

MINUTES
CITY OF MARENGO
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Marengo Council Chambers
March 25, 2026

Call to Order by Mayor Schlabach at 6:15 p.m. on March 25, 2026. Council Officials Present: Shawn Huedepohl, Karen Wayson-Kisling, Will Geoghagan, John Hinshaw. Absent: Jenni Olson. 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: Two representatives from DVIP/RVAP and Kristin Miller.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Schlabach.

Approval of Agenda – March 25, 2026

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

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes from March 11, 2026, City Council Meeting. February 2026 Revenues Totaling \$548,480.37. February 2026 Major Operating Departments Finance Reports. February 2026 Finance Expenditures & Revenue Report. Savings Accounts Report. Approving Tobacco License for Express Stop Inc., dba BP Express Stop. Approving Tobacco License for Ambies, LLC. Approving Tobacco License for Big G Food Stores, Inc. Motion by Wayson-Kisling to approve. Second by Hinshaw. Vote. Ayes: Wayson-Kisling, Huedepohl, Geoghagan, Hinshaw. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Resident Comments: No comments.

Swearing In: Scott Breckenridge for Reserve Police Officer

Proclamation Sexual Assault Awareness Month April 2026. Representatives from DVIP/RVAP.

Old Business

New Business

- a) **Resolution #26-83: Setting Public Hearing for FY26 Budget Amendment.** Motion to approve by Wayson-Kisling. Second by Hinshaw. Vote. Ayes: Wayson-Kisling, Huedepohl, Geoghagan, Hinshaw. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- b) **Resolution #26-84: Setting Public Hearing for FY27 Budget.** Motion to approve by Wayson-Kisling. Second by Hinshaw. Vote. Ayes: Wayson-Kisling, Huedepohl, Geoghagan, Hinshaw. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- c) **Public Hearing and First Reading ORD #551: Amendment to Chapter 46 – Minors, by Revising Section 46.02 Cigarettes and Tobacco.** Opened the Public Hearing at 6:25 p.m. No public comments. Public Hearing closed at 6:26 p.m. Motion to approve by Wayson-Kisling. Second by Geoghagan. Roll Call Vote. Ayes: Wayson-Kisling, Huedepohl, Geoghagan, Hinshaw. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- d) **Public Hearing and First Reading ORD #552: Amendment to Chapter 4 – Scheduled Fines, Adding Item #58. Section 46.02 – Person Under 21 Using Tobacco/Vapor Products.** Opened the Public Hearing at 6:27 p.m. No public comments. Public Hearing closed at 6:28 p.m. Motion to approve by Hinshaw. Second by Wayson-Kisling. Roll Call Vote. Ayes: Wayson-Kisling, Geoghagan, Huedepohl, Hinshaw. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- e) **Public Hearing and First Reading ORD #553: Amendment to Chapter 145 – Dangerous Buildings, Adding Item #6, Section 145.03 – Unsafe Buildings.** Opened the Public Hearing at 6:28 p.m. No public comments. Public Hearing closed at 6:33 p.m. Motion to approve by Wayson-Kisling. Second by Geoghagan. Roll Call Vote. Ayes: Wayson-Kisling, Geoghagan, Huedepohl, Hinshaw. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- f) **Resolution #26-85: Approving Bids for Concrete Pads to the Pavilions in the Park.** York Construction had the lowest bid in the amount of \$8,763. Motion to approve by Wayson-Kisling. Second by Geoghagan. Roll Call Vote. Ayes: Wayson-Kisling, Huedepohl, Geoghagan, Hinshaw. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- g) **Resolution #26-86: Approving Hiring of Public Works Part-Time Maintenance Worker.** Motion to approve hiring Doug Emerson by Wayson-Kisling. Second by Geoghagan. Roll Call Vote. Ayes: Wayson-Kisling, Huedepohl, Geoghagan, Hinshaw. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- h) **Resolution #26-87: Setting Public Hearing for Amending Chapter 111A – Electric Transmission Franchise; Adding Ordinance No. 554.** This is a new chapter for transmission lines. Motion to approve by Wayson-Kisling. Second by Geoghagan. Vote. Ayes: Wayson-Kisling, Huedepohl, Geoghagan, Hinshaw. Nays: None. Motion carried.
- i) **Resolution #26-88: Set Public Hearing for Chapter 77-Operation of Off-Road Vehicles and Golf Carts; Sections 77.01 #1, 77.02, 77.03, 77.05 #1, and 77.10.** City is conforming ordinance to match state ordinance. Public Hearing set for April 22, 2026. Motion to approve by Wayson-Kisling. Second by Geoghagan. Vote. Ayes: Wayson-Kisling, Huedepohl, Geoghagan, Hinshaw. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Approval of Monthly Bills:

- a) Claims, checks, and direct withdrawals totaling \$278,162.23. Motion to approve by Hinshaw. Second by Wayson-Kisling. Vote. Ayes: Wayson-Kisling, Huedepohl, Geoghagan, Hinshaw. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Update Public Safety – Chief Ben Gray

For February 2026, Chief Gray reported 15 incidents, 5 arrests, 22 citations, 58 warnings, 6 parking tickets with a total of 66 outstanding parking tickets, 10 medical calls, 235 calls for service/5 handled exclusively by the Iowa County Sheriff's Office. Chief Gray participated in the monthly MHL meeting, attended Small Agency Chiefs meeting, attended 911 Board meeting, and attended RVIP quarterly meeting. Use of force/pursuit software (LEFTA Systems) was purchased for a total cost of \$3,819.42. Chief has

started working on the policies within the city with Lexipol. 2026 Bicycle Rodeo has been set for May 13th at 1:00 p.m. Helmets are again being provided by Compass Memorial Healthcare for all 3rd grade students.

