

January 25, 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.

DEPARTMENT UPDATE COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Community Program Director Allison Hasler addressed the Council regarding the Request for Artists proposal for the downtown mural program. She indicated the Requests for Artists will roll out February 1st. The Requests will be closed out at the end of February. There are no age or experience requirements to apply. She also mentioned Jerry Womack from the Laborers Union has offered to help with tuckpointing issues on chosen mural sites (buildings).

CONSENT AGENDA

Street Department Superintendent Doug Phillips reported on Item B 2. He recommended Tomas Ortega be hired as a replacement for the vacancy created by Steve Young's retirement. Mr. Ortega can start February 1st pending pre employment screenings and will be paid per the union contract.

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

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Mayor Absher stated this agenda item will be tabled to a later meeting. Mr. Aldridge decided not to accept the position. The Information Technology Department will have to find another candidate.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Public Works Superintendent Brent Cain told the council he had been working on this project for a while. The Sewer Department is working on upgrading lines. Some of the old lines are 100 years old. The engineering agreement with Clarida & Ziegler Engineering Co. includes \$165,000 for televising 42,500 feet of sanitary sewer and \$50,000 for review and design. Clarida & Ziegler will subcontract a third party to video the lines in most immediate need of rehabilitation. The video will be used to assess the condition of those lines and the best way to rehabilitate them. This is a budgeted item for the fiscal year. Brent indicated he is in the process of trying to secure a low interest loan from the IEPA Revolving Loan Fund for the total cost of the project. He anticipates there will be some debt forgiveness for the loan.

The Commissioners asked several questions, which Brent addressed. He indicated the project could be done in-house with City personnel, however, there are eight miles of lines to be inspected. This would be very time consuming. The crews that are hired to video the sewer

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lines are trained to label and grade any defects in the lines. Brent explained the method used to reline the lines is the same method used by the Street Department. A new liner is placed inside the line and everything is sealed from manhole to manhole. Brent stated the \$215,000 cost includes engineering fees and labor and covers the length of the project. He is hoping the project will be complete, weather permitting, by the end of summer.

Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to approve the engineering agreement with Clarida & Ziegler Engineering Co. for the sewer rehab 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 recommendation of the Superintendent to hire Nick Keller to a part-time temporary intern position at \$13.00 per hour, non-exempt, no benefit position. 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

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve Ordinance 3701, a redevelopment agreement with Little Nashville Café, Inc. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Mayor Absher explained Ordinance 3700 is directing the sale of properties that did not receive any bids when they were previously advertised for sale by the Code Enforcement office.

Mayor's Chief of Staff Cody Moake stated Mr. Walker wants to build a family home on the lot at 726 N. Harper. The other three lots were previously owned by his family. Three of the four lots will require elevation certificates to build on them. Mr. Walker is aware of that requirement.

Commissioner Patton made a motion to approve Ordinance 3700 directing the sale of two surplus properties to Shane Walker. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

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

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Barwick had nothing to report.

Commissioner Stoecklin read the Water Department report since the last Council meeting. He reminded the public to report after hours watermain breaks by calling the Police Department non-emergency number. For his trivia tidbit, he reported on the history of the toilet.

Commissioner Patton had nothing to report.

Commissioner Webb reported the Street Department has continued repairing sidewalks and drainage tiles thanks to the mild Winter we have had. They are trimming tree limbs while the leaves are gone to get ready for Spring. The Cemetery has sold several lots and has had several burials. They are getting ready for mowing season.

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Mayor Absher reported the Senior Citizens Center has registered 130 seniors for the free drive thru tax preparation. They have assisted 56 seniors with registering for their COVID-19 vaccinations.

Mayor Absher stated there was no need for executive session this evening.

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

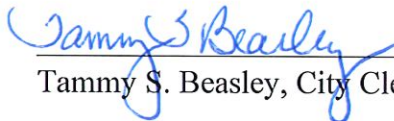
ON ROLL CALL VOTE COMMISSIONERS PATTON, BARWICK, WEBB AND STOECKLIN AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:04 P.M.



Michael W. Absher, Mayor

ATTEST:



Tammy S. Beasley, City Clerk