

July 26, 2021

City of Marion – Regular Meeting

July 26, 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 BARWICK, WEBB AND STOECKLIN AND MAYOR ABSHER. COMMISSIONER PATTON ABSENT.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Absher.

#### DEDICATION

Mayor Absher addressed the Council and audience to honor past City employee David Williams who passed away on duty this past February. He read Resolution 2021-19 dedicating the Public Works Facility as the David W. Williams Memorial Public Works Facility. Resolution 2021-19 was adopted by acclamation. Commissioner Stoecklin gave the Williams family signs that were smaller versions of the sign that will be placed on the Public Works Facility.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Marion resident Donald Gaddis addressed the Council regarding the primary purpose of the police.

Marion resident Carmen Adeoye addressed the Council on behalf of Connect 360. She told the Council that Williamson County received \$12 million in funds from the American Rescue Plan. She asked how much the City is receiving, how the funds will be used and whether some of the funds have already been earmarked for projects. She also asked if some of the funds could be used for renovations at the Boyton Street Community Center. Mayor Absher told her the City will receive \$3.4 million over a two-year period. He also told her the rules are not finalized yet as to how the funds may be spent. He said the City will have to be sure the projects they choose will qualify for use of the funds and there will be deadlines as to when the funds may be spent. He also indicated he thinks holding a public hearing prior to spending the funds is part of the process required by the American Rescue Plan.

Tom Krackel from the Knights of Columbus Council at St. Joseph Catholic Church addressed the Council to inform them of the Fall Festival that will be held September 17 and 18. The festival was not held last year due to the COVID 19 pandemic. He indicated there will be a dinner on Friday night and several activities on Saturday, including a breakfast and car show. There will be food trucks, vendors, games, and music. He also said there will be several items for sale as a fundraiser for the Parrish.

Greg Portee addressed the Council asking for financial support for the Southern Illinois Advance Day of Hope Program. He told the Council the program will be September 18 at Ray Fosse Park and will run from noon to 8:00 P.M. He invited the Council to come and help give away prizes. Mayor Absher told Mr. Portee he would check to be sure the City had budgeted for a donation to help fund the Day of Hope Program.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

July 26, 2021

## NEW BUSINESS

### POLICE DEPARTMENT

Kevin Kern from Snedeker Risk Management addressed the Council to present a check on behalf of the Illinois Counties Risk Management Trust (ICRMT). Snedeker Risk Management is the City's broker for property and casualty insurance through the Illinois Counties Risk Management Trust (ICRMT). Mr. Kern thanked the City Department Heads for their work to promote safety. He indicated the Regional Risk Manager solicits proposals from local governments for safety grant funds. Some weeks ago, he spoke with Police Chief Fitts regarding how the Police Department could use grant funds. Chief Fitts indicated the department could use new tasers as they are essential equipment to help minimize injuries to officers and citizens. Chief Fitts stated statistics show departments that use tasers have less work comp claims. Chief Fitts told the Council the tasers are getting dated and need replaced. Mr. Kern stated the ICRMT Safety Committee awarded the Police Department the maximum grant of \$10,000 to use for purchasing new tasers. The City will match that amount.

Commissioner Barwick made a motion to approve the purchase of three Interceptor Ford Explorers from Vogler Ford for \$133,500: a budgeted item. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

Commissioner Barwick made a motion to approve the recommendation of Mayor Absher and himself to promote Sergeant Jody Wright to the position of Assistant Police Chief Designee at \$85,000 per year, an exempt position, effective August 2, 2021 to fill the vacancy to be created when Assistant Police Chief Tina Morrow retires in October 2021. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

Police Chief David Fitts told the Council tonight is bittersweet. He said he is happy to see Sergeant Wright promoted to Assistant Chief Designee to fill the vacancy when Assistant Chief Tina Morrow retires. He is sad to lose his friend Assistant Chief Morrow but wishes her well on her retirement. He presented Sergeant Wright with his new Assistant Chief badge.