Update Public Works – Director Lonnie Altenhofen

For March 2026, Altenhofen reported the north lagoon cleaning has resumed. Wendler is digging deep pits to be able to dewater. Talking to engineer about water plant and wells. Old water tower needs a new plug. Upgrading customers from touch read to radio read meters is close to completion.

Update Marengo Public Library – Director Jackie Jordan

A part-time employee is retiring at the end of March; a new employee has been hired; the library averages 70 people a day, and House File 2622 did not pass. Director Jordan would like consideration for a full-time employee to fill in if Jordan needs to be absent.

Attorney/ Financial Manager/Administrator Reports. Attorney Kensler reported he is working on nuisance abatement cases for the city; reviewing city policies and will have the fire department agreement soon. City Administrator O’Rourke reported the conduct policy has been given to the council which adds clarifying language. Board of Adjustment meeting is March 26, 2026.

Mayor/Council/Committee Reports. Mayor Schlabach reported that he is looking into new electrical at City Park.

Old Business cont.

a) **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. Second by Geoghagan. Roll Call Vote. Ayes: Wayson-Kisling, Huedepohl, Hinshaw, Geoghagan. Nays: None. Motion carried. Motion by Wayson-Kisling to return to open session at 7:29 p.m. Second by Geoghagan. Roll Call Vote. Ayes: Wayson-Kisling, Huedepohl, Hinshaw, Geoghagan. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Consideration: Motion on Actions to be Taken from Closed Session. Motion to approve proposal amount of \$5700 to be paid to Kristin Miller upon completion of a fence. Second by Geoghagan. Roll Call Vote. Ayes: Wayson-Kisling, Huedepohl, Geoghagan. Nays: Hinshaw. Motion carried.

Adjournment: Motion by Wayson-Kisling. Second by Geoghagan to adjourn at 7:31 p.m. Vote. Ayes: Wayson-Kisling, Huedepohl, Geoghagan, Hinshaw. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

City of Marengo Claims-3.25.26

Fund Name	Fund	
General Fund	001	\$14,277.99
General Fund Capital Expenditures	002	\$3,755.38
Insurance Levy Fund	005	\$139,485.00
Police Equip/BLDG Fund	006	\$3,819.42
Road Use Tax Fund	110	\$50,362.14
Wastewater Treatment Plant	328	\$1,125.00
Water Fund	600	\$20,987.01
Sewer Fund	610	\$8,471.92
Storm Sewer Fund	740	\$415.97
Total:		\$242,283.86

Payee	Amount	Description
Payroll	\$35,462.40	3.13.26 Payroll
EFT Payments		
Iowa Department of Revenue	\$3,545.43	February 2026 Sales & Water Tax
Wellmark	\$15,086.29	March 2026 Insurance
Metlife	\$1,515.96	March 2026 Insurance
Grinnell State Bank	\$7.25	VanDee ACH Return
ICAP	\$116,655.00	4/1/2026 Renewal
EFT TOTAL:	136,809.93	
Alliant Energy	\$16,362.99	March 2026 Electric
Bear Creek Design	\$180.00	Dry Erase Boards
Bens Repair	\$2,335.68	repair - PW
Big G	\$6.37	Feb 2026 Supplies - CH/PD
BP	\$92.76	Fuel - FD
Carquest	\$247.90	Jan 2026 Supllies - FD
Charles Capper	\$38,970.00	2026 PW Truck

CommUnity Crisis	\$353.08	Feb 2026 Law Enforcement Liaison - PD
Core & Main	\$810.00	Air Release Repair Kit - PW
ECICog	\$1,125.00	CDBG Administration - PW
Hawkins	\$1,988.99	Water Plant Chemicals
Heiman	\$110.23	Pike Pole, Plug - FD
Iowa Dept of Public Safety	\$300.00	3rd qtr radio monitor - PD
Lexipol	\$7,195.12	Reports - PD
LINOH2O	\$1,756.00	Annual Chemtrac/Calibration -PW
Marco	\$152.48	Copier Lease - CH
Marco Tech	\$409.08	Email/Azure
Marengo Chamber of Commerce	\$2,000.00	Fireworks
Marengo Fire	\$120.00	660 Cherry Fire Call - FD
Marengo Insurance Center	\$22,830.00	26-27 Work Comp Premium
Northway	\$2,455.00	Well #12 Cleaning - PW
Office Express	\$60.98	Office Supplies - CH
REC	\$42.23	Welcome Sign
S&S Plumbing	\$347.30	Furnace Re-Pipe - FD
Silversmith Data	\$2,090.00	26 Tablet Data/Hosting - PW
Tyler Tech	\$379.68	Software Upgrade - CH
Verizon Wireless	\$2,207.64	Desk/Cell Phones
VISA	\$247.12	Keys-Pool, Ammo and Car Wash-PD
WEX	\$257.73	Fuel - PD
Windstream	\$456.54	Internet
CHECKS TOTAL:	105,889.90	
UTILITY BILLING REFUNDS:	\$0.00	
LIBRARY TOTAL:	0.00	
GRAND TOTAL:	278,162.23	

Claims Total - Payroll & EFT's **\$105,889.90**

Travis Schlabach, Mayor

Attest: Ellen O'Rourke, City Administrator