. If the USDA grant would not come through for some reason which McClure believes will not happen, then the City will have to use the SRF loan. R. Wetzler made a motion to change the financing from the SRF to City State Bank for the interim financing. On a voice vote Mayor Ralls declared the motion carried unanimously.

Caleb Kaupman said that the wastewater plan has been renewed; the soil boring is completed, and the USDA review has been completed by Andrew Collings.

Curt stated that potential new flood plain maps from FEMA would affect the increase of potential residents. There was discussion about retro fittings with cell 4 and 5 and the cost of that would be between \$600,000 to \$700,000. He said if we take out cell 4 the cost would be about the same, \$2,000,000 project with the collection rehab and the lift station. Martensdale residents, J. J. Dudney, Dwayne Frazier and Larry Henson were present and asked questions regarding the sewer project.

R. Wetzler made a motion to scale back the project through the lift station and scale back cell 4; seconded by S. Henson. On a voice vote Mayor Ralls declared the motion carried unanimously.

The audit report was tabled until the Sept. meeting.

Terri Henson asked about the publication of minutes and the cost and believed she had heard at a previous meeting due to the size of our community we did not have to publish. The city clerk told her that cities with a population of 200 and under do not have to publish minutes. Our City has 465 residents so we need to publish by state law.

R. Wetzler made a motion to adjourn; seconded by R. Baker. On a voice vote Mayor Ralls declared the motion carried unanimously.

John Ralls, Mayor

Donna Bahun, City Clerk