

May 24, 2021

City of Marion – Regular Meeting

May 24, 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 STOECKLIN AND MAYOR ABSHER.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by City Engineer Brian Ziegler.

PUBLIC RECOGNITION

Marion High School Special Education Teacher Holly Eagleston told the Council her students participate in community-based instruction. This allows students to go out into the community to work in different businesses to learn job skills. Her students worked for the ladies at the Southern Illinois Mercantile. Her students were given the opportunity to work during school and during the time of remote learning. The ladies of the Merc gave the students projects and let them sell Christmas ornaments. The money they earned from the sale of the ornaments was used to buy parts to repair 13 bicycles that were donated by the Marion Police Department. Mayor Absher read a proclamation recognizing Tanya Miller and Ellen Graff of Southern Illinois Mercantile for their work with Ms. Eagleston's students.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Marion resident Donald Gaddis addressed the Council regarding prejudice. He read from the book of Psalm. He also talked about the primary purpose of the Police.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

HUB RECREATION CENTER

Hub Recreation Center General Manager Chris Georgantas addressed the Council regarding HVAC work that needs to be done at the Hub. Chris explained one of the air dehumidifiers in the aquatics area that was installed June 2018 is showing corrosion. The equipment is beyond the warranty period for parts and repairs. Daikin-TMI, LLC and Boyt Engineering recommend separating the aquatics system from the others in the building. Chris explained the work needs to be done to prevent further damage. The bid from Daikin-TMI, LLC is not to exceed \$26,000. This is the only bid that was received. Chris told the Council other contractors in the area are not equipped to make these repairs.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve a bid from Daikin-IMT, LLC for \$26,000 to complete work on the Aquatics HVAC system. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

May 24, 2021

TREASURER'S OFFICE

Treasurer Steve Hale explained the City currently has a \$10 million line of credit with Banterra Bank due May 30, 2021. The City has the funds to pay off the line of credit. Treasurer Hale said the City can renew the line of credit for \$5 million. He believes this is a reasonable amount and won't look unfavorable to rating agencies. Banterra is offering the line of credit at an interest rate of prime minus 1.175%.

Commissioner Patton made a motion to approve the payoff for the current line of credit through Banterra Bank for a total of \$1.125 million plus interest. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

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

Commissioner Patton made a motion to approve Ordinance 3729 establishing a \$5 million line of credit with Banterra Bank. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

Commissioner Patton explained the Treasurer's Office lost Accounts Payable Specialist Kiley Gould to the City Clerk's office as the new Deputy City Clerk. The Treasurer's Office needs to replace her. They interviewed two very qualified candidates. They decided to hire Chaz Centore. He currently works at the Hub part-time. He will start at \$18.50/hour and will increase over a two-year period until he reaches \$20.00/hour.

Commissioner Patton made a motion to approve the hire of Chaz Centore to the position of Accounts Payable Specialist at \$18.50/hour plus benefits, an exempt position. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

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

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Commissioner Stoecklin made the motion to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to make the following promotions: Jessica Intravia to Assistant Office Billing Clerk at the contractual rate of \$24.05/hour and Allison Boner to Office Support Supervisor at \$28.84 per hour. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

Public Works Superintendent Brent Cain addressed the Council to recommend the purchase of FieldHawk work order software. Brent explained this is a mobile platform for work orders that works with the current software being used by the Water Department. The module will be shared with the Wastewater Department and all work orders for the both departments will flow through the Water Office. Field personnel will have the ability to access, modify and create

May 24, 2021

workorders in the field. The GPS coordinate system will allow personnel in the field to locate work sites. They will also be able to program water meters. Ultimately, the system will be used for GIS mapping. The City already has the tablets to be used with the software. There is a one time \$1,500 per license fee.

Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to approve the purchase of FieldHawk software, a budgeted item. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

Public Works Superintendent Brent Cain told the Council the annual service renewal for the Raco Alarm Agent will be due soon. Brent told the Council the City has had these for six or seven years. They monitor all the remote lift stations. There are 17 located in town. At the time these agents were installed, the cell service technology was 2G and 3G. This technology is set to sunset starting in January 2022. At that time the agents will no longer work. The City pays \$6,120 annually for the service. This is a budgeted amount. The total cost to upgrade to 5G technology, including the \$6,120 annual service fee is \$27,810. The Council discussed trying to set aside money each year for updating technology and equipment as needed. Mayor Absher suggested Superintendents and Department Heads should ask vendors the life span of equipment when it is purchased to help plan for future replacement. Commissioner Barwick questioned whether this upgrade needed to be made right away or the City could wait awhile to make the upgrade. The Council discussed options.

Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to approve upgrades to the Raco Alarm Agent monitoring system for \$27,810; a non-budgeted item but required to maintain system performance with the caveat the Public Works Superintendent will use discretion to enact such spending until time is needed. Commissioner Patton 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 accept the resignation of Tracey Lowe effective May 17, 2021. Commissioner Patton seconded the motion.

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

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Commissioner Barwick made a motion to approve the Merit Board's recommendation to promote Kevin D. Ogden to Sergeant to fill the vacancy created by Sergeant Griffith's retirement; effective May 3, 2021. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

May 24, 2021

Chief Fitts explained it is tradition for a family member to pin a new Sergeant's badge on. Since Sergeant Ogden's family was unable to attend the meeting, Chief Fitts presented him with his new badge.

Chief Fitts told the Council the Police Department is purchasing enough portable radios for every officer plus ten and radios for every squad car. That is 55 total radios. These radios are being purchased with \$80,000 donated by the Williamson County ETSB and budgeted funds of \$106,423. The first 22 radios were already purchased by the City EMA.

Commissioner Barwick made a motion to approve the purchase of new radios and headsets from Novacom and Atlantic Signal for a total of \$106,423, a budgeted item. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

Commissioner Barwick explained the Police Department recently sent an officer to crisis intervention hostage negotiation school and the Direct-Link Bridge Series Crisis Response System will be used for that.

Commissioner Barwick made a motion to approve the purchase of a Direct-Link Bridge Series Crisis Response System for \$29,749.90 using a donation from the Harris-Bruce Foundation for the total amount. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

Chief Fitts told the Council it is necessary to find another internet provider for the Police Department. IT Director Terance Henry explained the LEEDS system uses another carrier and recently some 9-1-1 calls have been dropped and there have been outages on some of the mobile computers. Chief Fitts stated this is not acceptable. City Attorney Wendy Cunningham has reviewed the contract with the City's current internet provider and the City is within the 60-day window to cancel the contract. IT Director Terance Henry stated at most, the City might have to pay two months of service to that provider. He also told the Council the monthly cost for the internet service with Clearwave Communications is the same as the service with the current provider.

Commissioner Barwick made a motion to approve a 60-month agreement with Clearwave Communications for fiber internet. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

May 24, 2021

BUILDING AND CODE SERVICES

Marion resident Meshawn Williams has requested to place a double-wide home on a block foundation at 726 North Harper Street. This is a lot that was owned by the City and sold in a surplus property sale. The house on the lot was torn down. Ms. Williams told Mayor Absher her double-wide home is small. It is a 22' x 40'. There are no other double-wide homes in the neighborhood, but there is one single-wide trailer.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve the request to place a double-wide on a block foundation at 726 North Harper Street: an R-2 district. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND MUNICIPAL PLANNING

Economic Development and Municipal Planning Director Glenn Clarida told the Council, Jerry Barrass, the property owner on the south side of West Main Street across from Fifth Street wants signal lights installed at that intersection. Mr. Barrass will pay \$50,000 toward the cost of the signal lights and Marion Community Unit #2 School District will pay \$30,000 toward the cost of the signal lights. Glenn explained proper design engineering required a right turn lane coming from the West due to the current design of West Main Street in that area. He told the Council the City has applied for a grant from the USDA Rural Development. If the grant is approved, the City will pay the engineering costs for the south side of the street. If the grant is not received, Mr. Barrass will pay the engineering costs. The total cost of the project will be \$600,000 to \$700,000.