Assistant Chief Morrow said the promotion of Sergeant Wright makes her very happy. She believes he is a good man for the job.

### PAVILION

Commissioner Stoecklin said the proposed equipment upgrades at the Pavilion are definitely needed. He said there are issues at the Pavilion with power and lighting that have existed since the facility was constructed. He said this will be a much-needed improvement for all the large events held there.

July 26, 2021

Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to approve proposals for production equipment upgrades, budgeted items. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

#### STREET DEPARTMENT

Street Department Superintendent Doug Phillips told the Council he had been looking for a larger bucket truck. He found one in Kentucky that was very well maintained and had all maintenance records with it. It was well under what had been budgeted for a replacement. It will be used to maintain streetlights, traffic signals and overhead lighting. Doug also mentioned it is a hybrid.

Commissioner Webb made a motion to approve the purchase of a replacement bucket truck for \$42,500, a budgeted item. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

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

#### PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Public Works Superintendent Brent Cain explained there was a mathematical error in a unit price on Pay Estimate #2 for the South Market street Watermain Extension. The final total should be \$9,274.00.

Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to approve Pay Estimate #2 (Final) for \$9,274.00 for the South Market Street Watermain Extension payable to Scot Escue Construction, LLC.

Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

Brent Cain explained his recommendation to upgrade the control panel for the Schreiber plant is because this control panel is obsolete and is near the end of life. This is a carryover from the upgrade of the outdated scata system brain of the treatment plant. He stated this is planned maintenance and was budgeted for this fiscal year. The \$63,900 quote from Schreiber includes new equipment. He indicated this upgrade should extend the life of the equipment another 20 years.

Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to upgrade the control panel for the Schreiber plant for \$63,900, a budgeted item. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

#### CEMETERY

July 26, 2021

Commissioner Webb explained the Cemetery Department solicited bids from three vendors to replace a 72-inch Exmark mower. They received two bids. The bids received were as follows:

|                                            |             |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Little Tractor & Equipment Company, Marion | \$ 7,971.15 |
| H & R Agri-Power (FB McAfoos), Benton      | \$10,319.00 |

Both bids included allowance for trade in of an Exmark mower from the Cemetery Department. Commissioner Webb explained the mower from Little Tractor & Equipment will have a four-to-six-week delivery. He indicated that will be acceptable for the Cemetery Department.

Commissioner Webb made a motion to approve the low bid of \$7,971.15 from Little Tractor & Equipment Company for a 72-inch Exmark Mower including trade in, a budgeted item. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

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

#### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Director to rename two IT Technician positions to IT System Network Coordinator designating the senior salary at \$22.00/hour and the junior salary at \$21.00/hour. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Director to hire Shannon Benjamin to the junior IT System Network Coordinator position at \$21.00/hour, full-time, non-exempt, benefit position. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

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

IT Director Terance Henry introduced new IT Tech Shannon Benjamin to the Council. Shannon has 23 years experience and is a veteran. Shannon thanked Mayor Absher and the Commissioners for the opportunity.

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND MUNICIPAL PLANNING

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve Ordinance 3736 accepting a plat to be known as Lots 5 & 6, Block 13 of the Jefferson School Addition. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

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

Mayor Absher explained the surplus property being sold as directed by Resolution 2021-20 is the lot directly north of the Etcetera Flowers & Gifts building. This is a property that was deeded to the City and the house on it was demolished. He said Etcetera owner, Mr. Heilig, expressed interest in purchasing the property. He stated per state statute a surplus property can be sold

July 26, 2021

without being advertised for bids if it is appraised and the sales price is 80 percent or more of the appraised value. Mayor Absher stated the City had the property appraised.

