

**City of Martensdale  
Regular Council Meeting  
October 2, 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 Sept. 11, 2017 minutes were presented, including an addition to the payables to Randy Crow for extra help. R. Wetzler had a change to the Sept. minutes. R. Wetzler made a motion to accept the consent agenda, including the payables with the additional one for Randy Crow and the Sept. minutes with a revision; seconded by R. Baker. On a voice vote Mayor Ralls declared the motion carried unanimously.

The city clerk presented the 2016-2017 Road Use Tax Report. N. Wheeldon made a motion to accept the report; seconded by S. Henson.

On a voice vote Mayor Ralls declared the motion carried unanimously.

The city clerk presented a letter from Jim Lane, our insurance agent that he has left Jester Insurance to join his brother's insurance company, Lane Insurance in Norwalk, IA. Jester Insurance had also sent a letter and was present at the meeting. The city council decided to stay with Jester Insurance until the renewal is up. N. Wheeldon said he would like pricing for the iCAP plan to see the difference in pricing. The city clerk will get this information before the insurance policy is expired for the council to review.

The city clerk discussed the Internet at city hall and stated she cannot get onto it half the time. N. Wheeldon stated they have the same problem at the fire station and said it has to do with us being a commercial account. He had heard that New Virginia, IA was able to get someone from Windstream to attend a council meeting and it seemed to help with their connection. The city clerk will contact Windstream and see if someone can attend a council meeting.

The city clerk asked to transfer funds from the Road Use Tax account for street resurfacing, (\$36,525.00); the fire-rescue account for bills paid in 2016-2017 (rescue, \$921.80, fire \$3,053.39); and the sewer account for the storm sewer project (\$30,830.00). R. Wetzler made a motion to approve the transfers; seconded by R. Baker. On a voice vote Mayor Ralls declared the motion carried unanimously.

Maintenance Report: Robert Seymour stated the DNR had been to the City for a water survey and they have mailed a report to the City that stated the screen on the water tower is not sufficient. Bob said he could call McGuire Iron and have them take a photo of it and get the cost to replace it. Mayor Ralls asked if that would be covered under our contract with McGuire, Bob will ask them, but did not think it would be covered.

It was decided that we had to do something to correct the problem. The DNR needs a written reply to their recommendation by the end of October. S. Henson said to have McClure Engineering here and get their opinion too. Mayor Ralls told Robert Seymour to get a draft response ready for the DNR for him. Robert Seymour also stated that on the DNR report that the City needs a revised lead and copper-monitoring plan.

Robert Seymour said he needed new test kits bottles and that he had to call Hydro Klean for a sewer back up on School St.

Fire Report: A report for the bills for the fire dept. for September 2017 was presented. S. Henson stated there were 17 EMS calls and 2 fire calls.

Chief Henson said the main pumper needs engine work and wanted approval to get it fix. Mayor Ralls said to repair it.

The city attorney had sent a few sample firework ordinances from Carlisle and Knoxville for the city to review. The city attorney said these ordinances has some of the same items but it does explain the time for fireworks, the limit of sales of fireworks and the concern for sales of fireworks. Both ordinances had different details and Knoxville ordinance was not allowing firework sales. The city attorney said he could provide other samples for the city council to consider. Mayor Ralls said he opposed any extra regulations and any other ordinances that are not needed. He stated there are other laws to stop the noise during late hours; R. Wetzler believes the City is too close and he would say no to fireworks; S. Henson would like to read the sample ordinances thoroughly; N. Wheeldon said he would go with Carlisle ordinance; R. Baker said if you allow fireworks they need to be restricted. This will be discussed at next month's meeting.

Ordinance 10.01.2017 an Ordinance Amending Sewer Rates for 3% per year for a 3-year period was presented. N. Wheeldon made a motion to accept the ordinance; seconded by R. Baker. On a roll call vote: Wetzler, Aye; Henson, Aye; Baker, Aye; Wheeldon, Aye. Mayor Ralls declared the motion carried unanimously.

R. Baker made a motion to waive the 2nd and 3rd readings of Ordinance 10.01.2017; seconded by N. Wheeldon. On a roll call vote: Wetzler, Nye; Henson, Aye; Baker, Aye; Wheeldon, Nye. Motion not carried. The second reading will take place in November 2017.

