

June 28, 2021

City of Marion – Regular Meeting

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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 STOECKLIN AND MAYOR ABSHER.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Absher.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Commissioner Patton 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 the City of Marion Police and Fire Merit Board to hire Cassin Fearnow to replace the future opening created by the retirement of Sergeant Mike Baxter. Cassin will be attending the Illinois State Police Academy Recruit Training, August 8 through November 11, 2021. Cassin's hire date will be July 19, 2021, at the Probationary 1 Hourly Pay Rate of \$24.57. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

Police Chief David Fitts told the Council in his two years as Chief; he has not had the opportunity to send an officer to the Police Academy because all his hires have been lateral transfers. He is excited to be sending Cassin to the Academy. He announced Cassin is a Virginia Military Institute graduate. He introduced Cassin to the Council. Cassin thanked everyone for the opportunity to represent Marion as a police officer.

Chief Fitts explained part-time dispatchers are not working out at the Police Department. He said each time the part-time employees are trained, then they end up leaving or not working out. He said it will work better to have 15 full-time and one part-time dispatcher. He has some good candidates that can start soon. He will have names for two full-time dispatchers to present at the next council meeting.

Commissioner Barwick made a motion to approve filling two full-time and one part-time dispatch positions. Names of hired personnel to be voted on at a future meeting. Both full-time dispatchers and the part-time dispatcher will start at the Pay Rate of Probationary 1 at \$21.87 per hour, per the collective bargaining agreement. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

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TREASURER'S OFFICE

Commissioner Patton announced the Treasurer's Office is losing Accounting Technician Rianne Roberson because she is leaving the area.

Commissioner Patton made the motion to approve the recommendation of the Treasurer to hire an Accounting Technician at \$20 per hour plus benefits, with semi-annual wage increases for the first two years; a non-exempt position to fill the vacancy created by Rianne Roberson's resignation. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

STREET DEPARTMENT

Street Department Superintendent Doug Phillips told the Council the bid opening for the Asphalt Overlay Program was held earlier today. There were two bidders. E.T. Simonds was the low bidder. They bid \$995,613.18.

Commissioner Webb made a motion to approve the low bid of \$995,613.18 from E.T. Simonds for the 2021 Asphalt Overlay Program. Commissioner Patton seconded the motion.

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND MUNICIPAL PLANNING

Mayor Absher explained the purchase of right-of-way for the Fifth Street Signalization Project is to square up the intersection.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve the right-of-way purchase for Fifth Street Signalization Project. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

Mayor Absher told the Commissioners the economic incentive letter for ReaderLink does not involve any outlay of funds at this time. The incentives are contingent upon certain events.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve the economic incentive letter for ReaderLink. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

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

Mayor Absher explained the third amendment to the redevelopment agreement with Marion Heights II, Inc. is to add parcels in the area that were not originally included in the TIF.

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Mayor Absher made a motion to approve Ordinance 3734 approving the third amendment to the redevelopment agreement with Marion Heights II, Inc. adding additional parcels. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve Ordinance 3735 a Residential TIF redevelopment agreement with JECC Investments, LLC. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

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

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to approve a \$5,000 donation to the Knights of Columbus for the Independence Day event: a budgeted item. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

Commissioner Stoecklin showed the Council and audience posters for the Knights of Columbus July 4th event. He announced the carnival is back after 20 years. He also announced the bands that would be playing during the event.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Stoecklin read the Water Department report for May. He announced the Marion Elks will have fireworks at the Lake of Egypt on Friday, July 2. He also announced the Knights of Columbus will have their celebration on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday with fireworks on the 4th of July. He gave a shout out to Doug Phillips and the Street Department employees for their help with hooking up power for the KCs Celebration of Independence. He also thanked them for their help cleaning up trash on the Town and Country parking lot. He told the Council the Street Department has provided signage, SI Waste Container provided a dumpster and IT Director Terance Henry has provided security cameras for the parking lot. He encouraged the folks hanging out on the parking lot to keep it clean. The trivia question this month was, "Can you determine the outside temperature based on crickets?" The answer is yes. Commissioner Stoecklin explained when a cricket is chirping, count the chirps for 15 seconds and add 37. That will indicate the outside temperature.

Commissioner Webb reported the Street Department continues to work on sidewalks. They are currently getting the streets ready for the asphalt overlay. He reminded citizens to please be courteous and seek alternate routes when necessary during the paving.

Commissioner Patton had nothing to report.

Commissioner Barwick read the May reports for the Police Department and the Narcotics Unit.

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Mayor Absher reported an update from Club 60, the Senior Citizens Center. On Thursday, July 1, the doors to the center will open at 10:00 am and lunch will begin serving at 11:00 am. This will be the first day back for indoor dining. The Center continues to host the Farmers Market on Wednesday and Saturday mornings. On July 14 the U of I Extension will present a program on humor. Mayor Absher also had a trivia question. "When and where was the first meeting of the Marion Senior Citizens held?" It was held March 22, 1966 at the Zion United Church of Christ.

Police Chief Fitts announced funeral arrangements for former Marion Police Officer Drew Watson.

5:57 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) and a personnel matter pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1). Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

7:10 P.M.

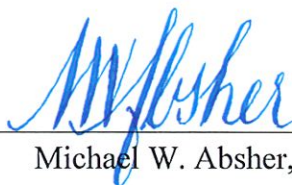
Commissioner Webb made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session and resume the Regular Meeting. Commissioner Patton seconded the motion.

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

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

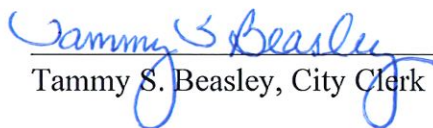
ON ROLL CALL VOTE COMMISSIONERS PATTON, BARWICK, WEBB AND STOECKLIN AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:11 P.M.



Michael W. Absher, Mayor

ATTEST:



Tammy S. Beasley, City Clerk