

April 26, 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 City Engineer Brian Ziegler.

DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Commissioner Webb reported Street Department employee Steve Young is retiring after 35 years with the City. He started working at the Marion Cultural and Civic Center in 1986 and worked there until 1997 before he moved to the Street Department. Commissioner Webb said Steve is a friend and his retirement will be a great loss to the City. Steve could not attend the Council Meeting, so Street Department Superintendent Doug Phillips accepted a plaque on his behalf. Doug announced April 30th will be Steve's last day. Doug thanked Steve for his many years of Service.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Donald Gaddis addressed the Council. He said he thinks the Mayor Absher and Chief Fitts are worthy of community support.

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

BUILDING & CODE SERVICES

Marion resident Julie McAlpin addressed the council explaining she has been a hairdresser for thirteen years. She has been working from home for the last three years. She is a single mother and receives no support from her ex-husband. Since her divorce, she purchased a home at 1806 West Warren Street. She was anticipating being able to operate a salon from her home or from a separate portable building she purchased and placed in her back yard. Mayor Absher explained due to her neighborhood being zoned R-1, business is not allowed in her neighborhood.

Attorney Mark Kochan and several residents of Warren Street addressed the Council on behalf of Julie McAlpin. They expressed their support of her operating a hair salon either in a building behind her house or from the basement of her house. Suzanne Drive residents Linda Rendleman and Kay Ferris and Warren Street resident Martha Brandt all expressed their opposition to Ms. McAlpin operating a hair salon from her home.

Commissioner Patton had several questions for Ms. McAlpin. He stated he thinks her realtor should have informed her of the zoning regulations for the neighborhood prior to her purchasing the home. While he said he respects her efforts to support her family, he thinks the City should

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abide by the zoning regulations and will have to vote against allowing her to operate her business at her residence at this time.

Commissioner Stoecklin stated while he wouldn't personally have a problem with Ms. McAlpin operating her salon from her home, he agrees the City must abide by the zoning laws for the neighborhood. He would like to see Ms. McAlpin and her opposing neighbors come to some sort of agreement; however, he does not want to open a Pandora's Box for other areas in town.

Mayor Absher mentioned the Zoning Ordinance dates to 1987 and there are very few exceptions to the R-1 zoning classification. The intent of the ordinance is very clear.

Commissioner Barwick stated he applauds Ms. McAlpin for working and supporting her family, however, he doesn't want the City to start down a slippery slope and thinks the City should abide by the zoning ordinance.

Mayor Absher made a motion to affirm the Zoning Board's denial of Julie McAlpin's Special Use Permit request to use a residential home in an R-1 Single Family Residential Zone at 1806 West Warren Street, PIN # 06-23-427-008 as a private home/business/salon. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

Mayor Absher explained the City advertised surplus properties for sale. Bids were due by noon today and Mayor's Chief of Staff Cody Moake opened and tabulated them this afternoon. A tabulation of the bids was provided to the Council and City Attorney. There were two properties that did not receive bids. Cody said the property at 1008 North Madison is in a floodway and there may not be able to have anything built on it. Cody stated the bidder is aware.

Commissioner Patton made a motion to accept the high bids as read for properties listed for sale by the City. Commissioner Barwick 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 Ordinance 3727 approving the Southern Meadows subdivision plat. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Public Works Superintendent Brent Cain stated as part of the \$4.7 million sanitary sewer infrastructure rehab plan approval from the IEPA, the City is required to pass an ordinance to increase rates to allow for repayment of the IEPA loan. Brent explained the debt service charge to each customer will need to be increased by \$2.81 per month to cover the anticipated \$273,615

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annual loan payments. Commissioner Stoecklin added rates were not increased in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Marion still has one of the lowest rates in Southern Illinois. Brent also noted some of the sewer infrastructure is 75 years old this rate increase will help Marion to stay well-funded for future improvement projects for the next 20 years.

Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to approve Ordinance 3723 raising sewer rates for debt service effective June 1, 2021. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

Mayor Absher announced the sale of the City Lake is closed and this resolution will transfer the proceeds from the sale to the General Projects Fund.

Commissioner Webb made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-14 transferring proceeds from the sale of the Marion City Lake from the Water Department to the General Projects Fund.

Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

WATER DEPARTMENT

Mayor Absher asked for the proposal from Harris for FieldHawk remote software to be tabled.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND MUNICIPAL PLANNING

Commissioner Webb made a motion to approve Ordinance 3724 a Residential TIF redevelopment agreement with Brynnlayne Properties. 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 approve Ordinance 3725 a Hub TIF redevelopment agreement amendment with SS Fowler, LLC. Commissioner Barwick 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 3726 approving a Master Developer Agreement with Millennium Destination Development. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Absher explained Resolution 2021-13 is to amend the current budget. Treasurer Steve Hale stated the City has done an incredible job considering what the City was facing one year

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ago. He explained the City is close to breaking even. The sales tax collected has been phenomenal. Mayor Absher thinks the City may end the fiscal year with a small surplus. Commissioner Patton stated he thinks the City has done a remarkable job. Commissioner Patton made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-13 a resolution authorizing revision of the annual budget of 2020-2021. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

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

Mayor Absher announced Ordinance 3721 is to establish the upcoming budget for 2021-2022. Treasurer Hale announced the budget is on the website.

Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to approve Ordinance 3721 establishing the annual budget for the fiscal year 2021-2022. Commissioner Webb 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 Ordinance 3722 reappointing at-will department heads for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Commissioner Patton 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 last council meeting. He announced he attended a groundbreaking ceremony today for a new business and he received many comments from attendees they are happy with what's happening in Marion. For his monthly trivia question, he asked how many gallons per minute does it take to put out a house fire in a 1,500 square foot house. The answer is 500 gallons per minute.

Commissioner Webb announced the Spring Clean Up has been quite a challenge for the Street Department this year. The Street Department has finished the storm sewer on Lak Harbor Drive. The Cemetery Department crews are getting ready for Memorial Day.

Commissioner Patton had no report.

Commissioner Barwick had no report. He did compliment the Police and Fire Departments for all they do for the City.

Mayor Absher read a report from Marion Carnegie Library Director Loretta Broomfield. He announced there has been a 14 percent increase in circulation and a 31 percent increase in patron visits in the last 30 days.

Mayor Absher stated there was no need for Executive Session this evening.

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

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

Meeting Adjourned at 7:17 P.M.



Michael W. Absher, Mayor

ATTEST:



Tammy S. Beasley, City Clerk