

MINUTES
CITY OF MARENGO
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Marengo Council Chambers
December 30, 2025

Call to Order by Mayor Rabe at 6:00 p.m. on December 30, 2025. Council Officials Present: John Hinshaw, Bill Kreis, Karen Wayson-Kisling, Travis Schlabach. Absent: Jenni Olson. Quorum declared by Rabe.

Staff and Press Present: Admin./Clerk Karla Marck; Deputy Clerk Alli Gerard; Police Chief Ben Gray; Public Works Director Lonnie Altenhofen; Financial Manager Ellen O'Rourke, Library Director Jackie Jordan, Attorney Gage Kensler, Managing Editor Winona Whitaker, Hometown Media.

Members of the Public Present: Will Geoghagan, Harley Schumacher, Audrey Loffer, Adam Olson, Adrianna Dorfman, Robin Hobbs, Brian Miller, Kristin Miller, Scott Hamlin, Jerry McKusker, Matt Ryan.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Rabe.

Approval of Agenda – December 30, 2025

Motion by Hinshaw to approve. Second by Kreis. Ayes: Wayson-Kisling, Kreis, Hinshaw, Schlabach. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes from December 10, 2025, City Council Meeting. Claims, checks and direct withdrawals totaling \$1,075,618.29. Approval of Alcohol License for Big G Food Stores, Inc. Acceptance of Steve Buswell Letter of Resignation from Marengo Planning and Zoning Commission. Acceptance of Ryan Miller Letter of Resignation from Marengo Reserve Officer. November 2025 Revenues Totaling \$412,962.27. November 2025 Major Operating Departments Finance Reports. November 2025 Finance Expenditures & Revenue Reports. IPAIT Report. Motion by Kreis to approve. Second by Wayson-Kisling. Vote. Ayes: Wayson-Kisling, Kreis, Hinshaw, Schlabach. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Statement of Resident Comments Policy, Mayor Adam Rabe

Resident Comments: Kristin Miller spoke concerning her property adjacent to the hospital parking lot.

Old Business

- a) **Public Hearing and First Reading ORD #548 with Edits: Amendment to Chapter 69 – Parking Regulations; Section 69.11 Limited Parking.** Open the Public Hearing at 6:04 p.m. Adam Olson asked how many residents this affects. Jerry McKusker feels 24 hours is not long enough. Chief Gray explained that a warning is given first giving another 24 hours. Public Hearing closed at 6:13 p.m. Motion to approve by Schlabach. Second by Wayson-Kisling. Vote. Ayes: Wayson-Kisling, Kreis, Hinshaw, Schlabach. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- b) **Resolution #26-46: Approving Employment Contract for Ellen O'Rourke.** Contract is for 1 year, 6 months to sync with other employees and must live in the zip code. Motion to approve by Schlabach. Second by Wayson-Kisling. Vote. Ayes: Wayson-Kisling, Kreis, Schlabach. Nays: Hinshaw. Motion carried.
- c) **Resolution #26-47: Adopting a New Collective Bargaining Agreement Between City of Marengo & Chauffeurs, Teamsters and Helpers Local Union 238.** Motion to approve tabling until the next meeting on January 7, 2026, by Schlabach. Second by Kreis. Vote. Ayes: Wayson-Kisling, Kreis, Schlabach. Nays: Hinshaw. Motion carried.
- d) **Resolution #26-48: Proposing to Dispose of Real Property and Publishing a Notice of Public Hearing.** Motion to approve changing the Public Hearing date and bids to February 25, 2026, by Hinshaw. Second by Wayson-Kisling. Vote. Ayes: Wayson-Kisling, Kreis, Hinshaw, Schlabach. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- e) **Resolution #26-49: Resolution Establishing the Marengo First Responders Department Under the City of Marengo, Iowa.** Motion to approve by Schlabach. Second by Wayson-Kisling. Vote. Ayes: Wayson-Kisling, Kreis, Schlabach. Nays: Hinshaw. Motion carried.
- f) **Resolution #26-50: Approving Pay Application #14 for 2023 Marengo Pool Project.** Motion to approve by Schlabach. Second by Hinshaw. Vote. Ayes: Wayson-Kisling, Kreis, Hinshaw, Schlabach. Nays: None. Motion carried.

