

January 11, 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, WEBB AND STOECKLIN
AND MAYOR ABSHER.

PRESENT BY TELEPHONE: COMMISSIONER BARWICK

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner John Stoecklin.

DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Police Chief David Fitts gave an update on the Police Department. He reported the department has a new K-9 officer. She started training today. She is a Malinois from Poland and is one and a half years old. Her name is Karma.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Absher took a minute to mention the purpose of the Consent Agenda. He explained it is used for items generally not requiring a lot of debate. Items such as approval of new hires and council minutes routinely appear on the Consent Agenda. He stated the City uses the Consent Agenda as an efficiency mechanism during meetings so as not to have lengthy roll call votes on routine items. He also explained items may be removed from the Consent Agenda if discussion is needed.

Commissioner Webb 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

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Commissioner Barwick explained the promotion of Tyson Baker to Detective is to fill a vacancy created when a Detective moved to patrol to fill a vacancy left by a retiring Sergeant.

Commissioner Barwick made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Merit Board to promote Tyson Baker to Detective effective 1/4/2021, at a base salary of \$27.60 per hour per the contract. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Commissioner Barwick made a motion to approve the final pay application to Evrard-Strang Construction for \$43,338.40 for substantial completion of the Apparatus Bay Addition to the Marion Fire Department. Commissioner Patton seconded the motion.

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

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND MUNICIPAL PLANNING

City Engineer Brian Ziegler explained the purpose for the engineering agreement with Clarida & Ziegler Engineering Co. for signalized intersection design at 5th and Main Streets. Brian stated a developer is working on a development on the south side of Main Street. The City will work with the developer to align lanes and then add signals and turn lanes for potential projects locating in that area. Commissioner Patton asked about acquiring additional property for the project. Brian indicated additional property will need to be purchased in the northeast corner of the intersection.

Commissioner Webb made a motion to approve authorization of the engineering agreement with Clarida & Ziegler Engineering for signalized intersection design at 5th and Main Streets. 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 Tower Square improvement project plans include a fountain structure in the center of the Square, pergolas to provide shade for dining and entertainment and the ability to install a portable ice-skating rink on the Square. The engineering agreement with Chastain & Associates is for the portion of the design of that project that is not covered by ITEP grant funds.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve authorization of an engineering agreement with Chastain & Associates for the design of the Tower Square improvement project. Commissioner Patton seconded the motion.

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

Mayor Absher explained Ordinances 3695 and 3696 are to remove parcels from the Marion Heights and Marion Heights II TIF Districts.

Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to approve Ordinance 3695 adopting the 6th Amendment to the Marion Heights TIF removing one parcel. 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 3696 adopting the 4th Amendment to the Marion Heights II TIF removing one parcel. 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 City has land in the Robert L. Butler Industrial Park that could be sold. Ordinance 3698 will allow that property to be sold without it being advertised for bids.

Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to approve Ordinance 3698 allowing for the sale of property within the Robert L. Butler Industrial Park. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

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PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Mayor Absher explained Ordinance 3697 is to approve financing for the purchase of the First Southern Bank Building. The financing includes the purchase price and a line of credit to refurbish the building. The City will close on the purchase of the building this week.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve Ordinance 3697 authorizing a loan agreement with First Southern Bank for the purchase and renovation of 300 Tower Square Plaza. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Barwick read the Fire Department report for 2020. He reported 815 calls for the year. He also stated Marion resident Darrell Duncan sent him a message thanking the first responders for their professionalism during a recent medical emergency. He and his family are thankful for their service.

Police Chief David Fitts read the Police Department report for December 2020 and the annual report for 2020. He reported 54,837 dispatched calls, 29,917 911 calls and 2,798 ambulance calls for 2020. He also read the December Detective Unit and Narcotics Unit reports. He reported the Detective Unit had 44 cases assigned in December.

Commissioner Stoecklin read the Water Department report for December 2020. He also reported the City used 50,350,000 gallons of water in December and 639,125,000 gallons of water in 2020.

Commissioner Webb reported the Street Department is working on sidewalks on Fozzard Street. They are also cleaning ditches in the area by the high school. He reported they are ready for snow but hope there is none.

Commissioner Patton reported the municipal sales tax figures increased 2.1% from 2019. Home rule sales tax has decreased 1.6% from 2019. He also wanted to give kudos to the Treasurer's office for all the work they do with the small staff they have. He indicated they are very busy in that office.

Mayor Absher reported the Senior Citizens Center served 4,768 meals in December. On long weekends, they supplied 65 weekend meal supplement bags to seniors. They are currently working with the AARP tax representative to be able to provide drive-thru tax preparation in February. Mayor Absher stated the Senior Citizens Center, Civic Center and Pavilion have all created new ways to serve the public during the Pandemic.

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

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

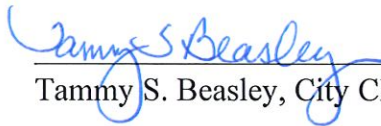
ON ROLL CALL VOTE COMMISSIONERS PATTON, BARWICK, WEBB AND STOECKLIN AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:55 P.M.



Michael W. Absher, Mayor

ATTEST:



Tammy S. Beasley, City Clerk