Mayor Ralls had the price for the additional 650 feet for the sidewalk, the cost is \$11,700.00 plus the handicap inserts and does not include dirt work. N. Wheeldon asked who was doing the project. Mayor Ralls stated Tim Patava of Norwalk, IA is doing the project. The project was to start in October 2017. The extra cost would be over the original budget but the budget could be amended. Mayor Ralls stated he had been approached by the Martensdale Lutheran Church looking for projects. It was discussed that maybe the church would be interested in doing the dirt work. The Mayor stated he had contacted three companies and this is the only one that responded, so he did try to get more bids. It was discussed if there should be 3 bids for a public job, the attorney was asked about this and said he would check. There was discussion regarding the price for the handicap inserts and the finished dirt work. Mayor Ralls said he tried to get more bids and will get the price for the handicap inserts and dirt work. R. Wetzler asked if Mayor Ralls could get prices would the council attend a special meeting so the sidewalks could get done this year. The council agreed to a special meeting if necessary, otherwise this additional amount will be tabled until the next meeting.

Mayor Ralls stated that a temporary stop sign needs to be placed on Center St. and Rock Island until the construction is completed on Hwy. 92. R. Wetzler made a motion to place a temporary stop sign to stop traffic going to the North; seconded by S. Henson.

On a voice vote Mayor Ralls declared the motion carried unanimously.

The date for Halloween was set as October 31, 2017 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The 2016-2017 Audit Report was discussed. Mayor Ralls stated that he took an oath to follow the state constitution when he was elected.

Item U of the audit report – Fire Association Funds – The funds will come back to the City. Mayor Ralls asked when those funds would be transferred back to the City. N. Wheeldon stated the Association's meeting is Wednesday, Oct. 4 and then they will do the figuring on the funds and provide invoices to the City. He does not see a problem with the funds coming back to the City. There was money taken out of the Association to purchase accessories for the deliberator.

Item F of the audit report – Mayor Ralls stated that he wants the city clerk to be the one to sign all checks for the fire department and ordered the fire chief to surrender all accounts to the city clerk. The auditor told R. Wetzler those fire funds needed to come back into the City and he stated that Rich Wheeldon is not a Martensdale resident and is not bonded. S. Henson said they could get him bonded and that two people sign the checks now, him and Rich Wheeldon. N. Wheeldon stated he spoke with the auditor and that is not what the auditor told him. S. Henson stated it is a difference of opinions on how to read the auditor's report. R. Wetzler stated if the fire dept. refuses to turn over the checkbook we should contact the Warren Co. Attorney.

N. Wheeldon stated he wants to be sure those funds go back into the Fire and Rescue accounts and not somewhere else. Mayor Ralls assured him those funds will go back to the fire and rescue dept. and will only be spent for that department. S. Henson stated that the checkbooks would be given to the City but that those funds need to be separated between fire and rescue accounts. He stated that for the last 2 years nothing much has been done except arguing with the fire dept and Mayor Ralls began to list all the accomplishments. The city attorney stated he agreed with Mayor Ralls and R. Wetzler that it is a state law those funds be transferred to and managed by the city

Jester Insurance, Heith Hockenberry was present to discuss the city's insurance. He stated he also believed that our current insurance was much better than being in a pool with the iCAP. He said he would help the city clerk to get bids for the iCAP plan and then would be happy to go through both plans with the city council.

R. Wetzler asked the city attorney if they have determined anything about McClure Engineering. He stated the attorney was supposed to come back with some information for the council. Mr. Benton stated nothing has been done with the contract yet.

R. Wetzler has spoken with Jim Lane, previous agent for city insurance with Jester Insurance, about a 4 ft. fence for swimming pools. The insurance recommendation is to have an 8 ft. fence for safety reasons.

Terri Henson addressed the council and asked if the city does not have to live by their budget like normal people have to live within their means. R. Wetzler stated the sidewalks are a safety concern and that is a priority. She said she has been a resident for 40 years and never heard of a child being hit previously. There was discussion about an accident with a child previously. Larry Henson asked why the school is using the streets as their track. Mayor Ralls advised him to address the school board with that problem. He stated that kids will still use the street instead of a sidewalk. The Warren Co. Deputy was present and said they can talk to kids about staying on the sidewalk.

S. Henson addressed the deputy attending the city council meeting and asked if we were being billed extra for that service. Mayor Ralls stated it falls under our contract. J.J. Dudney said that the sheriff is not around during the weekends.

The city clerk said she has received a request from someone interested in placing a food truck in the city. She has asked him for his insurance, license and other documentation. He stated he has everything in order and would like to attend the November meeting.

The date of Nov. 6, 2017 was set as the next meeting.

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

Mayor John Ralls

Donna Bahun, City Clerk