

December 14, 2020

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 Harry Boyd.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Barnett read the mission of the Fire Department. He thanked Captain Boyd and Lieutenant Perzee for their commitment to the job and for their service to the City. He said Mike Boyd has over 30 years experience and Lyndon Perzee has over 16 years experience. Chief Barnett stated he was proud to have both men at the top of the Fire Department.

Commissioner Barwick made a motion to approve the Merit Board's recommendation to promote Mike Boyd to Captain and Lyndon Perzee to Lieutenant effective 12/14/2020.

Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

Mayor Absher thanked Captain Boyd and Lieutenant Perzee for their service and their continued dedication to the Fire Department.

DEPARTMENT UPDATE

United Medical Response

Mike Willis, Manager of United Medical Response Division 4 was present to address the Council. He stated there have been no glaring issues to report since he last addressed the Council. He explained they have added a fifth unit to their fleet. It is a large box truck. They have also finished renovating their building. They currently have 29 staff at the Marion facility. They have 18 full-time benefits eligible employees and 11 part-time employees. They have started a 401(k) plan for their full-time employees. They have five trucks in the county daily. D J Stewart and William Barrett give them nightly reports from the CAD system which lists route times and scene times they use to calculate average response times. He stated the average response time is 4.5 to 5.5 minutes from tone out to scene. He explained they give each unit two minutes to get rolling which leaves three minutes to respond.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Commissioner Patton seconded the motion.

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

NEW BUSINESS

STREET DEPARTMENT

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Mayor Absher stated he wanted to give some background on Ordinance 3691. He indicated that surface water drainage is almost a weekly issue for the City. Geographically, the City sits in a bowl so residents must be mindful when moving dirt. City Attorney Wendy Cunningham, Street Department Superintendent Doug Phillips, Utilities Inspector Mike Abney and Chief of Staff Cody Moake worked on making changes to the current ordinance.

Commissioner Webb made a motion to approve Ordinance 3691 amending surface water drainage related ordinances making a technical change to Section 5(D)(1)b and Section 5(D)(2)G. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

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

BUILDING & CODE SERVICES

Mayor Absher stated the purchase of a newer vehicle for the Building & Code Services Department is a budgeted item.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve the purchase of a new vehicle and approve Ordinance 3687 authorizing financing; a budgeted item. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

Mayor's Chief of Staff Cody Moake stated one neighbor attended the Zoning Board Meeting and opposed the approval of the 7' variance. That neighbor, Don Byassee, was concerned with how drainage would be affected. After the meeting, Mr. Byassee and Mr. Bonds spoke regarding the plans for drainage. Mr. Byassee was no longer opposed to the project.

Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to affirm the zoning board's approval of a 7' variance request from Thomas Bonds at 414 Bainbridge Road to build a detached garage. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

Mayor Absher provided the Commissioners with a handout he prepared summarizing the ideas all had regarding the vacation rental process.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve a provisional vacation rental permit for 1200 Abby Lane for owner Jason Powell. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND MUNICIPAL PLANNING

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Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to approve Ordinance 3688 approving the Second Amendment to the Redevelopment Plan and Projects for the North Commercial TIF District. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

Commissioner Barwick made a motion to approve Ordinance 3689 designating the Amended Redevelopment Project Area for the North Commercial TIF District. 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 3690 adopting Tax Increment Financing for the Second Amendment to the North Commercial TIF District. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

MARION CARNEGIE LIBRARY

Mayor Absher explained his Chief of Staff Cody Moake had provided a detailed synopsis of options for the HVAC system at the Library prior to the Council Meeting. He stated the 100 plus year-old building has heating and air conditioning problems causing issues with humidity and moisture. In the last year and a half, the City has spent between \$40,000 and \$50,000 to patch the system. The City will have to borrow short-term to make the repairs to the system. He stated his concern is that if the repairs aren't made, there will be issues with mold and mildew. The City has been working with Architect Gail White and Mechanical Engineer Ben Boyt to find a solution for the problem. Mayor Absher suggested moving forward the City begin setting aside funds each year for capital improvements as part of the budget process.

