

MINUTES
CITY OF MARENGO
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Marengo Council Chambers
January 7, 2026

Call to Order by Mayor Schlabach at 6:00 p.m. on January 7, 2026. Council Officials Present: Jenni Olson, John Hinshaw, Shawn Huedepohl, Karen Wayson-Kisling, Will Geoghagan. Absent: None. Quorum declared by Schlabach.

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

Members of the Public Present: Carla Kopetsky, Kelly Kopetsky, Rachel Jones, Pam Poggenpohl, Adam Olson, Caleb Reynolds, Jerry McKusker, Barry Goettsch, Compass Memorial Hospital; Wendy Jordan, CMH; Jesse Belez, CMH

Pledge of Allegiance led by Schlabach.

Approval of Agenda – January 7, 2026

Motion by Olson to approve. Second by Hinshaw. Ayes: Olson, Wayson-Kisling, Huedepohl, Hinshaw, Geoghagan. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Approval of Minutes – December 30, 2025 City Council Meeting

Motion by Olson to approve. Second by Hinshaw. Vote. Ayes: Olson, Wayson-Kisling, Huedepohl, Hinshaw, Geoghagan. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Statement of Resident Comments Policy, Mayor Travis Schlabach.

Resident Comments: Jerry McKusker expressed his concerns about the storm sewer in his neighborhood.

Presentation: Barry Goettsch on Hospital Expansion and Partnership with City of Marengo for Water/Street Project.

Old Business

a) **Public Hearing and First Reading ORD #548: Amendment to Chapter 69 – Parking Regulations; Section 69.11 Limited**

Parking. Open the Public Hearing at 6:27 p.m. Matt Loffer had several questions and comments about this potential ordinance change. Chief Gray explained that the changes to this ordinance came from the State Ombudsman's Office. Carla Kopetsky asked about parking for people living in an upstairs apartment. Adam Olson commented he thought the procedures should be included in the ordinance and Attorney Kensler explained that procedures are not included in policy. Public Hearing closed at 6:42 p.m. Motion to approve by Hinshaw. Second by Wayson-Kisling. Vote. Ayes: Wayson-Kisling, Hinshaw, Huedepohl. Nays: Jenni Olson, Will Geoghagen. Motion carried.

b) **Resolution #26-47: Adopting a New Collective Bargaining Agreement Between City of Marengo & Chauffeurs, Teamsters**

and Helpers Local Union 238. Motion to table until the January 28th, 2026 meeting by Olson. Second by Geoghagan. Roll Call Vote. Ayes: Olson, Wayson-Kisling, Huedepohl, Geoghagan. Nays: Hinshaw. Motion carried.

New Business

a) **Consideration: Chief Ben Gray Contract Terms.** Motion to table until the January 28th, 2026 meeting by Wayson-Kisling.

Second by Olson. Roll Call Vote. Ayes: Olson, Wayson-Kisling, Huedepohl, Geoghagan, Hinshaw. Nays: None. Motion carried.

b) **Resolution #26-55: Approving Hiring of Public Works Temporary Employee.** Motion to hire Doug Emerson as needed by

Wayson-Kisling. Second by Olson. Roll Call Vote. Ayes: Olson, Wayson-Kisling, Huedepohl, Geoghagan, Hinshaw. Nays: None. Motion carried.

c) **Resolution #26-56: Approving Hiring of a Financial Manager.** Motion to table until the next meeting by Olson. Second by

Wayson-Kisling. Roll Call Vote. Ayes: Olson, Wayson-Kisling, Huedepohl, Geoghagan, Hinshaw. Nays: None. Motion carried.

d) **Consideration: Approval to Post 2026 Pool Manager Job.** Motion to approve by Wayson-Kisling. Second by Olson. Vote.

Ayes: Wayson-Kisling, Olson, Hinshaw, Huedepohl, Geoghagan. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

a) Claims, checks, and direct withdrawals totaling \$80,732.24. Motion to approve by Olson. Second by Wayson-Kisling. Vote.

