

November 23, 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 Marion Police Department Detective Carl Eggemeyer.

DONATION REQUEST

Marion Police Department Detective and Williamson County Fraternal Order of Police President Carl Eggemeyer addressed the Council regarding the Williamson County FOP Lodge 197 Cops and Kids Program. Carl explained the FOP lodge usually holds four of five fundraisers each year for the Cops and Kids Program. This year all fundraisers except one were cancelled. The goal this year is to raise \$20,000 which would serve 200 kids. They normally serve 150 kids but expect more applications this year due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. He is asking the City to donate any monetary amount, if possible. Mayor Absher stated he will have Treasurer Hale check the budget to see if any funds are available for this program and will let Carl know. Carl thanked the Council for their consideration.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Absher announced Consent Agenda Item C 1 discussing and approving Resolution 2020-57 re-appointing a master developer will be tabled till a later meeting.

Commissioner Barwick made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented with item C 1, Resolution 2020-57, removed. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Mayor Absher announced he has been working with First Southern Bank for some time on a plan for the City to occupy the bank building as City Hall. First Southern Bank has made it clear they will be staying on Tower Square and they are committed to Marion. The City plans to purchase the bank building and lease the drive-thru portion to First Southern Bank. The City will be able to purchase the building for a cost of less than one third the appraised value of the building. The rest is considered a gift to the City from the Bank. The Bank wanted to contribute to the revitalization of the City. The City will get bids to design and remodel the building. Mayor Absher stated a local group is interested in the current City Hall building. They want to create an interactive children's museum on the Square. Mayor Absher said the overall goal is to bring families and children to the City.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve Ordinance 3684 authorizing the purchase of real estate located at 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.

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Mayor Absher made a motion to approve Ordinance 3685 authorizing the lease of a portion of property located at 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.

Mayor Absher invited Dutch Doelitzsch and John Dosier from First Southern Bank to address the Council and audience.

Bank President John Dosier thanked Mayor Absher for allowing the Bank to work with the City. He explained the Bank doesn't want to leave Tower Square. They see the vision of what is happening on the Square and are excited to be a part of it. They plan to use the back portion of the building for banking operations and are thrilled to be working with the City on this project.

Bank Board Chairman Dutch Doelitzsch stated they are thrilled to be a part of everything that is happening downtown. They are proud to be a part of it.

Mayor Absher thanked them for their generosity on behalf of the entire City.

BUILDING & CODE SERVICES

Mayor Absher introduced Cornerstone Operations Pastor Jason Thrash and Serve Director Michelle Raby. Mayor Absher said he had met with Pastor Thrash and Ms. Raby to try and figure out a solution for homelessness in Marion. Pastor Thrash explained Cornerstone Church has an Empowerment Center. They meet with individuals to establish a problem they are having. Cornerstone has several ministries, including Cornerstone Garage and the Renew Store. They have not been able to solve the housing deficit issue in the community. They have asked for a special use permit to put three tiny houses on the Cornerstone property. During the first phase of their plan, they would place three tiny houses on the Southeast corner of the property. During the second phase of their plan, they would like to occupy an area of town with tiny houses. During phase three, they would like to provide permanent housing to people in need. They do not want to give handouts but give people a hand up.

During phase one of their plan, three tiny houses sized 8' x 12' with electricity, but no water or sewer would be placed on their property. These houses would provide heated and cooled shelter and a place to sleep and eat. A restroom trailer would also be placed near the homes for the tenants to use. Pastor Thrash stated these tiny homes would be only emergency shelter for someone. The maximum stay for a tenant would be three months. There would be a selection process to determine who would be eligible to stay there. Only people who want to help themselves will be given the opportunity to stay.

Mr. Yearack, a resident of Halfway Road, does not oppose the concept being presented by Pastor Thrash and Ms. Raby, but he opposes the placement of the homes. He stated he has been a

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victim of homeless people on his property. He thinks there might be a better place to locate this community. He wants to sell his property and is concerned this community might affect the sale.

Mayor Absher thinks this problem may exist anywhere in town. He believes this is an experiment to see if this concept will work.

Mayor Absher made a motion to grant a provisional waiver for three months to approve Cornerstone Church's request for a special use permit to build three (3) tiny houses on the South East corner of 2705 Walton Way PIN 06-15-201-012 with all parties involved reporting back in three months. Commissioner Barwick seconded the motion.

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

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARMENT

Public Works Superintendent Brent Cain explained the City has a generator that is no longer in use. When the HS Pumps were upgraded, a more powerful generator was needed. A dealer was contacted and valued the generator. Lake of Egypt Water District can use the generator and submitted a bid for it. The money from their purchase of the pump will be used to help fund some water line replacement projects.

Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to approve Ordinance 3681 authorizing the sale of surplus equipment to Lake of Egypt Water District. Commissioner Patton seconded the motion.

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

Public Works Superintendent Brent Cain explained the odor control chemicals are one of the largest budget items for the Sewer Department. These costs are evaluated annually. The department will be purchasing odor control chemicals as a commodity. In the past they have used a Full-Service Odor Control program. Using the Full-Service Program, the cost of the chemicals was much higher, and these services can be performed in house. The Wastewater Department has purchased tanks, pumps and monitoring equipment that will allow them to select a low bidder for supplying chemicals. They will monitor and perform all the testing. Based on the bids received, the department should see an annual savings of \$60,000. The savings can be used to aid in additional odor control measures. Two bids were received:

Chemstream	\$2.25 per gallon for all sites
Evoqua	\$2.19 per gallon for tanker loads
	\$2.45 per gallon for small loads

Superintendent Cain recommended approving Chemstream as the Calcium Nitrate provider for the upcoming fiscal year ending April 30, 2022.

