

May 10, 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 Veterans on Parade Organizer Ed Davis.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Veterans on Parade Organizer Ed Davis addressed the Council regarding the 2021 Veterans on Parade. Ed stated he is proud to have the parade in Marion and support all of Southern Illinois. He announced there would be no protocols mandated for this year's parade. He explained the parade recognizes men and women who have served their country and spent time away from their families. The parade also honors first responders. This year's parade will be held Saturday, September 11, 2021. This is also the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on the United States. Ed indicated there may be some special surprises during the parade this year. He encouraged everyone to come out and support the parade. The parade route will run from west to east through town, starting at the Marion Junior High and ending at the fairgrounds. Participants need to register before the parade.

Marion resident Donald Gaddis addressed the Council. He expressed his concerns that politicians are not bridging divisions but are making divisions. He also commented divisions can be bridged through faith and faith is confidence in the truth.

There were several members of the public present regarding the incident with Marion track coach Sara Baker. The first speaker did not state her name for the Council. Resident Darlene Roper stated she was reaching out to the Council to be heard. She encouraged the Council to stand up and say all students matter. She asked the Council to listen because they are the face of the City. Resident Chastity Mays addressed the Council stating she thinks the issue with the track coach is not an isolated incident. She thinks students should not feel racism. She stated the importance of the Council listening to the students and addressing what needs to be addressed. She asked the Council to listen to every voice.

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, WEBB AND STOECKLIN AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA.

NEW BUSINESS

STREET DEPARTMENT

Commissioner Webb made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Commissioner and Superintendent to promote Clint Fly to Lead Man with a salary adjustment consistent with the current collective bargaining agreement effective May 3, 2021. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

May 10, 2021

Commissioner Webb explained Resolution 2021-16 is needed to approve the expenditure of MFT funds for the asphalt overlay program. Resolution 2021-16 is for \$620,000. The remaining funds being used for the asphalt overlay program are as follows: \$100,000 road and bridge funds (from real estate tax) and \$395,000 gas tax funds. The total amount for the 2021 asphalt overlay program is \$1,115,000.

Commissioner Webb made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-16 approving the 2021 asphalt overlay program. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

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

Commissioner Webb explained the City only received one bid for bulk paint for road striping. Another bid was solicited, but that company could not provide the paint.

Commissioner Webb made a motion to approve the purchase of bulk paint for road striping at \$32,101, a budgeted item. 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 stated Sergeant Griffith retired 5/2/2021 from the Police Department. She wants to be a School Security Officer.

Commissioner Barwick made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Chief to hire Kathleen Griffith as a School Security Officer. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

MARION CULTURAL AND CIVIC CENTER

Marion Cultural and Civic Center Executive Director Josh Benson addressed the Council regarding a bid he received from Glass Doctor to create a glass enclosure on the second floor of the Civic Center in the former lobby area. The bid includes installing two walls and a door to create an office. Josh stated his office will relocate to the new second floor office. The area that was the main office on the first floor will become a production office. He explained some touring groups require a production office as part of their contract riders. This has been a requirement the Civic Center couldn't adequately fulfill. The production office will also be used as a staff meeting room. Josh explained his current office was originally the ticket booth. Derek Hamblin will move to that office and will be able to sell tickets for shows through the glass ticket windows. When asked about bids received, Josh explained he only received one bid from Glass Doctor. He also reached out to Marion Glass and Randy Jones Glass for bids. After multiple attempts to contact both companies, no additional bids were received.

May 10, 2021

Commissioner Patton made a motion to approve the bid of \$16,600 from Glass Doctor for the office build out on second floor. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

TREASURER'S OFFICE

Mayor Absher stated Resolution 2021-15 is a routine item. Treasurer Hale stated this resolution updates the list of local depositories to reflect name changes and new banks.

Commissioner Patton made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-15 Designating Depositories. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

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

Williamson County 911 Director D J Stewart addressed the Council regarding intergovernmental agreements with the City of Herrin and the Williamson County Joint ETSB for oversight of the board's finances. He said the Williamson County Joint ETSB is statutorily required to have one of the participating treasurers to have oversight over the funds. He explained initially, Williamson County was overseeing the finances. There were some issues with that, so the board hired a local CPA. He spoke with his controlling authority at the state level and she was fine with Treasurer Hale looking over the financials. D J said Treasurer Hale will be checking to make sure proper accounting methods are being used and verifying balances. Treasurer Hale stated he is very familiar with the CPA firm the board is using. He doesn't think it will take much time for him to review the financials.