Ayes: Wayson-Kisling, Olson, Hinshaw, Huedepohl, Geoghagan. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Update Public Safety – Chief Ben Gray

For December 2025, Chief Gray reported 9 incidents, 1 arrest, 9 citations, 51 warnings, 16 parking tickets with a total of 64 outstanding parking tickets, 8 medical calls, 259 calls for service/5 handled exclusively by the Iowa County Sheriff's Office. Chief Gray participated in the monthly MHL meeting, conducted Reserve Officer applicant interview, held a meeting with Senator Driscoll and Representative Lawler, and conducted interviews with 911 director applicants. The recently purchased body worn cameras have been installed and deployed. An agreement with Iowa Department of Revenue, Alcohol and Tax Compliance division will allow conducting alcohol compliance checks at our local establishments within the City by June 30th, 2026. Thanks to a grant obtained by the Iowa County Public Health Department, each full-time officer received a stop the bleed kit along with a tourniquet and the holder.

Attorney/ Financial Manager/Administrator Reports. Financial Manager/City Administrator O'Rourke asked the Council to consider not penalizing the accounts since the bills were late and Council agreed to not penalize. Shut offs will be the first week of February. Water will be turned on starting at 2:30 p.m. the day the reconnection fee is paid.

Mayor/Council/Committee Reports. Councilman Hinshaw reported that there will be a First Responders informational meeting on February 4th, 2026, per Adam Rabe.

Adjournment

Motion by Olson. Second by Wayson-Kisling to adjourn at 7:07 p.m. Vote. Ayes: Wayson-Kisling, Huedepohl, Hinshaw, Geoghagan. Nays: Olson. Motion Carried.

City of Marengo Claims-1.7.26

Fund Name	Fund	
General Fund	001	\$15,938.55
General Fund Capital Expenditures	002	\$4,266.84
Road Use Tax Fund	110	\$6,157.35
Wastewater Treatment Plant	328	\$16,015.10
Franklin & Lucas Street	346	\$1,099.00
Water Fund	600	\$4,519.73
Sewer Fund	610	\$4,473.29
	Total:	\$52,469.86

Payee	Amount	Description
Payroll	\$28,262.38	12.31.25 Payroll & 2025 Council Pay-Retirees
Payroll		
EFT Payments		
Grinnell State Bank	\$116.20	December 2025 Bank Fees/2026 Safe Deposit Box
Metlife	\$1,666.74	January 2026 Insurance
Wellmark	15,086.29	January 2026 Insurance
EFT TOTAL:	16,869.23	
CHECKS TOTAL:		
BP	\$229.39	December 2025 Fuel-PD/FD
Casey's General Store	\$562.85	December 2025 Fuel-PD
Central Iowa Union	\$242.15	Publications
Dakota Supply Group	\$1,483.00	Curb Box/Rod/Plow Blade/Bolts-PW
Eurofins Environment Testing	\$759.12	Weekly Wastewater-PW
High Performance Patch	\$148.00	Snow Route Sign-PW
Iowa One Call	\$43.20	One Calls-PW
Luke Slockett	\$180.96	Vision Insurance Reimbursement
Marco Technologies, LLC	\$54.45	Crowdstrike
Marengo Firefighter Assn	\$105.00	Fire Calls-FD
Masters Telecom, LLC	\$17.66	Voicemail-PD
Matt Loffer	\$43.97	IPIB Refund
OmniSite	\$152.00	2026 Wireless Service-PW
Roggentien Electric	\$678.21	December 2025 Maintenance-PW
S&S Plumbing, Heating, & Air	\$228.85	Dodge Grass Truck Maintenance-FD
Stratton Benscoter (Whitey's)	\$1,744.78	December 2025 Fuel/Diesel-PW
Tyler Technologies, Inc	\$4,266.84	Software Upgrade
USA Communications	\$27.34	Internet/Phones
Veenstra & Kimm, Inc	\$24,026.95	Engineering
CHECKS TOTAL:	34,994.72	
Access Systems Leasing	\$283.24	Copier Lease
Iowa Department of Inpections, Appeals, & Licensing	\$175.00	Elevator Permit
Marco Technologies	\$35.70	November 2025 Email
USA Communications	\$24.99	Telephone/Internet/Fax
US Cellular	\$86.98	Hotspots

LIBRARY TOTAL:	605.91	
GRAND TOTAL:	80,732.24	

Claims Total - Payroll & EFT's

\$35,600.63

Travis Schlabach, Mayor

Attest: Ellen O'Rourke, City Administrator