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Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to approve the Chemstream bid of \$2.25 per gallon for all sites for Calcium Nitrate (odor control chemicals) supplier for FY 2022. Commissioner Patton seconded the motion.

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

BUILDING & CODE SERVICES

Mayor's Chief of Staff Cody Moake explained Mr. Tim Parton owns a home at 911 Virginia Avenue and has applied for a vacation rental permit. The only part of the City's current vacation rental ordinance that was not followed for this application was the zoning part of the ordinance. He thinks this part of the ordinance should be omitted.

Mayor Absher explained the ordinance gives neighbors the opportunity to voice their concerns. He stated the Council needs to think about options when developing an administrative process for approval of applications.

Mr. Parton addressed the Council. He applied for a vacation rental permit for his home. He said he has been renting his home through Air B n B since August. At that time, he wasn't aware the City had a permit process. When he heard about the process, he contacted the City to see what he needed to do. Part of the application process required him to send letters notifying his neighbors he was renting his home. He had not received any complaints from neighbors prior to sending out the letters. The City received one complaint letter after Mr. Parton's letters were sent. Mr. Parton explained he travels extensively for work and the home was booked solid during September and October. The average stay for his renters is two nights and he charges \$60 to \$70 per night. He screens his renters through their Air B n B ratings.

Mayor Absher made a motion to approve a provisional vacation rental permit for Tim Parton at 911 Virginia Avenue. Commissioner Patton 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 explained Building & Code Services Director Tim Stotlar requested a technical change to the hardware requirements in the Rental Inspection Ordinance. The City Code is not clear on this issue. City Attorney Wendy Cunningham stated some of the rental property owners have refused to make changes.

Commissioner Patton made a motion to approve Ordinance 3682 amending Ordinance 3076A making a technical change to hardware requirements for egress. Commissioner Stoecklin 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 Webb made a motion to approve Ordinance 3683 a Petition for Annexation from Bob and Alice McKinney Living Trust for PIN # 06-15-200-002 and 06-15-100-007; all zoned as R-A Rural Agriculture. Commissioner Stoecklin seconded the motion.

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

Mayor Absher announced Resolution 2020-58 a resolution considering the Third Amendment to Marion Star Bonds District and setting a date for a public hearing would be tabled for a technical change.

Mayor Absher announced the consideration of bids for surplus property located at 103 4th Street would be tabled for further discussion.

DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Information Technology

Information Technology Director Terance Henry stated his department consists of him and two other employees. They provide 24/7 access support for the entire City. They are responsible for over 300 devices daily. Everyday the City is subjected to over 3,000 cyber-attacks. They work with the Department of Homeland Security and State of Illinois Do It IT Team to keep the City's networks secure. Earlier in the month, Terance was invited to be a guest panel speaker for Nationwide Government Technology Magazine. For the third year in a row, Terance has been a part of the Illinois Digital Summit. One of the projects Terance is most proud of is a collaboration between the City of Marion and Williamson County 9-1-1 and several law enforcement agencies in Southern Illinois. This intergovernmental agreement allows the sharing of information among the participant agencies. This will help to improve public safety and emergency response times.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Stoecklin read the Water Department statistics since the previous meeting. He also noted a bit of trivia. According to Ordinance 27 passed in 1919, it is illegal to shoot someone with a fire hose and it is illegal to spit on the sidewalks. At that time, the sidewalks were wooden and tobacco rotted the wood.

Commissioner Barwick read the Police Department and Police Department Detective Unit Reports for October.

Commissioner Patton had nothing to report.

Commissioner Webb reported the Street Department continues to repair sidewalks around town. They are also building a retaining wall along the alley by John Brown's where the American Legion and MDR buildings were recently demolished. They continue to run the leaf vacuum around town cleaning out ditches to get ready for Winter. Crews have been busy decorating the Tower Square for Christmas.

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Mayor Absher announced there would be executive session this evening to discuss a property matter.

7:15 P.M.

Mayor Absher made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Sale or Lease of Public Property 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6) ion 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(11). Commissioner Webb seconded the motion.

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

8:28 P.M.

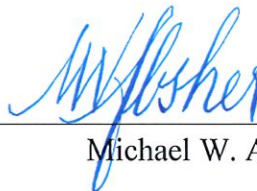
Commissioner Stoecklin made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session and resume the Regular Meeting. Commissioner Patton seconded the motion.

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

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

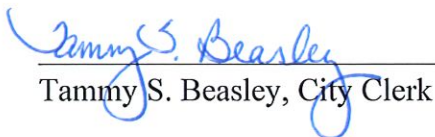
ON ROLL CALL VOTE COMMISSIONERS PATTON, BARWICK, WEBB AND STOECKLIN AND MAYOR ABSHER ALL VOTED YEA.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:29 P.M.



Michael W. Absher, Mayor

ATTEST:


Tammy S. Beasley, City Clerk