



MINUTES Water Board

4:00 PM - Tuesday, November 12, 2024
Water Department, 3050 5th Avenue

The Water Board of the City of Marion, Linn County, Iowa met on Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at 4:00 PM, at Water Department, 3050 5th Avenue, with the following members present:

PRESENT: John Bender, John McIntosh, Amy Olson, William Kling, and Terry Chew

ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Todd Steigerwaldt, Andy Smith, and Curt Huhndorf

CALL TO ORDER

Motion to approve the October 8th 2024 minutes and October 2024 payable invoices for \$1,820,199.25.

Moved by Kling, seconded by Olson, to approve above referenced items. Chew inquired about the payment to John Deere Financial for boots and fencing materials. Steigerwaldt stated that was the banking institution for Theisen's.

Approved unanimously

Motion to receive and file the October 2024 revenue, expense and financial reports.

Moved by McIntosh, seconded by Bender, to receive and file the attached documents. Steigerwaldt stated he plans to reinvest the money from the CD that is maturing next week wherever the interest rates are the highest. The board commented that the bank account is very healthy.

Approved unanimously

Motion approving payment to Veenstra & Kimm, Inc. for a total of for \$4,660.50.

Moved by Chew, seconded by Olson, to approve above referenced payment. Steigerwaldt told the board that draft plans were submitted today. He asked the board if they wanted ground or spot lights on the new tower. The board was not for this improvement at this time but maybe when the rest of the land is developed into a park. Steigerwaldt also showed a render on the tower with the city logos. He will share this rendering with the city to see which ones and how many they will want on the new tower.

Approved unanimously

Motion approving payment #3 to Loecke Building Service, Inc. for \$118,023.25 for the new storage building at 101 8th Avenue.

Moved by McIntosh, seconded by Kling, to approve above referenced item. Steigerwaldt stated the steel has finally arrived and is being installed. The ceiling insulation is now

being installed. Rex Concrete completed the driveway approach to the new storage building.

Approved unanimously

Motion approving payment to ImOn Communications, LLC for fiber installation to 6401 Lucore Road, Marion for \$103,626.46.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Chew, to approve above referenced item. Steigerwaldt told the board that ImOn has completed the installation of the fiber optic line from 10th Street and Rolling Glen Drive to 6401 Lucore Road. The engineering department has surveyed in the conduits and hand holes and updated the city's infrastructure map. Public Works will be in charge of performing locates for this fiber line. ImOn also has a fiber line adjacent to our fiber conduit line. The city will reimburse the water department for half the fiber installation cost when they begin developing the park.

Approved unanimously

Motion approving payment #1 to Barnd Electric for \$5,940.00 for electrical service and fixtures for the new storage building at 101 8th Avenue.

Moved by Kling, seconded by McIntosh, approving the above referenced item. Steigerwaldt stated this is the first payment to Barnd Electric for electrical fixtures and materials for the new storage building.

Approved unanimously

Motion approving water main application to The Commons at English Glen 8th Addition to the city of Marion, Iowa.

Moved by Bender, seconded by Kling, approving the above referenced item. Steigerwaldt stated this subdivision is located south of 35th Avenue and south of the new Linn Mar Boulder Point school. The developer is Midwest Development Company, aka Skogman Homes of Cedar Rapids. There are 35 single-family lots planned in this addition. The contractor is Rathje Construction and they will begin grading and installing pipe this winter.

Approved unanimously

Motion approving Resolution 24-19 establishing a water main connection fee along Tower Terrace Road between Alburnett Road and Newcastle Road, Marion, Iowa.

Moved by Bender, seconded by Chew, approving the above referenced item. Steigerwaldt told the board this water main was installed along Tower Terrace Road between Newcastle Road and Alburnett Road. The Marion Water Department reimbursed the city for the installation cost of the water main. A connection fee of \$211 per linear foot will be split between the north and south property owners at time of land development adjacent to Tower Terrace Road. This connection fee will be collected at the time of final platting of the land along Tower Terrace Road. Kling noted there was a possible typo error in the resolution which stated ten years but should state 25 years. Steigerwaldt agreed and would make this correction on both resolutions before the chairman would sign them. Bender asked if the oversizing cost was included in this total. Steigerwaldt stated he did figure in the pipe oversizing cost in the reimbursement.

Approved by the following votes:

Ayes: Bender, McIntosh, Olson, Kling, and Chew

Motion approving Resolution 24-20 establishing a water main connection fee at the

Intersection of Tower Terrace Road and Barnsley Lane, Marion, Iowa.

Moved by Chew, seconded by McIntosh, to approve above referenced item. Steigerwaldt explained that this water main was installed from the north end of Barnsley Lane under the new Tower Terrace Road roundabout to serve the future land north of Tower Terrace Road. The Marion Water Department paid to install the water main under the roundabout. The connection fee will be collected at time of final platting of the land north of the Tower Terrace Road roundabout at Barnsley Lane.

