

August 9, 2021

City of Marion – Regular Meeting

August 9, 2021

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Marion held in the Council Chambers at 5:30 P.M. The City Clerk was instructed to call the roll and the response was as follows:

PHYSICALLY PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS PATTON, BARWICK, WEBB, AND MAYOR ABSHER.

PRESENT VIA TELEPHONE: COMMISSIONER STOECKLIN.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Absher.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Marion resident Donald Gaddis addressed the Council. He stated a lot of good things happen in town. He stated Police Officer Jason Watts has been a reasonable person and is worthy of the promotion he is getting this evening.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Patton made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

ON ROLL CALL VOTE COMMISSIONERS PATTON, BARWICK, WEBB AND STOECKLIN AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA.

NEW BUSINESS

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Commissioner Barwick made a motion to approve the recommendation of Chief Fitts to hire Charles Herman to the vacant full-time dispatch position. Mr. Herman will start August 22, 2021 at the Probationary 1 rate of \$21.87 per hour. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

ON ROLL CALL VOTE COMMISSIONERS PATTON, BARWICK, WEBB AND STOECKLIN AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA.

Commissioner Barwick made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Merit Board to promote Officer Jason Watts to Sergeant to fill the vacancy created by the promotion of Sergeant Jody Wright to Assistant Chief Designee effective August 10, 2021. Commissioner Patton seconded the motion.

ON ROLL CALL VOTE COMMISSIONERS PATTON, BARWICK, WEBB AND STOECKLIN AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA.

Police Chief David Fitts called Sergeant Watts to the podium. He told the Council he takes great pleasure in making this promotion. He told them Jason does his job very well. He presented Sergeant Watts with his new badge.

Commissioner Barwick made a motion to approve Ordinance 3740 amending Ordinance 3102 Creating a Lieutenant position in the Police Department. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

ON ROLL CALL VOTE COMMISSIONERS PATTON, BARWICK, WEBB AND STOECKLIN AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA.

August 9, 2021

Commissioner Barwick made a motion to approve Ordinance 3739 a borrowing agreement with Banterra Bank to finance the purchase of four squad cars and equipment. Commissioner Patton seconded the motion.

ON ROLL CALL VOTE COMMISSIONERS PATTON, BARWICK, WEBB AND STOECKLIN AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA.

Commissioner Barwick made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Police Chief to hire Mike Haynes and Clyde Ramage as new School Security Officers at the pay rate of \$21.00 per hour starting after the school year begins. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

ON ROLL CALL VOTE COMMISSIONERS PATTON, BARWICK, WEBB AND STOECKLIN AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Mayor Absher introduced the new IT intern, Robbie Diefenbach. Robbie is working as an intern through Man-Tra-Con at no cost to the City. He will be working until December. IT Director Terance Henry said Robbie is a John A. Logan College graduate. Robbie told the Council he appreciates the opportunity to work at the City.

Mayor Absher told the Commissioners and audience the City acquired the First Christian Church, and it needs some updating before it can be used. The City has some grant funding to allocate to the project which includes replacing carpet and some air conditioning units.

Mayor Absher made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-21 authorizing Market Street Hall project costs. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

ON ROLL CALL VOTE COMMISSIONERS PATTON, BARWICK, WEBB AND STOECKLIN AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Patton had no report.

Commissioner Stoecklin read the Water Department report for July. He mentioned every Tuesday in August, Walt's Pizza is donating \$5 to the Boys and Girls Club for each large pizza sold. He reminded everyone school starts Wednesday and traffic will be heavy around the high school. He gave a shout out to the Civic Center staff on their hard work preparing for the Grand Funk Railroad Will Rock for Food concert. He also gave a shout out to the Marion Police Officer who made quite an impression on his grandchildren Saturday night at Tropical Sno.

Commissioner Barwick read the Animal Control, Fire Department, Police Department and Detective Unit reports for July. He announced on August 19 there will be a softball game at Rent One Park with police officers and fire fighters from departments in Southern Illinois playing.

August 9, 2021

Commissioner Webb reported the Street Department continues work on the sidewalk program. He also reported the asphalt overlay program is one third complete. He reminded everyone the asphalt contractor will be milling streets in town to prepare for the paving and there will be some rough joints in the pavement until the paving is complete. He reported the Cemetery Department has also been busy. They had 16 burials in July and sold three lots.

Mayor Absher had no report.

Mayor Absher stated there was no need for executive session this evening.

Commissioner Webb made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

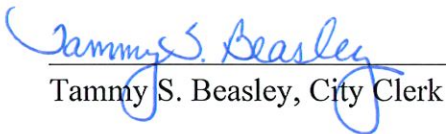
ON ROLL CALL VOTE COMMISSIONERS PATTON, BARWICK, WEBB AND STOECKLIN AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:50 P.M.



Michael W. Absher, Mayor

ATTEST:


Tammy S. Beasley, City Clerk