New Business

- a) **Consideration: Appointment of Adam Rabe to Serve as the City of Marengo Representative to the R.E.I.C. Board for the January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2027 Term.** Motion to approve by Wayson-Kisling. Second by Hinshaw. Roll Call Vote. Ayes: Wayson-Kisling, Kreis, Schlabach. Nays: Hinshaw. Motion carried.
- b) **Resolution #26-51: Setting Public Hearing on Amendment to Chapter 106 – Collection of Solid Waste; Landfill Fees.** Motion to approve by Schlabach. Second by Wayson-Kisling. Roll Call Vote. Ayes: Wayson-Kisling, Kreis, Hinshaw, Schlabach. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- c) **Resolution #26-52 Hiring of Scott Breckenridge as Police Reserve Officer for the City of Marengo, Iowa.** Motion by Schlabach to approve. Second by Hinshaw. Roll Call Vote. Ayes: Wayson-Kisling, Kreis, Hinshaw, Schlabach. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- d) **Consideration: Chief Ben Gray Contract Terms.** Motion to approve tabling until the next meeting on January 7, 2026, by Schlabach. Second by Wayson-Kisling. Vote. Ayes: Wayson-Kisling, Kreis, Hinshaw, Schlabach. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- e) **Resolution #26-53: Setting Public Hearing on Amendment to Chapter 69 – Parking Regulations; Section 69.08 – No Parking Zones.** Motion by Schlabach to approve. Second by Wayson-Kisling. Roll Call Vote. Ayes: Wayson-Kisling, Kreis, Hinshaw, Schlabach. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- f) **Resolution #26-54: Establishing 28E Agreement Between City of Marengo and City of Belle Plaine, Iowa for Insect Spraying Services - 2026.** Motion by Schlabach to approve. Second by Kreis. Roll Call Vote. Ayes: Wayson-Kisling, Kreis, Hinshaw, Schlabach. Nays: None. Motion carried.

g) **Consideration: Proposed FY27 Public Works Projects.** Discussion on Phase 1 collaboration with Compass Memorial Hospital to invest in water service/community. No action taken.

Update Public Works – Director Lonnie Altenhofen

For November 2025, Altenhofen reported 7 water shut offs, Filter #3 will be rehabilitated, the Force Main is going well. They are working from the river to the levee. The lagoon cleaning is at a stand still due to a broken bulldozer. Snow removal was done, potholes are being filled in as needed, 7 locates this month and park Christmas decorations were put up.

Update Marengo Public Library – Director Jackie Jordan

The Library Strategic Planning Meeting was held which tries to identify community needs. Director Jordan reported that the building needs tuck pointing especially above the front door, the sidewalk in front of main entrance is cracking and 2 high school students were hired to work the part-time hours available.

Attorney/ Financial Manager/Administrator Reports. Financial Manager O’Rourke reported that UB is live and January bills will be run on the new system.

Mayor/Council/Committee Reports. No reports.

Marengo Firefighters Association 2025 YTD Contributions: \$69,925.78.

Old Business cont.

g) **Consideration: Motion to enter into CLOSED Session Pursuant to Iowa Code 21.5(1)(c) to discuss strategy with Counsel in matters that are presently in litigation or where litigation is imminent where its disclosure would be likely to prejudice or disadvantage the position of the governmental body in that litigation.** Motion by Wayson-Kisling to open the closed session at 7:03 p.m. Seconded by Hinshaw. Roll Call Vote. Ayes: Wayson-Kisling, Kreis, Hinshaw, Schlabach. Nays: None. Motion carried. Motion by Schlabach to return to open session at 7:13 p.m. Seconded by Wayson-Kisling. Roll Call Vote. Ayes: Wayson-Kisling, Kreis, Hinshaw, Schlabach. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Consideration: Motion on Actions to be Taken from Closed Session. No action taken.

Attorney Kensler reported that Council would not need a second closed session. IPIB agreed that \$43.90 should be returned to Matt Loffer for overcharge of fees from FOIA request.