Commissioner Webb made a motion to approve the engineering agreement with Farley Engineering for widening of West Main Street at Fifth Street to support a new signalized intersection. Commissioner Stoecklin 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 approve the engineering agreement with Farley Engineering for the South portion of Fifth and Main Streets intersection design, agreement execution contingent on grant award from USDA Rural Development. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

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

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Mayor Absher announced the City has been planning the improvements to Tower Square for over a year contingent upon the availability of ITEP funding. He explained some of the improvements on the Tower Square will require local funding.

May 24, 2021

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve improvements to Tower Square Plaza; not to exceed a budgeted amount of \$1.25 million. 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 audience this item and some other items of substantial importance will be on the agenda for the next Council Meeting on June 14, 2021 at 5:30 pm at the Civic Center. Since the Council members are halfway through their term, they want to present some items for the future in much more detail.

Mayor's Chief of Staff Cody Moake explained Ordinance 3730 is updating the Hotel Operator's Occupation Tax portion of the hotel tax for online travel companies. It is not a new tax. This portion is 3%. In December, the City, working with Azavar, updated the bed tax portion of the hotel tax to require online travel companies to collect the tax and remit it directly to the City. That tax was 6%. With this ordinance the online travel companies will be required to collect and remit the entire 9% tax.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve Ordinance 3730 amending Section 3-5A-4 of the Marion City Code regarding Hotel Operators' Occupation Tax. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

Mayor Absher explained the First Christian Church quit operating in November 2020. The First Christian Church board deeded the building to the City. The board wanted to ensure the building would be maintained and preserved. Mayor Absher announced the building will be rebranded as Market Street Hall. It will be used as a small performance hall. It will be overseen by Civic Center Executive Director Josh Benson. A music conservatory which is a 501(c)(3) organization will operate from the facility. They plan on holding classes in the fall.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve the Marion Cultural and Civic Center business plan changes along with the Market Street Hall Business Model. Commissioner Patton seconded the motion.

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

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Webb reported the Street Department has been working on some green scaping projects in some of the parking lots in the downtown area. They continue to repair sidewalks and clean storm drains. They will begin work on the asphalt overlay program this summer. He reported the bid letting hasn't been held yet, but he is anticipating the prices will be higher this year. He reported Street Department Superintendent Doug Phillips is trying to prioritize the

May 24, 2021

worst damage so those areas will be fixed with available funds. Commissioner Webb reported the cemeteries look great. The Cemetery Department continues to get ready for Memorial Day. He gave a shout out to Boy Scouts from Troops 21 and 42 who helped to clean off grave sites. Commissioner Webb announced volunteers are needed to place flags on Veterans' graves in Oddfellows and Rose Hill Cemeteries on Saturday, May 29. Volunteers should meet at 8:00 am at the VFW located at 201 Longstreet Road where flags will be handed out. The VFW will hold the annual Memorial Day ceremony on Monday, May 31 at 11:30 am at the flagpole south of Goddard Chapel.

Commissioner Stoecklin read the Water Department report since the May 10, 2021 council meeting. He congratulated all area graduates. For his trivia tidbit, he asked when the water meter was invented. It was invented in April 1852.

Commissioner Patton had no report. He announced he is saving his report for the next meeting on June 14.

Commissioner Barwick reported he was asked to pass along a message to the Cemetery Department stating the cemeteries look better than in any other year. He reminded the audience that golf carts, dirt bikes, four wheelers, three wheelers and gas-powered bicycles are illegal on streets in town. Citations can be issued to anyone operating those vehicles on City streets and the vehicles will be towed.

Chief Fitts wanted to thank the Harrison-Bruce Foundation for their donation that allowed the Police Department to purchase the Direct-Link Bridge Series Crisis Response System. He said the Foundation has been great to the City and he wanted to thank them for their generosity.

Mayor Absher stated there was not a need for Executive Session this evening.

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

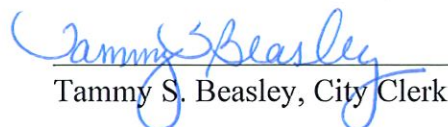
ON ROLL CALL VOTE COMMISSIONERS PATTON, BARWICK, WEBB AND STOECKLIN AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:00 P.M.



Michael W. Absher, Mayor

ATTEST:



Tammy S. Beasley, City Clerk