

June 14, 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 Marion Cultural and Civic Center 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 Marion resident and business owner Steve Fowler.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Marion resident Donald Gaddis addressed the Council and audience assembled for the State of the City Address. He reminded the Council and Audience Bob Butler's memory needs to be remembered when thinking of progress.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND MUNICIPAL PLANNING

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve the purchase of 1115 Midway Court for \$20,000. Commissioner Stoecklin 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 the purchase of 1206 W. Concord for \$18,000. 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 3731 an economic development loan agreement with Whimsy. 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 3732 a Residential TIF redevelopment agreement with Brynnlayne Properties. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

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

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

June 14, 2021

Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to approve the low bid of \$130,691 from JM Jones, Inc for the North Van Buren Street Sanitary Sewer Extension project. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to approve the purchase of security cameras at the Wastewater Treatment Plant from ProTek for \$10,225.86. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

TREASURER'S OFFICE

Commissioner Patton made a motion to approve Ordinance 3733 authorizing a lending agreement with Banterra Bank to finance the purchase of new communication equipment for the Police Department. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

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

STATE OF THE CITY

Mayor Absher made his introductory remarks regarding the first two years of his term as mayor. He reported the new Texas Roadhouse restaurant will be opening in October and ReaderLink, the largest distributor of hardback and paperback books in North America will be locating in the vacant Circuit City building. He also updated the audience on the progress of his 2020 Vision plan.

During Part 2 of the State of the City Address, the Commissioners reported on their various departments. Jim Webb, Commissioner of Streets and Cemeteries, reported there are over 100 miles of streets maintained by the Street Department. He listed the road projects started and/or completed during the last two years. He explained the Street Department maintains all City vehicles; stripes all City streets and crosswalks; maintains manholes and storm drains; maintains asphalt; removes snow and debris; maintains traffic signals and street lights; makes all street signs in house; and does all concrete and sidewalk repairs and maintenance; all at a cost savings to the City. In addition to these duties, Street Department employees trim weeds, paint light poles and pick up trash around the City on a regular basis. He reported the Cemetery Department employees maintain more than 10,000 gravesites. They have a GPS system that makes it easier to locate the gravesites of loved ones.

John Stoecklin, Commissioner of Public Works, reported on the ongoing water and sewer projects in the City. He explained there are 120 miles of sewer lines; 3,000 manholes; 19 lift stations and 150 residential pump stations in the City and due to GIS mapping, there is now a permanent record of these assets. He reported the City maintains one of the lowest sewer rates in the area and the Public Works Departments are self-supporting. Both Water and Sewer

June 14, 2021

Departments operate on surplus budgets and have emergency funds in place. The rates in both departments are structured to fund operating and maintenance projects at least 20 years into the future.

John Barwick, Commissioner of Public Health and Safety, reported statistics for Animal Control, and the Police and Fire Departments for the last two years. He reported during the last two years, the addition to the Fire Station was completed. This year the Harrison-Bruce Foundation provided grant funding to purchase a new ladder truck allowing the Fire Department to donate two older trucks to local Fire Departments. He also reported since 2019, the Police Department has hired 10 new officers, including one additional Narcotics Unit officer and one K-9 and K-9 officer. There is now a School Resource Officer in the high school and there are School Security Officers at all other Unit 2 schools. A donation from the Harrison-Bruce Foundation allowed the Police Department to purchase an armored vehicle for the ERT team.

Doug Patton, Commissioner of Accounts and Finance reported after the election, the Council inherited a budget with an \$80,000 surplus. Through fiscal responsibility, better than anticipated revenues, and some aggressive cost savings measures, the City was able to manage more than a \$900,000 surplus. The City maintained a \$90,000 budget surplus during the COVID-19 Pandemic. A budget surplus of \$242,000 is predicted for the current fiscal year. The City's Budget Stabilization Fund ("rainy day fund") has over \$5million in it.

During Part 3 of the State of the City Address, Mayor Absher reported on progress and future development. He talked about the Bike Marion project, Marion Mural District, plans for downtown revitalization, renovation of the First Southern Bank building for City Hall, Destination Alleyway, parking improvements, Market Street Hall, new business models at the Pavilion and Marion Cultural and Civic Center, Boys and Girls Club, upcoming development at the Motel Marion site, and coming attractions at the Oasis (formerly Illinois Star Centre Mall and surrounding properties).

Mayor Absher and the Commissioners answered questions from the audience.

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

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

Meeting Adjourned at 7:43 P.M.



Michael W. Absher, Mayor

ATTEST:



June 14, 2021

Tammy S. Beasley, City Clerk