Adjournment

Motion by Wayson-Kisling. Second by Hinshaw to adjourn at 7:15 p.m. Vote. Ayes: Wayson-Kisling, Kreis, Hinshaw, Schlabach. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

City of Marengo Claims-12.30.25

Fund Name	Fund	
General Fund	001	\$50,556.56
General Fund Capital Expenditures	002	\$2,340.93
Police Equip/BLDG Fund	006	\$1,160.99
Road Use Tax Fund	110	\$15,302.86
Debt Service Interest	200	\$600.00
Pool Renovation/Donations	312	\$40,000.00
Wastewater Treatment Plant	328	\$832,564.67
4" Main Project	344	\$44,439.00
Water Fund	600	\$18,075.76
Sewer Fund	610	\$25,529.61
Sewer Sinking Fund	611	\$7,676.31
Storm Sewer Fund	740	\$402.97
Total:		\$1,038,649.66

Payee	Amount	Description
Payroll	\$28,486.53	12.19.25
Payroll	8,482.10	2025 Council Pay
EFT Payments		
Iowa Finance Authority	\$7,676.31	SRF Loans
Wellmark	\$14,231.96	December 2025 Health Insurance
Metlife	\$1,498.02	December 2025 Insurance
UMB Financial	600.00	2023B GO Bond Fee
EFT TOTAL:	24,006.29	
EFT Payments		
Alliant Energy	\$15,493.90	Electric
Amazon Capital Business	\$218.00	Gloves/Toilet Paper/Microwave-PD
Amelia Frimml	\$240.00	2025 Umpiring-MRC

Bill Neilson	\$40.00	2026 Umpiring-MRC
Black Helmet Gunshop	\$175.00	22 Long Rifle-PD
BP	\$146.35	November 2025 Fuel-PD
Brian Miller Excavating, LLC	\$248,297.21	Hauled Snow/4" Main Project/WWTP
Central Iowa Union	\$358.34	Publications
Consolidated Electrical Distributor	\$525.00	Service Generator-PW
Core & Main	\$2,535.00	Supplies-4" Main Project
Creative Product Sources, Inc.	\$336.83	Puzzle Books-PD
Dakota Supply Group	\$2,244.00	Supplies-4" Main Project/Barricade Light/Washer-PW
Ferguson Waterworks	\$1,603.69	Belt Clip Repair/Meter-PW
Galls, LLC	\$91.00	Jackets-PD
Heiman, Inc.	\$75.92	Blind Cap-FD
IA Department of Public Safety	\$300.00	Radio Monitoring-PD
Iowa County Extension	\$45.00	Pest Control Certification-PW
Iowa Police Chiefs Association	\$125.00	2026 Dues-PD
iPrint	\$100.00	Ink-PD
Keystone Savings Bank	\$5,200.00	2025 Perpetual Care Fund-Cemetery
Koenig Trucking	\$1,495.00	Hauled Snow-PW
Kollmorgen, Schlue, & Zahradnik, PC	\$3,420.00	Legal
Marco	\$301.79	Copier Lease-CH
Marco Technologies	\$1,123.72	2026 Data Renewal/Email Upgrade/Dec 2025 Email/Azure
Marengo Post Office	\$1,000.00	December 2025 Postage-PW
Myla Frimml	\$125.00	2026 Umpiring-MRC
Portzen Construction, Inc	\$40,000.00	Payment #14-Pool
Quill	\$6.29	Toilet Bowl Cleaner-CH
REC	\$42.56	Welcome Sign Electric
REIC/Iowa County Landfill	\$18,262.50	Q3-2026 Landfill Fees
River Products	\$457.32	Rock-PW
Roto-Rooter	\$9,292.50	Televising-PW
Ryne Christner	\$185.00	2026 Umpiring-MRC
S&S Plumbing, Heating, & Air	\$113.00	Heat Repair-PD
Sirchie Acquisition Company, LLC	\$19.04	Evidence Tape-PD
State Hygienic Laboratory	\$31.00	Water Testing-PW
Titan Machinery	\$687.63	Polly Blocks for Snow Pusher-PW
Tyler Business Forms	\$870.36	Utility Bills
Tyler Technologies, Inc	\$28,581.63	Software Upgrade/2026 Software Fee
Verizon Wireless	\$637.85	November 2025 Desk/Cell Phones
Visa	\$1,065.65	December 2025 Charges-PD
Vision Concrete	\$8,815.00	Concrete Patches-4" Main Project
Wendler, Inc	\$619,477.96	Contract 1-WWTP Improvements
Windstream	\$482.33	Internet/Phones
CHECKS TOTAL:	1,014,643.37	
LIBRARY TOTAL:	0.00	
GRAND TOTAL:	1,075,618.29	

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Claims Total - Payroll & EFT's \$1,014,643.37

Adam Rabe, Mayor

Attest: Karla Marck, City Administrator