Commissioner Patton made a motion to approve the base bid of \$820,000 from A & W Plumbing & Heating, Inc. with Alternate bid 1 for \$9,600 to replace the HVAC at Marion Carnegie Library. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Patton had nothing to report.

Commissioner Webb reported the Street Department continues to repair sidewalks. They recently replaced a tile on Gregory Avenue. They continue to remove brush from ditches. They will be putting snowplows on trucks next week to be ready for snow.

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Commissioner Barwick read the Fire Department Report for November reporting they responded to 82 calls in November. He also read the Police Department, Police Department Detective Unit and Police Department Narcotics Unit reports for November.

Mayor Absher stated the last week or so has been a trying time for law enforcement agencies in Williamson County as they have been investigating a homicide. He went on to say this year has been particularly hard for law enforcement agencies at a time when many municipalities have talked of defunding and cutting budgets in police departments. Mayor Absher stated he has reached out to some of the officers involved in the homicide investigation to express his appreciation for the outstanding work they have done that will hopefully contribute to justice being served. On behalf of a grateful City, Mayor Absher stated the City of Marion stands behind the blue.

Commissioner Stoecklin reported the Water Department activity since the last council meeting. He also reported long-time Water Department employee Mitch Withers is retiring after 34 years of service. He wished Mitch well on his retirement. He thanked the Police Department for inviting him to participate in the Cops and Kids Program this year. He wished everyone a Very Merry Marion Christmas.

Mayor Absher reported the Marion Cultural and Civic Center and Pavilion currently have been operating under a no business model under the restrictions being mandated by the State due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. He reported their efforts can be seen around town.

Commissioner Stoecklin mentioned the 12 Days of Christmas free virtual concert series being presented by the Civic Center. Mayor Absher commented that Josh Benson and his staff are doing a great job and are working very hard.

Mayor Absher stated the Senior Citizens Center is still open and providing lots of meals to the seniors and the Boyton Street Community Center is also open.

Police Chief David Fitts reported that since the COVID-19 Pandemic, the State of Illinois shut down all mandated training for police departments and there has been nowhere to train. The Mobile Training Unit provides free training to all police departments in the area. They have been struggling during the Pandemic trying to find places and ways to train police officers in the area. Chief Fitts is happy to report Mayor Absher and Pavilion Executive Director Jared Garrison have stepped up and provided the Mobile Training Unit with a place to hold training sessions for local law enforcement.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mayor Absher congratulated Mitch Withers on his retirement and wished him well. He said Mitch will be missed around City Hall. He reported that City Attorney Wendy Cunningham and Chief of Staff Cody Moake will craft an ordinance on the vacation rental process. He asked the

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Commissioners for their thoughts on a registration fee and whether the City should cap the number of vacation rental units.

Commissioner Stoecklin said he doesn't think a cap is necessary if there are no problems. Commissioner Barwick agreed.

Commissioner Webb suggested the City might consider requiring vacation rental owners to be Marion residents. Commissioner Patton agreed with Commissioner Webb. He thinks owners should live within City limits. Commissioner Barwick agreed.

Commissioners Barwick and Patton have researched how vacation rentals would affect the property values in neighborhoods. Both Commissioners stated they could see both sides of this issue.

Chief of Staff Cody Moake reported the number one complaint against vacation rental units in neighborhoods is with parking on the streets.

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

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

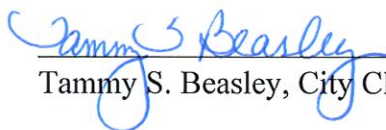
ON ROLL CALL VOTE COMMISSIONERS PATTON, BARWICK, WEBB AND STOECKLIN AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:26 P.M.



Michael W. Absher, Mayor

ATTEST:



Tammy S. Beasley, City Clerk