Mayor Absher made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-20 directing the sale of surplus property located at 1205 North Market Street to Michael F. Heilig for \$16,000. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve the purchase of 20 parcels in the Midway, Duncan, Hendrickson project area, from various owners: a budgeted Project Fund item. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

#### PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Mayor Absher asked City Attorney Wendy Cunningham to explain the new yard sale process and why it was necessary. Wendy explained Ordinance 3737 will limit and regulate perpetual yard sales to three calendar days at a time. Per the ordinance, yard sales must be held 15 days apart. There will be no permit or fee required.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve Ordinance 3737 regulating yard, garage, rummage, and similar sales. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

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

Mayor Absher explained Ordinance 3738 corrects a misalignment in the City's liquor code. This ordinance allows package liquor sales from noon to 10:00 P.M. on Sundays changing it from 1:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. on Sundays.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve Ordinance 3738 amending the days and hours of sale of alcoholic beverages. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

Mayor Absher told the Council and audience Marion Community Unit #2, Williamson County Highway Department, Rides Mass Transit District the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge, and the City have applied for an ITEP grant for the development of the Crab Orchard Greenway project. The City will contribute \$100,000 toward the project.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement with Marion CUSD #2, Williamson County Highway Department, Rides Mass Transit, and the Crab Orchard

July 26, 2021

National Wildlife Refuge for development of the Crab Orchard Greenway and contribute \$100,000 to the project. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

#### COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Barwick congratulated the new Assistant Police Chief Designee Jody Wright. He also told the Council and audience he is proud of the Police Department, Fire Department and Animal Control Department.

Commissioner Webb reported the Street Department continues to repair sidewalks in town. They are also working on the new parking lot on North Market Street next to M. They have been cleaning up in areas around Jones Park. He also announced the asphalt overlay program started today. He asked residents to be cautious in those areas and pay attention to detours. He reported the Cemetery Department continues to mow and trim due to the excessive rains we had recently.

Commissioner Stoecklin read the Water Department Report since the last meeting. He announced there would be a Back-to-School Bash at the Marion Oasis Theater. There will be vendors inside the former mall, inflatables for the kids and tethered balloon rides. He reminded everyone there will be an event for teachers at Ray Fosse Park. He reported there have been 482 new water and sewer customers since January 2021. For July trivia, he asked what was started upstairs at the old City Hall? He announced Teen Town started there. In other trivia, Commissioner Stoecklin asked how many gallons of water are needed to manufacture a new car. The answer is 39,000 gallons.

Mayor Absher announced this is the third time in Olympic history we have had a Marion resident competing. Darryl Sullivan is competing in the Olympics in high jump. The Civic Center will host a viewing event Thursday evening. The building will open at 6:00 P.M. There will be food trucks in the alley starting at 5:30P.M. This event is sponsored by State Representative Dave Severin, Swamp Fox and AP3. He also announced the Colt World Series will be at Rent One Park from July 30 through August 3. Tickets are available on the Southern Illinois Miners website. Marion Club 60 will offer an iPhone basics class for seniors on August 27 at the Senior Citizens Center. There will be limited seating. Those seniors who are interested should call and reserve a seat. On August 2 they will be holding an etiquette tea for grandparents and children grades K through 6.

Police Chief David Fitts announced a golf scramble benefitting the Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run will be held Saturday at Kokopelli.

Commissioner Stoecklin reminded everyone the Grand Funk Railroad concert will be Saturday night at the Civic Center. This is the Will Rock for Food Benefit for the Marion Ministerial Alliance.

July 26, 2021

MISCELLANEOUS

6:36 PM

Mayor Absher made a motion to go into executive session to discuss a real estate matter pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5). Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

7:05 P.M.

Mayor Absher made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session and resume the Regular Meeting. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

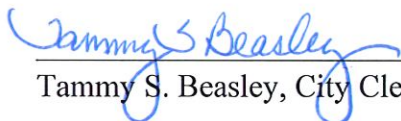
Commissioner Webb made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 7:06 P.M.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael W. Absher, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tammy S. Beasley, City Clerk