

Official proceedings of the City Council of the City of Marseilles of the meeting of September 6, 2023.

The City Council of the City of Marseilles met in the City Chamber of City Hall at the hour of 6:00 P.M. on September 6, 2023.

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Roll call showed the following present: Mayor Hollenbeck, Commissioner Kaminski, Small, Scheib, and Buckingham. Absent: None.

Moved by Commissioner Kaminski seconded by Commissioner Scheib that the minutes from the Council meeting of August 16, 2022 be approved as displayed and placed on file. Ayes: Commissioner Kaminski, Small, Scheib, Buckingham, and Mayor Hollenbeck. Nays: None.

Moved by Commissioner Kaminski seconded by Commissioner Buckingham that the accounts payable for the last half of August in the amount of \$127,030.15 be approved and a warrant be drawn on the City Treasury for the said amount. Ayes: Commissioner Kaminski, Small, Scheib, Buckingham, and Mayor Hollenbeck. Nays: None.

Moved by Commissioner Kaminski seconded by Commissioner Scheib that the payroll for the last half of August in the amount of \$76,850.25 be approved and a warrant be drawn on the City Treasury for said amount. Ayes: Commissioner Kaminski, Small, Scheib, Buckingham, and Mayor Hollenbeck. Nays: None.

Moved by Commissioner Small seconded by Commissioner Buckingham that the home business license renewal for Raymond Lindley DBA Ray's Small Engine Repair be approved. Ayes: Commissioner Kaminski, Small, Scheib, Buckingham, and Mayor Hollenbeck. Nays: None.

Moved by Commissioner Scheib seconded by Commissioner Small that the final payment to Performance Pipelining Inc. in the amount of \$60,935.00 for Bluff Street sewer lining be approved. Ayes: Commissioner Kaminski, Small, Scheib, Buckingham, and Mayor Hollenbeck. Nays: None.

Moved by Commissioner Scheib seconded by Commissioner Buckingham that the pay estimate #1 to Grand Rapids in the amount of \$38,220.87 for Bratton Avenue sewer be approved. Ayes: Commissioner Kaminski, Small, Buckingham, and Mayor Hollenbeck. Nays: Commissioner Scheib.

Moved by Commissioner Scheib seconded by Commissioner Kaminski that Resolution 2023-26, a resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute second amendment to lease

agreement and license to use Right Street of way for Nucor security fence on East Broadway Street be placed on file. Ayes: Commissioner Kaminski, Small, Scheib, Buckingham, and Mayor Hollenbeck. Nays: None.

Moved by Mayor Hollenbeck seconded by Commissioner Small that Resolution 2023-27, a resolution of support for safe routes to school be adopted. Ayes: Commissioner Kaminski, Small, Scheib, Buckingham, and Mayor Hollenbeck. Nays: None.

Rosie Reiu stated she is in favor of purchasing of 200 Riverfront Drive (IVC Building). The city has not increased population in many years and thinks this is an opportunity to move in a positive way. Cheryl O'Brien asked the council if they would consider waiting until 2024 to purchase the building. She asked why the City would purchase the building at \$1,450,000 when the new owners (Cellular One) purchased for \$775,000. City Engineer stated that is an inaccurate purchase price they just used that number for LaSalle County to devalue the building for taxes. Several people asked about the 99 year lease with the Middle East Conflicts War Memorial Wall. Others asked if another buyer purchased the building who would own the Wall? Attorney Fuller stated the lease could be broken and could go to litigation. If the City is able to purchase the building the City would secure ownership and preserve the wall.

Kim Kozak asked about monthly utility bills for the current City Hall/PD and IVC building, Commissioner Kaminski went over the differences. She is very concerned about the plants, flowers, and weeds on Main Street. Kim was told to come into City Hall for the balance of the Beatification Fund from many years ago. The weeds she was addressing is either private property or Federal Railroads property which the City is unable to touch. Trent Morey asked the benefits of staying in the current the Police Department? Chief Faber went over some major issues at the current PD building. Gerald Murphy suggested holding on to City funds for other projects the future is unknown. Roy Walker asked if the purchase doesn't get passed will the council put funds into rehabbing the current city hall and police department. Chris McKinnin asked total cost of renovations including the building price. Len Peretta said sounds like there are unanswered questions and would like the council to wait to purchase.

Freedom Run members were present and stated they have always enjoyed coming to Marseilles. Both members would like the Wall to stay in Marseilles and hopes the City purchases the building and property so it cannot be moved. Larry Cowie said the location in an unsecured building for the police department. He would also, like the City to conduct studies as to why potential developers do not choose to build in Marseilles. Denise Malone would like to see 3 inspections and 3 appraisals conducted at City's expense. Pete Hall would like to see the Marseilles Nursing Service in the new building if the City is able to purchase. Bob Hauge is in favor of purchasing the property; he believes it's a fair asking purchase price and a way for the town to move forward.

Moved by Commissioner Kaminski seconded by Commissioner Small that Ordinance 1850, an ordinance authorizing Mayor to execute purchase contract for 200 Riverfront Drive be placed on file. Ayes: Ayes: Commissioner Kaminski, Small, and Mayor Hollenbeck. Nays: Commissioner Scheib and Commissioner Buckingham.

Commissioner Small would like to see another appraisal for the proposed property, where the funds will be coming from, and negotiate for a lower price.

Mayor Hollenbeck reminded the audience 1 year ago the City applied for a Main Street ITEP Beatification Grant and had very little interest and participation. He asked that next year when the City applies again the council sees much support and participation like the board witnessed this meeting regarding the building purchase. Mayor is currently working with MES #150 for a safe routes to school grant and Brownfield grants for blighted properties in town. Commissioner Kaminski thanked everyone for attending the meeting and stressed he is concern the building will sit empty and deteriorate. Kaminski would love to see the City acquire the property, to preserve and have full ownership of the Middle East Conflict War Memorial Wall. He has invested heavily in Marseilles for years and only wants to see progress. Commissioner Small said if residents have issues with private property they need to call the Police Department do not post on Facebook assuming the complaint has been made. Small also said the motorbikes in town need to abide by the rules of the road. Commissioner Scheib would like to see 3 appraisals for the building. Commissioner Buckingham thanked everyone for attending the meeting and voicing their options. It means more to attend the meetings instead of getting on Facebook.

Brad Miller asked why 707 Ryall Street driveway variance has not been brought up for a council vote since Plan Commission met.

Moved by Commissioner Buckingham seconded by Commissioner Small that the City Council adjourns. Ayes: Commissioners Kaminski, Small, Scheib, Buckingham, and Mayor Hollenbeck. Nays: None.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

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Lesley Hart  
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CITY CLERK