Commissioner Patton made a motion to approve Intergovernmental Agreements with the City of Herrin and the Williamson County Joint ETSB for oversight of the board's finances. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

Treasurer Hale explained the City needs to borrow \$760,000 for the South Market Sewer Project and the Industrial Park Lift Station improvements. According to Treasurer Hale, three bids were received. Bids received from First Southern Bank and Banterra Bank were for loans, but with higher interest rates. The bid from U.S. Bancorp is for a ten-year lease with a 2.13% interest rate. Treasurer Hale indicated there are no additional fees with the lease option and this will save the City \$7,400 over the term of the lease. He also noted the City has used the lease option for financing in the past with no problems.

Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to approve Ordinance 3728 approving a lease funding agreement with U.S. Bank for funds dedicated to the South Market Sewer Extension and improvements to the Industrial Park Lift Station. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

May 10, 2021

ON ROLL CALL VOTE COMMISSIONER PATTON VOTED NO.
COMMISSIONERS BARWICK, WEBB AND STOECKLIN AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL
VOTED YEA.

Treasurer Hale explained Resolution 2021-17 is to enter into a tax-exempt lease agreement for funding certain capital projects. The City will go ahead and pay the vendors directly and will then be reimbursed with tax exempt proceeds from the bank set aside in an escrow account. This will allow for a faster turn around for the vendor payments. Still also mentioned an additional \$1.2 million needs to be added to the resolution for the water tower construction.

Commissioner Webb made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-17 expressing official intent regarding certain capital expenditures to be reimbursed from proceeds of an obligation to be issued by the City of Marion with modification to section three changing the amount from \$760,000 to \$1,960,000. Commissioner Patton seconded the motion.

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

Mayor Absher explained the two modifications to Questica are to balance sheet items. Treasurer Hale explained with the modifications, Questica could update balance sheet balances daily as is currently done with revenues and expenses. The modifications would allow items to be imported each night.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve two modifications to Questica to include fund balances and balance sheet activity imports for a maximum \$4,050 each totaling a potential \$8,100 in one-time charges: non-budgeted items. Commissioner Patton seconded the motion.

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

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Commissioner Stoecklin explained the sewer repair is located near Perfectly Posh Boutique and is needed because the sanitary sewer has been backing up in that area for some time.

Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to approve the bid from Skuta Construction for repair of sewer main located in alley between the 100 block of South Liberty and South Monroe using TIF funds. 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 made a motion to approve the hire of Kiley Gould to the position of Deputy Clerk at \$21/hour, full-time, non-exempt effective May 10, 2021. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

May 10, 2021

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

Mayor Absher explained he has asked White & Borgognoni for a fixed price contract for the City Hall building renovations due to increasing prices. He stated the building needs a substantial amount of mechanical work.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve the project agreement with White & Borgognoni Architects, P.C. for design and management of the City Hall renovation project omitting the five percent addition to reimbursable expenses. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Stoecklin read the Water Department report since the last council meeting.

Commissioner Patton had nothing to report.

Commissioner Barwick read the Fire Department, Police Department, Narcotics Unit, Detective Unit and Animal Control reports for April. He also reminded the audience it was National Police Week. He stated he wanted to honor all officers. He also said he is infuriated by how officers are being treated nationwide.

Commissioner Webb reported the Street Department has been working on sidewalks on Thorn and Calumet Streets. They have also sent five employees to help with mowing and trimming at the Cemetery in preparation for Memorial Day. They also continue fixing roads and patching potholes from the Winter weather. The Cemetery crews continue to prepare for Memorial Day.

Mayor Absher reported the Senior Citizens Center served 3,664 meals in April. They have resumed outdoor activities. They are looking for a 60 plus senior to lead a weekly walking crew through the mural district downtown. On April 15th they held a second vaccine clinic. On April 20th during a virtual ceremony they were presented with a Governor's Hometown Award. They are currently working with the Oasis Drive-In to host a virtual program that covers how ombudsmen in Illinois work to resolve complaints involving Medicare and Medicaid. Director Jill Graskewicz wanted to thank Kelly Norris of the Williamson County EMA and her staff and the Marion Fire Department and Street Department for help distributing 1,600 pounds of food during the month.

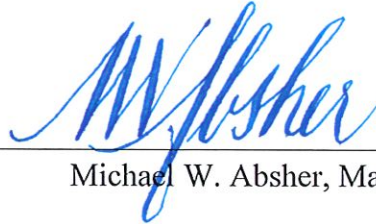
Mayor Absher stated there was not a need for Executive Session this evening.

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

May 10, 2021

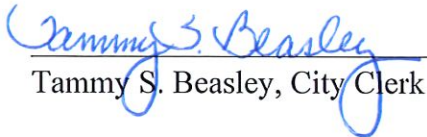
ON ROLL CALL VOTE COMMISSIONERS PATTON, BARWICK, WEBB AND
STOECKLIN AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:27 P.M.



Michael W. Absher, Mayor

ATTEST:



Tammy S. Beasley, City Clerk