Approved by the following votes:

Ayes: Bender, McIntosh, Olson, Kling, and Chew

Motion approving Resolution 24-21 accepting improvements and extensions of water main for the Hunters Field Condos Addition to the city of Marion.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Kling, to approve the item referenced above. Steigerwaldt shared the future subdivision location which is along the north side of Connection Boulevard between Lucy Lane and Winslow Road. The developers are Fritz Development of Cedar Rapids, aka Karl Rosenberg and Altrans Inc. There are 16 future water services for 16 condo units. They will final plat lots for the future condo units as they are sold. All tests and inspections have passed.

Approved by the following votes:

Ayes: Bender, McIntosh, Olson, Kling, and Chew

Motion approving farm lease with Picket Fence Family Farms for 3 acres on Lot 4, WaterLinn Park 1st Addition to the city of Marion for \$289.00 per acre.

Moved by McIntosh, seconded by Chew, to approve above referenced item. Steigerwaldt stated the 2024 ISU cash rent survey for Linn County was set at \$289 per acre. This is down from \$308 per acre last year. The department has traditionally used this survey to establish the cash rent for this 3 acre parcel. Steigerwaldt also stated that the new Silurian Well #11 was drilled on this parcel last February which has disturbed the soil profile slightly during installation.

Approved unanimously

Motion approving farm lease for 8.9 acres at 6401 Lucore Road with Blackford Farms Inc. for \$289 per acre.

Moved by McIntosh, seconded by Chew, to approve above referenced item. Steigerwaldt confirmed with the Parks Department that they will not be developing or planting prairie on the 8.9 acres of ground next year and that the Water Department could go ahead and have a lease signed with the farmer to cash rent this portion of ground on the easterly side of 6401 Lucore Road. This property is where our future elevated water tower will be constructed.

Approved unanimously

Motion to remove from table motion on future financial support to MEDCO. (Tabled 10/8/2024)

Moved by Chew, seconded by Bender, to approve the above referenced item and remove it from being tabled at the October 8 2024 meeting.

Approved unanimously

Motion approving future financial support to MEDCO.

Moved by Chew, seconded by Olson, to approve annual financial support to MEDCO for \$5,000 per year for the next five years. Steigerwaldt reminded the board that Mark Seckman, President of MEDCO, presented to the board at the September 10th board meeting and shared MEDCO's past and future ambitions, goals, and projects. MEDCO was asking members for a 5-year financial pledge so they can establish a capital work plan. Their request was an increased annual financial pledge of \$1,975. Currently, the Marion Water Board has been supporting them annually at \$3,025 per year. The new request is \$5,000 per year for five years. Steigerwaldt stated the city is anticipating increasing their annual contribution to MEDCO from \$140,000 to \$160,000 per year.

Four of the board members were in support of the annual increase to \$5,000 per year. McIntosh did not support the increase.

Approved by the following votes:

Ayes: Bender, Olson, Kling, and Chew

Nays: McIntosh

Motion approving annual financial pledge to the Marion Leadership in Action Class of 2025 for new winter light installations in the Uptown area.

Moved by Bender, seconded by Olson, to approve financial pledge to the above leadership class for winter lights in the amount of \$500. Steigerwaldt stated the board has regularly supported this leadership class in their winter light installations in the Uptown area at the \$500 donation level. Chew asked what the committee's purpose was about. Steigerwaldt stated the Leadership in Action Class was made up of young professionals in the Marion area who are interested in serving on future boards and commissions and want to support and give their time and efforts to making Marion a great place to work and raise a family.

Approved by the following votes:

Ayes: Bender, Olson, Kling, and Chew

Nays: McIntosh

Motion to receive and file 2025 employee wage and benefits requests.

Moved by McIntosh, seconded by Chew, to approve the above referenced item. The board received and filed the request and asked some initial questions. Kling inquired about the additional comp hours from 80 to 240 hours. Staff shared the city has a new comp hour limit of 240 hours. Steigerwaldt stated he would prepare a wage and benefits memo for the board's consideration and approval for the December 10th board meeting. He encouraged board members to reach out to him ahead of time with specific concerns and questions they may want him to research.

Approved unanimously

Discussion regarding Field Operations Reports.

Smith updated the board on October activities which included site cleanup and staff pouring additional concrete pads at the main shop area. Staff also performed inspections on city projects and private subdivisions.

Secretary Report

October Building Permits - 13 permits over \$50,000 valuation.

Steigerwaldt informed the board that Braxton Lawrence passed the DNR Water Distribution 2 exam last month. Staff was sending out the required DNR lead/galvanized/unknown water service line letters (1200+ letters mailed). Steigerwaldt shared the Alliant Rate increase letters - 12.7% Lg meters and 15% increase general service meters. He also mentioned potential new legislation capping enterprise fund rate increases at 2% each year. He mentioned the new credit card software system installation has been challenging but Janice Lawrence is staying on top of the consultants. Lastly, Steigerwaldt shared an award he received, the 2024 Service to the Water Profession Award from AWWA which is an award to be celebrated by the entire Marion Water Department staff, as receiving this award is a team effort. He is really appreciative and proud of the Marion Water Department staff.

ADJOURN at 5:25 PM

The next Marion Water Board meeting will be held on December 10, 2024 with a special work session starting at 4 pm followed by the regular public meeting beginning at 4:45 pm at 3050 5th Avenue and on ZOOM.


Terry Chew, Chairman


Todd Steigerwaldt, Secretary